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Draft Minutes of the First Meeting of the newly-elected General Council
held in Madras on December 27 and 28, 1959.

Present

Mr. K.M. Koushik - in the Chair
(Returning Officer appointed by the National Executive)

Prof. N.G. Panga - (Past President)

Andhra

Mr. P. Bhupathirayudu
Mr. Kommarreddi Papiah Choudhary
Mr. T. Krishnamma Choudhary
Mr. Simma Jaganadham, MIA
Mr. Pasupuleti Koteswara Rao
Dr. N.V. Krishna Rao
Mr. G. Latchanna, MIA
Mr. Negilli Leela Mohan
Mr. K. Ramu Naidu
Mr. Bendalam Ramamurthy Naidu
Mr. Sunkara Satyanarayana
Mr. H.R. Sayajirao
Mr. C. V. Siddayamurthy
Mr. N. Veerachari

Bombay

Dr. R.C. Cooper
Mr. M.R. Masani, MP
Mr. Madhu Mehta
Mr. Adi Narain

Delhi

Mr. M. R. Arya
Mr. M. L. Jatava
Mr. Shivjee Mathur
Mr. Iqbal Marwah
Lt. Col. H.R. Pasricha

Gujarat

Mr. R.K. Amin
Mr. Anandbhai Amin
Mr. Dadubhai M. Amin
Mr. C.C. Dessai
Miss Kusum Kumari Joshi
Mr. Piloo Mody
Mr. H.M. Patel
Mr. Jashbhai C. Patel
Mr. Sukhetu Shah
Mr. Narendra V. Vyas

Himachal Pradesh

Mr. Budhi Prakash
Captain Jaishi Ram
Major Munshi Ram
Thakur Budhi Singh

Kerala

Mr. C.W. Sudhan
Mr. K.C. Joseph
Mr. M.K. Stephen
Mr. A.J. Dominic
Mr. A.V. Varke
Mr. Jacob Cherian
Mr. Abraham Joseph
Mr. P.J. Mathew
Mr. Johnson Vallidapen
Mr. A.C. Abraham
Mr. K.K. Kuruville
Mr. V.D. Joseph
Mr. Mathew George
Mr. Babu Joseph
Mr. P.O. Kunjako
Mr. M.P. Mathew
Mr. V.V. Anthony
Mr. E.C. Joseph
Mr. K.A. Abraham

Maharashtra

Mr. V.M. Patil
Mr. Sumantilal P. Shah

Mysore

Mr. N.K. Ganapaiah
Mr. V.T. Sreenivasan
Mr. J.M. Lobo Prabhu
Mrs. Louella Lobo Prabhu
Mr. S.V. Kashinath, MIA
Mr. D. Channabyre Gowda, MLC
Mr. K. Srinivasan Upadhyaya

Orissa

Mr. Harihar Patel, MIA
Mr. Harihar Das
Mr. Loknath Mishra, MP
Mr. Tribikram Tripathy
Mr. Ghasiram Majhi
Mr. Yatiraj Pracharaj
Mr. Sundermani Patel, MP
Mr. Arun K. Behera
Mr. H.C. Sai
Mr. S.M. Abdul Karim
Mr. A.R. Khan
Mr. K.C. Panda
Mr. Govind Munda
Mr. B.K. Behuria

Punjab

Sardar Basant Singh, MLA
Bhai Gobinder Singh Sidhu
Bedi Gurbaksh Singh
Mr. Haldi Hari Chand

Invitees

Prof. H. Ruthnaswamy
Mr. K.M. Koushik
Mr. G.K. Sundaram
Mr. B. Ramachandra Reddy

Tamilnadu

Mr. C. Rajagopalachari
Mr. V.S. Srilalumar
Shri N. Parthasarathy
Mr. S.M. Ramaswamy Gounder
Mr. R. Srinivasan
Mr. G. Swaminathan, MLC
Mr. T.T. Srinivasan
Mr. M. Mathias
Mr. S.S. Mariswamy, MP
Dr. M. Santhoshan, MP
Mr. C. Muthuswamy, MP
Mr. P. Ramamurthi, MP
Mr. S. Xavier, MP
Mr. S. Narayanaswamy
Mr. T. Sadasivam
Mr. V. Devanathan, MC
Mr. M.S. Hamsa
Mr. V. Padmanabhan

Kashmir

Mr. Abdul Wahid Raina
Mr. D.S. Sawhney
Mr. Krishanlal Wazir

Rajasthan

Thakur Vikram Singh
Mr. H.K. Somani, MP
Mr. D.N. Patodia, MP

Uttar Pradesh

Mr. Harbhajan Singh
Mr. Bharsheel Chaturvedi
Mr. O.P. Pathik
Mr. Ahmedullah Khan
Mr. Mohammed Farooq Khan
Mr. Ram Prakash Misra
Mr. H.K. Pathak
Mr. Puttan Lal Pandey
Mr. Sanaullah Khan
Mr. Tribhuvan Singh
Mr. K.K. Sanyal
Mr. Hashmat Ali

Mr. K.M. Kaushik, The Returning Officer, conveyed the following recommendations of the outgoing National Executive in respect of the number of Office Bearers of the Party for the ensuing term :

Vice-Presidents	Five
Joint Secretaries	Five
Treasurers	Two
Members of the National Executive	Twenty

Mr. Masani then moved that, while the Council should accept the outgoing National Executive's recommendation of five Vice-Presidents, only four should be elected at this meeting to enable Maharawal Iaxman Singh of Dungarpur (a retiring Vice-President and the Party's Leader in the Rajasthan Assembly), who was out of India and whose letter of consent was not available, to be elected at the next meeting of the General Council. Mr. D.N. Patodia seconded the proposal.

Col. H.R. Pasricha then moved that while the outgoing National Executive's recommendation of up to five Joint Secretaries be accepted, the choice of the Joint Secretaries should be left to the new National Executive. Sardar Basant Singh seconded the proposal.

Mr. H.M. Patel intervened to say that rather than leave one of the five posts of Vice-Presidents vacant, the rule regarding the need for a letter of consent in the case of those not present at the meeting should be waived. Mr. Ramu Maidu supported Mr. H.M. Patel's view. This was not acceptable to the mover of the proposal, Mr. Masani, who withdrew his motion with the leave of the meeting. Similarly, Col. H.R. Pasricha withdrew his proposal regarding the Joint Secretaries.

The meeting then approved the recommendations of the outgoing National Executive and decided to have the following Office Bearers of the Party and members of the National Executive.

President	
Vice-Presidents	- Five
General Secretary	
Treasurers	- Two
Joint Secretaries	- Five
Members of the	
National Executive	- Twenty

The Returning Officer appointed from among those present the following two scrutineers to scrutinise the nomination and ballot papers :

Mr. H.S. Siddappa
Mr. C. Padmanabhan

President

The Returning Officer then called for nominations for the office of the President.

19 nomination papers duly proposed and seconded were received in favour of Mr. M.R. Masani. As there was no other nomination, Mr. Masani was declared elected President unanimously.

5 Vice-Presidents

30 nomination papers duly proposed and seconded nominating between them the following were received :

Mr. R.N. Singh Deo
Prof. M. Ruthnaswamy
Smt. Gayatri Devi
Mr. N. Dandekar
Mr. Dahyabhai V. Patel
Mr. Piloo Mody
Mr. G. Latchanna
Maharawal Iaxman Singh of Dungarpur
Mr. Toho Prabhu
Mr. G. Hanumantha Rao
Dr. K.M. Munshi

The nomination of the following were rejected by the Returning Officer on the ground that they were not present and their letters of consent were not with him :

Maharawal Laxman Singh of Dungarpur
Dr. K.M. Munshi
Mr. G. Hanumantha Rao

Since there were eight candidates for five vacancies, the election was held by secret ballot with the following result :

1. Mr. R.N. Singh Doo	..	97	votes
2. Prof. M. Ruthnaswamy	..	91	"
3. Smt. Gayatri Devi	..	91	"
4. Mr. N. Dandekar	..	86	"
5. Mr. Dabhyabhai V. Patel	..	79	"
6. Mr. G. Latchanna	..	61	"
7. Mr. J.M. Lobo Prabhu	..	43	"
8. Mr. Piloo Mody	..	35	"

The first five were declared duly elected.

General Secretary

18 nomination papers duly proposed and seconded were received in favour of Dr. R.C. Cooper. As there was no other nomination, Dr. R.C. Cooper was declared unanimously elected General Secretary.

Two Treasurers

Eleven nomination papers duly proposed and seconded were received nominating between them the following :

Mr. H.P. Nanda
Mr. Lalchand Hirachand
Mr. Piloo Mody

Mr. Piloo Mody declined the nomination.

As there were only two candidates for the two vacancies, Mr. H.P. Nanda and Mr. Lalchand Hirachand, were declared unanimously elected.

Five Joint Secretaries

34 nomination papers duly proposed and seconded nominating between them the following were received :

Dr. H.V. Hande
Mr. Harihar Patel
Prof. R.K. Amin
Mr. Madhu Mehta
Mr. D.N. Patodia
Mr. G. Latchanna
Mr. N.K. Somani
Mr. V.T. Sreenivasan
Sardar Basant Singh
Mrs. Louella Lobo Prabhu
Thakur Vikram Singh
Raja M.R. Singh of Badawar

Of the above, the consent letter of Raja M.R. Singh of Badawar who was not present not being available, the Returning Officer rejected his nomination.

The following nominations were withdrawn by the proposers or seconders or by the nominees themselves :

Mr. G. Latchanna
Mrs. Louella Lobo Prabhu
Mr. D.N. Patodia

As there were seven candidates for five vacancies, elections were held by secret ballot with the following result:

1. Dr. H.V. Hande	..	107 votes
2. Mr. Harihar Patel	..	104 "
3. Mr. N.K. Somani	..	99 "
4. Mr. R.K. Amin	..	92 "
5. Mr. Madhu Mehta	..	89 "
6. Sardar Basant Singh	..	45 "
7. Thakur Bikram Singh	..	12 "

The first five were declared elected.

After the results of the election of Vice-Presidents and Joint Secretaries were declared by the Returning Officer, he invited nominations for the election of 20 members of the new National Executive.

48 nomination papers duly proposed and seconded were received nominating between them the following :

Maharani Gayatri Devi	Mr. S. Satyanarayana
Sri P. Koteswar Rao	Mr. O.P. Pathik
Sri G. Hanumantha Rao	Mr. Madhu Mehta
Miss Kusum Kumari Joshi	Mr. D.N. Patodia
Mr. Harihar Das	Mr. N.K. Somani
Mr. Abdul Wahid Raina	Mr. J.M. Imam
Mr. V.N. Patil	Mr. K. Sunderam
Mr. P.K. Deo	Dr. H. Santosham
Mr. T. Tripathi	Mr. S.S. Mariswamy
Mr. Y. Pracharaj	Mr. N. Dandekar
Mr. Loknath Mishra	Mr. K.K. Sanyal
Mr. Sundermani Patel	Dr. H.V. Hande
Mr. N.C. Sai	Mr. Ahmedullah Khan
Sardar Harbhajan Singh	Mr. S.M. Abdul Kareem
Mr. D. Chaturvedi	Bedi Gurbaksh Singh
Mrs. L. Lobo Prabhu	
Mr. C. Rajagopalachari	
Mr. N.G. Ranga	
Mr. G. Latchanna	
Mr. Y.G. Gowd	
Mr. H.M. Patel	
Mr. Budhi Prakash	
Mr. H.R. Pasricha	
Sardar Basant Singh	
Mr. J.M. Lobo Prabhu	
Mr. J. Vallikadappen	
Mr. Rhanu Pratap Singh	
Mr. Piloo Mody	
Mr. T. Krishnamma Choudhary	
Mr. Dabhabhai V. Patel	
Prof. R.K. Amin	
Mr. Sulcheta Shah	
Mr. V.P. Srinivasan	
Mr. H.K. Ganapaiah	
Mr. Iqbal Harwah	
Thakur Bikram Singh	

As the following had already been elected as Office Bearers, their nominations were deemed to have been withdrawn :

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Smt. Gayatri Devi of Jaipur | (who was elected Vice President) |
| 2. Mr. N. Dandekar | (who was elected Vice President) |
| 3. Mr. Dabhyabhai V. Patel | (who was elected Vice President) |
| 4. Mr. H.K. Somani | (who was elected Joint Secretary) |
| 5. Dr. H.V. Hande | (who was elected Joint Secretary) |
| 6. Mr. Madhu Mehta. | (who was elected Joint Secretary) |
| 7. Prof. R.K. Amin | (who was elected Joint Secretary) |

The following nominations were withdrawn by the proposers and seconders or by the nominees themselves :

- Mr. P. Koteswara Rao
Mr. T. Krishnamma Choudhary
Mr. S. Satyanarayana

leaving 41 nominees for twenty vacancies.

The Returning Officer announced that balloting for the election of twenty members of the National Executive would be held from 10 to 10.45 a.m. the following morning. He then adjourned the meeting.

Sunday, 28th December

Balloting for the election of 20 members of the National Executive began at 10 a.m. and concluded at 10.45 a.m.

Simultaneously with the counting of votes, the meeting reconvened at 11 a.m. with the newly elected President, Mr. Masani, in the Chair.

Present

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| Mr. M.R. Masani | - In the Chair |
| Prof. N.G. Ranga | - Past President |

Andhra

- Mr. P. Bhupathirayudu
Mr. Kommarreddi Bapaiah Chowdary
Mr. T. Krishnamma Choudhary
Mr. B.C. Ramalinga Goud
Mr. Simma Jagannadham, M.L.A.
Mr. Pasupuleti Koteswara Rao
Dr. N.V. Krishnarao
Mr. G. Iatchanna, M.L.A.
Mr. Nogilli Leela Mohan
Mr. K. Ramu Naidu
Mr. Bengaluru Hanamurthy Naidu
Mr. V.V. Ramana
Mr. Sunkara Satyanarayana
Mr. H.R. Sayojirao
Mr. C.V. Siddaayamurthy
Mr. N. Veerachari

Delhi

- Mr. M.R. Arya
Mr. M.L. Jatava
Mr. Shivjee Mathur
Mr. Iqbal Marwah
Lt. Col. H.R. Pasricha

Gujarat

- Prof. R.K. Amin
Mr. Anandbhai Amin
Mr. Dabubhai M. Amin
Miss Kusum Kumari Joshi
Mr. Piloo Mody
Mr. H.M. Patel
Mr. Jashbhai C. Patel
Mr. Suketu Shah
Mr. Narendra V. Vyas

Bombay

- Dr. R.C. Cooper
Mr. M.R. Masani, M.P.
Mr. Madhu Mehta
Mr. Adi Narain

Himachal Pradesh

- Mr. Budhi Prakash
Captain Jaishi Ram
Major Munshi Ram
Thakur Budhi Singh

Kerala

Mr. C.N. Sudhan
Mr. K.C. Joseph
Mr. M.K. Stephen
Mr. A.J. Dominic
Mr. A.V. Varley
Mr. Jacob Cherian
Mr. Abraham Joseph
Mr. P.J. Mathew
Mr. Johnson Vallidappan
Mr. A.C. Abraham
Mr. K.K. Kuruvilla
Mr. V.D. Joseph
Mr. Mathew George
Mr. Babu Joseph
Mr. P.O. Kunjako
Mr. M.P. Mathew
Mr. V.V. Antony
Mr. E.C. Joseph
Mr. K.A. Abraham

Maharashtra

Mr. V.N. Patil
Mr. Sumantlal P. Shah

Mysore

Mr. N.K. Ganapaiah
Mr. V.T. Sreenivasan
Mr. J.H. Lobo Prabhu
Mrs. Louella Lobo Prabhu
Mr. S.V. Kashimath, M.L.A.
Mr. B. Channabyre Gowda, M.C.
Mr. H.S. Siddappa
Mr. K. Srinivasan Upadhyaya

Orissa

Mr. Harihar Patel, M.L.A.
Mr. Harihar Das
Mr. Lokmath Miera, M.P.
Mr. Tritikram Tripathy
Mr. Ghasiram Majhi
Mr. Yatiraj Preharaj
Mr. Sundermani Patel, M.P.
Mr. Arun K. Behara
Mr. M.C. Sai
Mr. S.H. Abdul Karim
Mr. A.R. Khan
Mr. K.C. Panda
Mr. Govind Munda
Mr. B.K. Behuria

Punjab

Sardar Basant Singh, M.L.A.
Bhai Gobinder Singh Sidhu
Bedi Gurbaksh Singh
Mr. Mukhi Hari Chand

Tamilnadu

Mr. C. Rajagopalachari
Mr. V.S. Srikumar
Shri N. Parthasarathy
Mr. S.H. Ramaswamy Gounder
Mr. R. Srinivasan
Mr. G. Swaminathan, M.C.
Dr. M. Mathias
Mr. T.T. Srinivasan
Mr. S.S. Muriswamy, M.P.
Dr. M. Santhosham, M.P.
Mr. C. Mathuswamy, M.P.
Mr. P. Ramamurti, M.P.
Mr. S. Xavier, M.P.
Mr. T. Sadasivam
Mr. V. Devanathan, M.C.
Mr. H.S. Hamsa
Mr. N. Mohd. Hussain

Kashmir

Mr. Abdul Wahid Raina
Mr. Krishanlal Wazir
Mr. D.C. Sawhny

Rajasthan

Thakur Vikram Singh
Mr. N.K. Goman, M.P.
Mr. D.N. Patodia, M.L.

Uttar Pradesh

Mr. Harbhajan Singh
Mr. Dhar Shael Chaturvedi
Mr. O.P. Pathik
Mr. Ahmadullah Khan, M.L.A.
Mr. Mohammed Farooq Khan
Mr. Ram Prakash Misra
Mr. H.K. Pathak
Mr. Sanaullah Khan
Mr. Tribhuvan Singh
Mr. K.K. Sanyal
Mr. Hashmat Ali Khan

INVITEES

Mr. G.K. Sundaram
Smt. Gayatri Devi Jyoti

The minutes of the last meeting of the General Council in New Delhi on November 15 and 16 were confirmed.

The President delivered his Acceptance Speech (text attached) and initiated a discussion on Party organisation. Among those who participated in the discussion were :

Mr. J.M. Lobo Prabhu, H.H. Gayatri Devi, Mr. M.K. Ganapalish, Mr. Harihar Das, Mr. K. Ramu Maidu, Mr. H.M. Patel, Mr. Iqbal Marwah, Mr. H.K. Sonani, Mr. J. Vallikappen, Mr. Basant Singh, Mr. G. Swaminathan, Mr. D.S. Sawhny, Mr. Mohammed Farooq Khan, Mrs. L.Lobo Prabhu, Col. Pasricha, Mr. H.K. Sonani.

Winding up the discussion, the President, after briefly summarising the constructive points made during the discussion, assured members that he and the National Headquarters would give serious consideration to the suggestions that had been made during the discussion.

The counting of votes for the National Executive members having been completed, the Returning Officer announced the following result :

1. Mr. Rajagopalachari	..	109	votes
2. Prof. H.G. Ranga	..	102	"
3. Shri G. Iatchanna	..	94	"
4. Mr. S.S. Nariswamy	..	90	"
5. Mr. J.M. Lobo Prabhu	..	88	"
6. Mr. H.M. Patel	..	83	"
7. Mr. Piloo Mody	..	80	"
8. Mr. K. Sunderam	..	79	"
9. Mr. P.K. Deo	..	76	"
10. Sardar Basant Singh	..	74	"
11. Mr. D.N. Patodia	..	71	"
12. Mr. Budhi Prakash	..	66	"
13. Mrs. Louella Lobo Prabhu	..	64	"
14. Mr. J. Mohamed Imam	..	63	"
15. Mr. J. Vallikappen	..	60	"
16. Miss Kusum Kumari Joshi	..	54	"
17. Mr. M.K. Ganapalish	..	53	"
18. Col. H.R. Pasricha	..	52	"
19. Mr. Y.G. Gowd	..	52	"
20. Mr. Tribikram Tripathy	..	44	"
21. Mr. Loknath Misra	..	40	"
22. Mr. V.T. Sreenivasan	..	40	"
23. Mr. Ehamu Pratap Singh	..	39	"
24. Dr. M. Santosham	..	36	"
25. Mr. Abdul Wahid Raina	..	34	"
26. Sardar Harbhajan Singh	..	32	"
27. Mr. Iqbal Marwah	..	31	"
28. Mr. Suketu Shah	..	29	"
29. Mr. Harihar Das	..	27	"
30. Mr. V.N. Patil	..	26	"
31. Mr. O.P. Pathik	..	26	"
32. Mr. G. Hanumantha Rao	..	25	"
33. Mr. Ahmadulla Khan	..	23	"
34. Mr. Yatiraj Praharaj	..	19	"
35. Mr. Sundarvani Patel	..	16	"
36. Thakur Bikram Singh	..	7	"
37. Mr. Gurbaksh Singh Bodi	..	7	"
38. Mr. K.K. Sanyal	..	7	"
39. Mr. S.M. Abdul Karim	..	6	"
40. Mr. D. Chaturvedi	..	6	"
41. Mr. M.C. Sai	..	4	"

The first twenty were declared elected by the Returning Officer.

The President thanked the Returning Officer, Mr. K.M. Kaushik, for the efficient conduct of the elections and proposed a hearty vote of thanks to him which was unanimously endorsed.

The meeting then terminated.

Speech of Mr. M. R. Masani, newly-elected President of the Swatantra Party, while assuming office at a meeting of the Party's General Council in Madras on December 28, 1969

I am grateful to the General Council for the confidence they have reposed in me by asking me to take up the Presidentship and leadership of the Party. The Presidentship of the Swatantra Party at this moment is not likely to be a bed of roses. In fact, it appears to be a frightening burden to take on for the next two years in the context of the present state of our national affairs and the state of the Party organisation.

We all know the troubled times through which our country is passing. Twenty years of wrong economic policies have created a situation where the political crisis is bound to recur with ever increasing intensity unless these policies are abandoned and the country is put on a proper track. This itself will require a radical shift in our political structure. This may flow from the recent split in the Congress Party and the end of its monopoly of power after two decades if we all do our bit. The country is, however, likely to pass through turbulent times and there is every danger of a further abdication and destruction of law and order. Bengal and certain other parts of our territory are in the hands of elements whose patriotism is not above question and, in the coming years, guerilla warfare developing into dangerous threats to our national security cannot be ruled out in Bengal and in the North East Frontier.

At such a time, the Swatantra Party has a tremendously vital and important role to play as one of the elements committed to the defence of India's independence and its democratic way of life embodied in the Constitution. As the Party that stands for the liquidation of permitlicence-raj, over-centralised planning and the forest of controls, the Swatantra Party is the most radical party in Opposition, pitched as it is against the Socialist Establishment with its twenty years of misrule.

In what condition do we find the Party to cope with its tasks? We would be lacking in candour if we were not to admit that a great deal needs to be done before we can cope with this challenge in a worthy manner. Having made an excellent start and become within a decade the biggest Opposition Party in the country, since the General Elections in 1967, we have not only lost several by-elections but have also lost ground organisationally. The state of the Party's discipline leaves a great deal to be desired. Some individuals and certain groups of members in State Assemblies are behaving in a way which brings no prestige to our organisation. All this will have to stop if we are to meet this challenge. My own clear position in regard to the need for strict adherence to disciplined and ethical methods is well-known to you all. I am, therefore, confident that, in the light of the experience of the past two years, the newly elected National Executive and Central Parliamentary Board will take steps to curb activities of this nature which are so damaging to the credibility of the Party and to its future.

Discipline is not enough without dynamism and hard work. These are two sides of the same coin and one without the other would be inadequate for our task. The General Council of the Party at its meeting in New Delhi on November 15 and 16 has provided the necessary guidance through an important and worthwhile Mid-Term Report recording the balance sheet of the gains and losses for the last two and a half years and charting the Party's course during the next couple of years. It has not received the publicity it deserves. It will be one of the first tasks of the newly elected National Executive and State Executive

Committees to get this document into the hands of every active member of the Party and to make them aware of what needs to be done between now and 1972.

Do we need to change or modify our policies? In my opinion, there is neither need nor call to change our policies. If there is one Party whose political, social and economic policies have stood the test of time, it is the Swatantra Party. If there is one Party whose warnings about the ruling Congress Party during the last ten years and the course it was following have come true, it is the Swatantra Party. We shall not lower our flag even an inch. It is for others who have been pursuing false paths to rectify their course.

At the same time, we must admit that we have failed effectively to put our policies across to the public at large. This is due to the lack of adequate cadres of trained and disciplined Party workers who can act as a conveyor belt to carry the Party's policies and programmes to the remotest corners of this country. One of the first tasks of the Party, therefore, will be without further delay to recruit and train cadres of Party workers and instil in them a dedication to the values of freedom.

There is also room for improvement in the emphasis and orientation that we give to our activities. The Mid-Term Report has made several constructive suggestions about implementing this programme. We must admit that there are sections of the people we have neglected, to whose problems we have not given adequate attention. Such, for instance, are Youth, Women, the Minorities, the Consumer, the Landless Labourer in the countryside and other under-privileged sections of the community. The fact that they are referred to in our Election Manifesto is not enough. We must prove to them that we are concerned for them and care for them. This can only be done when a large number of our Party workers show this concern concretely in the shape of what Gandhiji used to call "constructive work" in the service of these elements".

I have stated earlier that we are a Party that stands for a radical change in the social and economic policies that have been followed. We want to modernise our social structure, and we have nothing in common with obscurantists. The Swatantra Party has to prove to the people that it is not a party of the status quo but stands for such radical change in the policies of the Socialist Establishment as will bring prosperity to the masses of the people. Let those who have created the present mess in the country defend the Status Quo. We have no part or lot in it and have come into existence to change it.

The job that faces the country is bigger than any single Party can handle alone. To deal with the country's problems, to give it a clean and efficient public administration and rid it of its many evils and blemishes, is more than any one Party can manage.

The issue before the country today is not between the so-called "Left" and "Right" which are meaningless terms. The issue is between those who stand for the democratic way of life enshrined in our Constitution and those who accept totalitarian Communist doctrines. In this connection, the wise words of advice of Acharya J.B. Kripalani in Ahmedabad the other day that democratic parties should concentrate on providing good and clean government and stop competing with the Prime Minister in her demagoguery is to be welcomed.

A Front in which all patriots and democrats can get together, cutting across present party lines, is on the order of the day. It is the Party's task to be in the forefront of such a development. This can only be done if the conduct of our leaders and members is more

ethical and dedicated than that of other Parties and if we can show that we are prepared to put the country before our Party.

Let it be our New Year resolve that together, with Rajaji's wise guidance, we prove worthy of the historic role assigned to us.