

4851

Draft Minutes of the Meeting of the National Executive held at
Vithalbhai Patel House, Rafi Marg, New Delhi on Saturday, August
30, 1969.

Present : Prof. N.G. Ranga - in the Chair
Prof. M. Ruthnaswamy -
Mr. Dabhyabhai Patel
Mr. H.M. Patel
Mr. J. Mohammed Imam
Mr. S.S. Mariswamy :
Mr. G. Manumantha Rao
Mr. J.M. Bobo Prabhu
Mr. P.K. Deo
Mr. K. Sundaram
Mr. Sundarmani Patel
Mr. Lakshmansingh of Dungarpur
Mr. Loknath Misra
Sardar Basant Singh
Mrs. Kailash Rekhi
Dr. R.C. Cooper
Mr. N. Dandekar

Mr. M.R. Masani - By Special Invitation
Mr. Harihar Patel "
Mr. Budhi Prakash "
Mr. T. Parmanand "
Mr. Budhan Rai Verma "
Mr. Mandhatta Singh "
Ch. Hardwari Lal "

1. The National Executive condoled the death of Sardar Ram Singh, M.P., President of the Swatantra Party (U.P.), and observed a minute's silence in honour of his memory.
2. The Minutes of the meeting of the National Executive held in Madras on June 22nd and 23rd, 1969, were confirmed.
3. The following persons had intimated their inability to attend the meeting:-
 1. Mr. R.N. Singh Deo
 2. Mr. G. Latchanna
 3. Mr. C.C. Desai
 4. Mr. Jaideepsingh of Baria (who had been invited)
 5. Mr. Yashwant Kumar Choudhary (who had been invited)

4. Linguistic States Sub-Committee:

Consideration of the Report submitted by the Sub-Committee appointed by the National Executive to study the problems and situation resulting from the formation of linguistic States was deferred.

5.a. Dr. K.M. Munshi:

The Executive Committee of the Gujarat Unit of the Party had at its meeting on July 11, 1969, expressed the view that the resolution of the National Executive (at its meeting in Madras on June 22/23) regarding Dr. K.M. Munshi should be reconsidered since in its (Gujarat Executive's) view "Mr. Munshi's act in issuing the statement of the kind he had issued was highly damaging to the Party in Gujarat and ought to have been treated as an act of gross indiscipline."

Communicating this to the Executive, Mr. Dandekar also referred to certain other correspondence on the subject, namely :-

From Prof. Ranga to Mr. Jaideepsingh dated July 23

From Mr. Jaideepsingh to Mr. Dandekar dated August 28

From a number of Swatantra MLAs in Gujarat

From some Swatantra M.Ps.

From Mr. C.C. Desai to Mr. Dandekar dated August 20, 1969.

After due deliberation and discussion in the light of the Gujarat Executive's resolution and correspondence referred to above, the National Executive took the following decision :

"The full import of the resolution passed by the National Executive at its meeting held in June 1969 at Madras regarding the statement issued by Dr. K.M. Munshi in support of the Congress candidate in the Banaskantha by-election had not been correctly understood. It was in fact a clear condemnation of Dr. Munshi's action in issuing that statement. In view of this and as Mr. Munshi had stated that he had taken "Kshetra Sanyas" and retired from public life (except work connected with the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan), the National Executive did not consider it necessary to reopen the matter."

b. Mr. Raghbir Singh of Bissau:

The Board had requested the Leader of the Party in the Rajasthan State Assembly to call for an explanation from Mr. Raghbir Singh of Bissau for resigning from the State Assembly without the Party's permission. After considering his explanation dated 3rd April and in the light of the recommendation for disciplinary action made by the President of the State Unit and Leader of the Party in the State Assembly, the National Executive decided to debar Mr. Raghbir Singh of Bissau from holding any office in the Party for a period of three years with immediate effect.

- c. The Executive requested the Leader of the Party in the Rajasthan State Legislature to issue a "show cause" notice to Mr. Rajeshwar Singh of Samod, another MLA of the Party who had also resigned his seat in the State Assembly without the Party's permission.

6. Mr. Dandekar's leave of absence:

The General Secretary, Mr. N. Dandekar, informed the Executive that as he had not yet recovered fully from his illness, he would request that Dr. R.C. Cooper, who had already been officiating for him for the last three months, be requested to continue as the Officiating General Secretary. The Executive approved of this arrangement and thanked Dr. Cooper for agreeing to shoulder the burden in addition to his duties as Hon. Treasurer. It was hoped that Mr. Dandekar would resume his office as soon as his health permitted him to do so.

7. Presidential Election:

The Executive reviewed the results of the Presidential Election. In this connection it had before it a note (copy attached 'Annexure A') prepared by Mr. M.R. Masani (who was the authorised representative of Dr. Deshmukh during the counting of votes) analysing the votes cast by the Party's M.Ps. and M.L.As in the Presidential election. The note was discussed and recorded. In this connection the Executive adopted unanimously the following resolution thanking Dr. Deshmukh:

"The National Executive of the Swatantra Party thanks Dr. C.D. Deshmukh for his patriotic action in agreeing to stand as a candidate for the President's office knowing that the odds were against his success, especially in the circumstances as they unfortunately developed. The National Executive is grateful to Dr. Deshmukh for fulfilling his duty as an eminent and respected citizen."

8. Current Political Situation:

After discussing at some length the various aspects of the current political situation, the following resolutions were adopted unanimously :-

- i. Statement on the Current Political Situation (Annexure B)
 - ii. Law and Order situation in West Bengal & Kerala
 - iii. Law and Order situation in Orissa
 - iv. Growing Communist infiltration
 - v. Threats to the Freedom of the Press
 - vi. Sardar Darshan Singh Pheruman's Indefinite Fast
- (Annexure C)

A resolution on the Flood havoc in Bihar and other parts of India was also adopted unanimously (Annexure C).

9. Party Elections:

The following decisions were taken in regard to various matters connected with Party elections :-

1. Panel of Presiding Officers:

According to the Procedure for Party Elections, Presiding Officers had to be nominated by the National Executive to conduct the first meetings of the newly elected State/Regional Councils. The Executive decided to authorise the General Secretary to settle the names of such Presiding Officers in consultation with the President.

ii. Election Tribunals at the State/Regional Level:

In response to a circular issued from the National Headquarters inviting suggestions from State/Regional Units in regard to the composition of Election Tribunals at the State/Regional level, a majority of those State/Regional Units who had replied had recommended exclusive Tribunals for their respective State/Regions. A few had suggested grouping of State/Regions for purposes of such Tribunals. After discussion it was agreed:

- a. that each State/Region shall have a one-man Tribunal, and
- b. that the person appointed as such Tribunal should not be a resident of the State/Region or on the electoral roll of the concerned State/Regional Unit for purposes of Party elections.

iii. Election Tribunal at the National Level:

It was decided that the National Election Tribunal should be composed of five persons.

iv. Personnel of Tribunals:

The personnel of the National Election Tribunal and the State/Regional Election Tribunals should be settled at the next meeting of the National Executive if that was possible or earlier by circular if necessary.

v. Strength of State/Regional Councils:

Various recommendations received from State/Regional Units in regard to the strength of newly elected State/Regional Councils were considered with particular reference to the ratio of representation of District Units in proportion to their enrolment and the maximum representation each District Unit should have on State/Regional Councils. It was felt by some members that the ceiling of 10 representatives per district on State/Regional Councils might be unfair to District Units which had had considerable enrolment. In the light of the discussion it was decided that the status quo should prevail (viz. the proportions prescribed in this regard during the last Party elections), unless there were good reasons for a change both in regard to the proportion and the ceiling. It was decided that the ceiling should be relaxed upto a maximum of 20 representatives per District on State/Regional Councils and the ratio of representation revised accordingly. The General Secretary was authorised to decide each case on merits in consultation with the President.

vi. Representation of State/Regional Units on the General Council:

It was decided, after discussion, to adhere to the ratio of representation that was adopted for the last Party elections viz.

3 for the first 400 Workers/Life Workers/Life Members
and one representative for every additional 150,
subject to a maximum of 20 and a minimum of 3 as laid
down in clause 9(b) of the Constitution.

10. Reservation of Seats in Parliament and State Assemblies:

The Acting General Secretary, Dr. R.C. Cooper, informed the Executive that the Central Parliamentary Board had referred the issue relating to the Reservation of Seats in Parliament and the State Assemblies to the National Executive. The facts of the case were :-

A proposal that there should be a gradual elimination of reservation of seats by reducing the number of such seats by one-third at the end of every five years so that at the end of fifteen years the reservation of seats would disappear altogether, was circulated to members of the Parliamentary Board. 12 out of 14 members of the Board had approved this proposal. Two members, Smt. Gayatri Devi of Jaipur and Mr. Dahyabhai Patel, did not reply. In this connection the following advice from Rajaji had been received:

"I approve of the compromise line taken by the B.K.D. But I wish the Swatantra Party may convince the RND members to accepting reductions by half the members once every five years so that the reservation may disappear in 10 years instead of 15 as now proposed. Ten years is long enough in all conscience for this objectionable extension."

The President, Prof. Ranga however felt that this matter needed further discussion at the National Executive.

The Executive discussed this matter in considerable detail and decided to confirm the decision arrived at by circular proposing a gradual elimination of reservation of seats over a period of 15 years by reducing one-third of the seats every five years.

11. Mid-Term Report:

Mr. Masani mentioned that owing to the recent crisis and the need for the dust to settle and enable one to get a proper perspective, it had not been possible for the Draft Mid-Term Report to be prepared and this would require some further time.

12. State of Party Organisation:

The Acting General Secretary Dr. Cooper suggested that since by the end of this year, new Committees at the State and National level would come into being it would therefore be best to leave a discussion on this important matter to the new National Executive.

13. The Executive was informed that the next meetings of the National Executive and of the present General Council would be held in Bombay in November.
14. The meeting then terminated with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

SWATANTRA PARTY

NOTE ON PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION
FOR CENTRAL PARLIAMENTARY BOARD
AND NATIONAL EXECUTIVE

By Mr. M.R. Masani, M.P.

As Dr. C.D. Deshmukh's Authorised Representative at the time of counting of votes in the Presidential Election and as one who has kept in touch with various political elements throughout the election campaign, I think I owe a report to the Party about the voting, particularly by our own M.Ps and M.L.As.

In so far as Parliament is concerned, only 101 M.Ps gave their First Preference votes to Dr. Deshmukh. The parties supporting Dr. Deshmukh in both the Houses are as follows:

Swatantra	-	55
Jan Sangh	-	42
B.K.D.	-	20 (approx.)

117

It is thus clear that some members of the three parties voted for Giri even on the First Preference. It is impossible to say who these were and in what proportion the three parties contributed to these defections.

Turning to the States, the position in regard to those States where we have sizeable groups is as follows :-

ANDHRA

Our strength in the Andhra Pradesh Assembly is believed to be 24. There are also 3 Jan Sangh members making the total of 27. Of these, only 18 voted for Dr. Deshmukh. This is bad enough; but what is worse is that out of the 18 who voted for Deshmukh, only 11 Second Preference votes were for Mr. Reddy, while 6 went to Mr. Giri and one wasted his Second Preference Vote.

GUJARAT

Gujarat has undoubtedly the worst record among our Legislative Party groups. With a membership of 55 and one Jan Sangh member, making a total of 56, only 51 gave their First Preferences to Dr. Deshmukh. This means either 4 Swatantra M.L.As and one Jan Sangh M.L.A voted for Giri or all the five were Swatantra M.L.As who voted for Giri outright. The position of Second Preferences is even more deplorable. Out of 51 who voted for Deshmukh, only 37 gave their Second Preference to Mr. Reddy; and no less than 9 voted for Giri and 5 deliberately refrained from exercising their Second Preference votes. In the result 14 votes went to Giri and 5 refrained from exercising Second Preference votes. Thus, at least 18 votes went astray out of our Party of 55.

ORISSA

Out of 48 members, 46 voted for Dr. Deshmukh. But of these, only 39 voted for Mr. Reddy on the Second Preference and 7 voted for Giri.

RAJASTHAN

With a strength of 30 Swatantra M.L.As, and with Jan Sangh and B.K.D. taken together, we had a total strength of 61, who should have voted for Dr. Deshmukh. But only 41 did so. There can be no question but that a large number of defections were from the B.K.D. It is also equally clear that there were some defections from the Jan Sangh and Swatantra. Of the 41 who voted for Dr. Deshmukh, only 34 voted for Reddy on Second Preference and 7 voted for Giri.

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Sw. Party
National Executive
Aug 30th 1969.

PARA 6
N. Danderleas
gen Secy.

R.C. Cooper as
officiating
gen Secy

M.R. Masani
Sol Invited

TAMIL NADU

With the strength of 22, all the 22 voted for Dr. Deshmukh. So far, so good. But of the 22, only 16 voted for Reddy on Second Preference and 4 voted for Giri, while 2 refrained from voting.

GENERAL

It is clear from this that, in all the States wherever we have sizeable groups, discipline was weak. A section of our members ignored the directive of the CPB and were influenced by other considerations.

Compared to the defections in the Congress Party and in the B.K.D., the Swatantra Party's record is relatively less unsavoury, but it is now clear that a great deal is to be desired and could have been achieved.

The election results show that, even if all those who had voted for Dr. Deshmukh on First Preference had cast their Second Preference votes for Mr. Reddy, he would have been elected by a comfortable margin. Unfortunately, Dr. Deshmukh's voters cross voted for Giri on the Second Preference to the extent of 18,437 votes which gave Giri a margin of majority of about 14,000 votes. For this debacle our Party alongwith the other two Parties, must share the blame.

NEW DELHI
27 August 1969

RESOLUTION JTCO-OM, 1969
First Preference Count

C.D. Deshmukh 1,12,915
V.V. Giri 4,01,641
S. Reddy 3,13,878

Distribution of Second Preferences
by those who had voted for Dr. C.D. Deshmukh

Second Preference Count
Quota 4,13,169
Giri 4,20,077
S. Reddy 4,05,427

Ballot Boxes pertaining to Parliament/States (value of each ballot paper in terms of votes)	C.D. Deshmukh		V.V. Giri		N. Sanjiva Reddy		No. of ballot paper rejected
	Number of ballot papers	Votes secured	Number of ballot papers	Votes secured	Number of ballot papers	Votes Secured	
Andhra Pradesh (125)	18	2250	6	750	11	1375	1 exhausted
Assam (94)	1	94	-	-	1	94	-
Bihar (146)	36	4256	2	292	33	4818	1 "
Gujarat (123)	51	6273	9	1107	37	4551	5 "
Haryana (94)	8	752	-	-	8	752	-
Jammu & Kashmir (59)	2	118	-	-	2	118	-
Maharashtra (146)	12	1740	6	876	6	876	1 exhausted
Meghalaya (7)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Orissa (145)	46	5750	7	875	39	4875	-
Punjab (107)	7	749	-	-	7	749	-
Rajasthan (110)	41	4510	7	770	34	3740	-
Tamil Nadu (144)	22	3124	4	576	16	2304	2 exhausted
Uttar Pradesh (174)	93	16182	47	8178	44	7656	2 exhausted
West Bengal (126)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kerala (127)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Madhya Pradesh (109)	54	5886	5	545	48	5232	1 exhausted
Mysore (109)	17	1853	4	436	13	1417	-
Parliament (576)	101	58176	7	4032	92	52992	2 exhausted
		1,12,915		18,437		91,549	15 "

Annexure B

SWATANTRA PARTY
National Executive
August 30, 1969

STATEMENT ON THE CURRENT POLITICAL SITUATION

During the past two months the country has passed through an acute crisis which already shows signs of recurring with renewed violence and which threatens the political stability and smooth functioning of our young democracy.

The crisis basically arises from the signal failure of the Second and Third Five Year Plans and the State Capitalist policies of the Congress Government. This has resulted in economic stagnation, inflation and a decline in the standards of living of the middle class and other under-privileged sections of the community. Faced with the failure of its basic policies, the Congress Party is going through internal convulsions which it is unable to overcome because it has not got the honesty to admit its mistakes and to turn away from the path of State Capitalism insidiously founded on "Permit Licence Quota Raj". The mischief is sought to be undone by larger and larger doses of the same poisonous drug, e.g. the nationalisation of banks. The developments during the Presidential Election where the debate shifted from policies to persons were only a reflection of this basic crisis.

As far back as May 26, 1969, the Swatantra Party had, along with the Jan Sangh and the B.K.D., made an appeal to the Prime Minister and to the Congress Party not to make the Presidential Election a party matter. We had appealed for their cooperation in securing that no party should nominate any candidate and no whips should be issued. Unfortunately, this appeal of the three leading democratic opposition parties was ignored by the Prime Minister and the Congress leadership.

When the Congress Party decided to put up Mr. Sanjiva Reddy as its candidate and Mr. Giri declared that he was also a candidate in somewhat peculiar circumstances plainly suggesting that he was a candidate of the Prime Minister, the Swatantra Party had to decide its attitude. Our Central Parliamentary Board met in New Delhi on 20th July and after careful consideration came to the conclusion that the right course for the Party would be to put up a third candidate of such eminence as would make a President of the kind the country required. We were fortified in this view by the fact that the Jan Sangh and the B.K.D. were also of the same view. And we were fortunate enough to persuade Dr. C.D. Deshmukh, who has a distinguished record as an administrator, educationist and public man, to accept the nomination offered to him by our Party, the Jan Sangh and the B.K.D. It was good of Dr. Deshmukh to have accepted this nomination knowing the adverse balance of forces available in the election. For this public spirited act, the National Executive of the Party expresses its appreciation and offers him its sincere thanks.

The Central Parliamentary Board of the Party had then to consider to whom the Second Preference Votes of the Members should be given, since the election of the President was by the method of the single transferable vote, where the omission to exercise the Second Preference would amount to a waste of the 56,000 odd votes of the Party in case Dr. Deshmukh was eliminated from the contest. The Party was therefore faced with the unavoidable necessity to choose between Mr. Reddy and Mr. Giri. However, by

that time it was clear that Mr. Giri had the open support of the Communist Parties and was also the Prime Minister's secret candidate and would act as a "Rubber Stamp" President if elected. His agreeing to give assent to the Ordinance to nationalise the banks on the evening of Saturday 19th July constituted, in our view, a breach of the Constitution in view of the fact that Parliament was meeting on the morning of Monday 21st July and in the absence of any circumstances to justify such action meanwhile. In the light of these considerations, the question of advising our members to give their Second Preference Votes to Mr. Giri was ruled out. In view of this, the Central Parliamentary Board of the Party decided to advise its members to give their Second Preference votes to Mr. Reddy.

The National Executive has reviewed the result of the elections and in particular the pattern of voting. Undoubtedly the result of the election was decided by the Prime Minister and a large section of the Congress Party voting against their own candidate in the context of solid Communist and Leftist support for Mr. Giri. A relatively minor contributory factor was that a sizeable minority of those who cast their first preference votes for Mr. Deshmukh transferred their second preferences to Mr. Giri. But for this, Mr. Reddy would have been elected. Since the members of the Jan Sangh and the B.K.D. were also involved in this matter along with those of the Swatantra Party, it is, by and large, impossible to say in what proportion members of these three parties contributed to the unfortunate result of the election; but it is clear that the major debacle came from the B.K.D.

The past month has unfortunately disclosed a signal lowering of the standards of our public life; - cheap demagoguery, the politics of the fait accompli, breach of faith, the stab in the back in the name of "voting according to conscience", the smearing of opponents, false charges of conspiracy, and the personality cult seem to have become a part of the armoury of certain sections of our political life who have been rewarded for their undemocratic methods by a momentary victory. All these are symptoms which, if not checked, will lead the country down the slippery slope of dictatorship.

The Swatantra Party has always looked upon the removal of the Congress Government at the Centre as the primary need of the day, since there was no prospect of any change in basic policies without such a change of Government. For several years now, the Swatantra Party has refused to be drawn into the faction fights within the Congress. The quarrels between the two factions have evoked on our part the response: "a plague on both your Houses". The National Executive is confident that the Party will maintain this independence which has made the Swatantra Party the leading and most effective Democratic Opposition Party in India unlike the Communist and the Socialist Parties who have become the satellites of the Prime Minister.

The Swatantra Party has since its inception recognised Communism as the "Public Enemy No. 1" of the Indian people. The Communists have now become a clear and present danger to the territorial integrity, democratic freedoms and the Constitution of the country; and the Swatantra Party has therefore called for the banning of all the three Communist Parties.

The National Executive is clear that, despite the efforts to confuse the public by loose talk of "left" and "right", which have become meaningless terms, the real choice before the country is between Liberal Democracy and Humanism on the one hand and Totalitarian Communism on the other. Within the ambit of democracy, there is ample room for protagonists of democratic socialism, the welfare society and competitive free enterprise. These are

issues which can be settled by a democratic dialogue and a process of compromise; but what cannot be compromised is the right of the Indian people to go their own way, free from intervention by Moscow, Peking or elsewhere and their respective Fifth Columns in this country.

The Swatantra Party will therefore continue its efforts to build a broad based National Democratic Front in which democratic socialists, liberals and conservatives, whatever their present party labels, may be able to come together in order that the threat of Communist subversion, already obvious in Bengal, Kerala and elsewhere, may be repelled and our country may pursue the path of ordered progress resulting in a richer and better life for its people.

The National Executive enjoins the members of the Party to rededicate themselves to this task, whatever the odds, believing as it does that the patriotism and intelligence of the Indian people will triumph over the dark forces of envy, class hatred and Communist disruption.

Annexure C

Texts of Resolutions Adopted By the National Executive of the
Swatantra Party at its meeting in New Delhi on August 30, 1969

The National Executive of the Swatantra Party thanks Dr. C. D. Deshmukh for his patriotic action in agreeing to stand as a candidate for the President's Office knowing that the odds were against his success in the circumstances as they unfortunately developed. The National Executive is grateful to Dr. Deshmukh for fulfilling his duty as an eminent and respected citizen.

Law and Order Situation in West Bengal and Kerala

The National Executive takes notes of the collapse of law and order and the security of the citizen in West Bengal and Kerala and the further deterioration in the climate of intimidation and terror that is being created by those in office in those States involving the demoralisation of the civilian administration and the police force. Those who dominate the Governments in both these States have made it perfectly clear that it is an inherent part of the doctrine and policy of their parties to subvert and destroy the Constitution.

The Executive has watched with amazement the continuing inability to take any action and the passivity in the face of this situation which is being displayed by the Congress Government in Delhi.

The Executive condemns this abdication of the functions of the President and the Union Government and calls on them to take appropriate steps and to liberate the people from the oppression to which they are being subjected.

The Executive warns that any further failure to deal with this situation in the firm and determined manner that is called for would create such conditions that later it would be impossible to bring the situation under control without large scale bloodshed and loss of life and without imperilling the unity of the Country.

Law and Order Situation in Orissa

In the States where they are in office, the Congress Party loudly complains that Parties in the Opposition are, by their agitational approach and by invoking Bandhs and Gheraos, creating serious problems of law and order. Elsewhere, as in Bengal and Kerala, the Congress Party has been decrying the state of lawlessness encouraged by the Governments themselves in these two States. But, at the same time, the Congress Party in the company of the

Communists and certain other misguided opposition groups are sedulously promoting a breakdown of law and order in Orissa which hitherto has enjoyed peaceful conditions due largely to the stability of the Swatantra-led Government in that State.

The increasing tempo of violence deliberately unleashed by such agitations under the direct guidance of the leaders of the Congress Party has inevitably led to arson, looting and finally police firing to maintain law and order particularly in Cuttack. When the State Government decided to set up a Commission of Enquiry consisting of a High Court Judge to enquire into the disturbances at Cuttack which led to firing by police, this was not acceptable to the Congress Party which provided further pretexts for continuing their agitation by making further demands, which, if permitted would have made a mockery of the law and order machinery.

While the tactics of the Congress Party and its misguided allies can be understood as being those of Parties which had failed in their attempts to topple the Government in the Assembly, what must cause grave concern is the role of the Bhoodan organisation in Orissa and of Mr. Nabakrushna Choudhary, the Sarvodaya leader in particular. Mr. Choudhary had in his capacity as Chairman of the Left United Front actually given his blessings to the agitational movement and advocated close cooperation between Bhoodan workers and the Naxalites.

The National Executive of the Swatantra Party firmly supports the Government of Orissa in its efforts to maintain law and order in the State as the necessary pre-condition of continuing to give the people of the State a clean administration and a stable Government. In this connection the National Executive particularly deplores the role played by certain opposition parties in associating with the efforts being made by the Congress Party to resurrect itself in a State where it has been totally discredited. The National Executive also appeals to the Akhil Bharatiya Sarva Seva Sangh, and in particular to Acharya Vinoba Bhave and Shri Jaya Prakash Narayan to persuade their organisation and workers in Orissa to desist from their agitational approach.

RESOLUTION ON GROWING COMMUNIST INFILTRATION

The Swatantra Party views with serious concern the growing infiltration of Communists and fellow travellers into key positions in the public institutions of the country eg., the recent appointment of Mr. S. S. Dhanan as the Governor of West Bengal and Mr. Mohan Kumaramangalam as the Chairman of the Indian Air Lines Corporation and the Government Director on the Board of Bennett Coleman, the printers and publishers of the Times of India, other important daily newspapers and journals.

RESOLUTION ON FREEDOM OF THE PRESS

The Swatantra Party is greatly disturbed by the continuous adverse comments and pronouncements of the Prime Minister and the Minister for Information and Broadcasting regarding the role of the Press. It is obvious that the freedom of the Press which has sustained throughout the last twenty-two years since Independence is in danger.

Soon after becoming Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi justified curbs on the Press on the plea of ours being a backward country. She has continued this thinking for the last three years. It is equally obvious that every effort is being made to use All India Radio to project the image only of the Prime Minister and the ruling party. More than ever before, it fails to qualify as an independent channel of communication.

The Swatantra Party urges the people of India to be vigilant and extend their utmost support to preserve the freedom of the Press without which the country would very soon be in the grip of dictatorship.

RESOLUTION ON SARDAR PHERUMAN'S INDEFINITE FAST

This meeting of the National Executive expresses its concern over the condition of Sardar Darshan Singh Pheruman who is on an indefinite fast and appeals to the Government of India and the State Governments concerned to do whatever is possible to save his life.

FLOOD HAVOC IN BIHAR AND OTHER PARTS OF INDIA

The heavy floods in the rivers Ganga, Gandak, Kosi and some others have inundated large tracts of land especially in North Bihar. The havoc caused has been extensive and standing crops have been washed away. The misery of the people living in the flood stricken areas needs to be alleviated by emergency measures. But so far the Government's relief measures have been totally inadequate; and such little help as has been forthcoming has been caught in a lot of bureaucratic red tape.

The National Executive of the Swatantra Party expresses its deep sympathy for the grief-stricken people and calls upon the Government at the Centre and the State administration to give highest priority to relief measures. Kisans who have suffered damage to crops and houses should be given immediate assistance and relief works started.

Large areas in other States of the country as for instance Assam, have also suffered severely on account of floods. There too, the National Executive of the Swatantra Party would urge strongly upon the authorities Central as well as State to take speedy and effective relief measures.