

Swatantra Party

CENTRAL OFFICE

PHONE: 28887

GRAMS: SURAJYAM

4900



SASSOON BUILDING,
143, MAHATMA GANDHI ROAD,
BOMBAY 1.

Minutes of the meeting of Trade Union Workers
belonging to the Swatantra Party held in
Bombay on July 28 and 29, 1962.

Present:

Mr. M.R.Masani

(in the Chair)

Mr. V.N.Raghavan	Aircraft Employees Union, Bangalore.
" G.Narsingh Rao	Road, Railway and Brick Workers Unions.
" Ban Singh	Kanpur.
" S.N.Panda	North Orissa Workers Union (Quarries Section), Rourkela.
" K.A.Divecha	Machine Tools and Engineering Workers Union, Bombay.
" N.K.Jagtap	Bombay.
" B.S.Patil	North Orissa Workers Union (Mines section), Rourkela.
" Hanumantha Rao	Paschim Banga Pradesh Bhatkal Mazdoor Union, Calcutta.
" A.P.Das	North Orissa Workers Union, Rourkela.
" T.B.Row	The Breaker and Clay Workers Union, Secunderabad.
" Kamal Bansi	I.N.T.U.C., Kanpur.
" Joy Mathew	Kottayam.
" J.P.Kuriyan	Plantation Factory Workers Union (Observer)
" Mathai Manjuran	Cochin Port Workers Union.
" Anand A Gaonkar	Petroleum Employees Union, INTUC, Bombay.
" A.R. Mishra	Baghmar Colliery Mazdoor Sangh.
" S.S.Sinha	Baghmar Colliery Mazdoor Sangh, Jharia.
" D.Amat	North Orissa Workers Union, Rourkela.
" V.Subramanian	Bank Employees Union, Pollachi.
" Brijnandan Singh	Patna.
" J.B. Manker	United Steel Workers of Bhilai.
" I.S. Bhargava	Jaipur.
" Madhu N.Mehta	Institute of Workers Education.
" Amar Nath	Delhi.
" Chamanlal Narang	Ambala.
" V.B.Karnik	Observer, Bombay.

Mr. Masani welcomed the Trade Union workers who were members or friends of the Party and who had come from various parts of the country. He explained the purpose of the meeting, which was to discuss the labour policy and activities in this field by the Swatantra Party. He stated that there was a general feeling that there had not been enough interest on the part of the leadership in Labour and not enough attention was being given to Trade Union work. He suggested that the meeting should discuss the subject in two parts:

- i. The labour policy of the Party.
- ii. Activities of members in the Trade Union movement.

Mr. Masani clarified at the outset that the policy of the Party was against the setting up of Swatantra dominated Unions or a T.U.C. He then called upon those present to give their own views on the subject.

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All those present were then invited to share their experience and make their suggestions for the consideration of the meeting. A long discussion took place in which the following participated:-

Mr. V.N. Raghavan
Mr. A.B. Das
Mr. Subramanian
Mr. J.B. Manker
Mr. Brij Nandan Singh
Mr. S.B. Sinha
Mr. Anand Gaonkar
Mr. Ramalal Kamalvanshi
Mr. T.B. Row
Mr. Hammantha Rao
Mr. B.S. Pati.

The meeting then adjourned till the next day and decided to meet at 9 a.m.

The adjourned meeting of trade union workers met again at 9 a.m. on July 29.

After considerable discussion and in the light of the points of view given expression to on the previous day, the meeting reiterated the Party's stand that members of the Party should help the workers to organise Trade Unions controlled and managed by themselves in a spirit of service rather than of leadership. It was felt that the Party should seek to educate workers about the evils of political exploitation and domination which are so widely rampant in the Trade Union movement in India today.

The Conference endorsed the Party's policy not to seek to establish yet another Central Organisation of Trade Unions inspired or dominated by the Party and advised that members of the Party should seek to establish or develop independent Trade Unions unaffiliated to one or the other of the existing politics-ridden Trade union federations. Members of the Swatantra Party should carry on their political propaganda among the working classes in the name of the Party, while those functioning in Trade Unions should devote themselves to represent only the economic grievances of the workers concerned.

The Conference decided to recommend to the Central Organising Committee of the Party the establishment of a Labour Advisory Committee, which would have the following functions:-

- (a) To create greater interest within the Party on the problems and organisation of labour,
- (b) To advise the National Executive of the Party on matters concerning labour,
- (c) To gather information about the activities of members of various units of the Party in the field of labour,

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- (d) To encourage and guide members of the Party in the formation and development of Trade Unions,
- (e) To organise the training of members of the Party functioning in trade unions in the principles and practice of genuine trade unionism,
- (f) To encourage members of the Party to serve the working class through the amelioration of their problems, such as housing, education and medical relief,
- (g) To act as a liaison between Trade Unions and members of the Party in Parliament and State Assemblies with a view to ensuring that their problems are ventilated and the grievances of workers are brought to the notice of the legislatures,
- (h) To prepare and publish literature explaining the Party's Statement of Policy in regard to labour with particular reference to educating workers on the desirability of eliminating political domination and exploitation and the building up of free and democratic trade unions controlled and managed by workers themselves.
- (i) It was recommended that the Labour Advisory Committee should consist of not more than fifteen members.
- (j) The meeting also decided to recommend to the Central Organising Committee that a full time organiser be appointed in the Central Office who should maintain contact with Trade Unions and members of the Party and encourage activities directed towards implementing the Party's programme.

The General Secretary of the Party assured the meeting that he would convey to the Central Organising Committee the recommendations of the Conference and expressed the hope that, as a result of their efforts, the social base of the Swatantra Party would become more broad-based and embrace a large section of industrial workers in India.
