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A MEETING OF THE PRESIDENTS AND SECRETARIES OF STATE
PARTIES WAS HELD IN THE BHARATIYA/BHAVAN AT 12 NOON [VIDYA
ON 7TH APRIL 1962.

Present: Prof. N.G. Ranga (in the Chair)
Mr. C. Rajagopalachari
Mr. K.M. Munshi
Maharawal Laxman Singh of Dungarpur
Shri Raghavendra Pratap Singh of Mankapur
Mr. N. Dandekar
Mr. T. Krishnamma
Mr. R.V. Murthy
Sardar Basant Singh
Jathedar Udham Singh Nagoke
Choudhury Dharam Singh Rathi
Mr. H.S. Dwivedi
Mr. N.C. Zamindar
Mr. K.B. Jinaraja Hegde
Mr. S.S. Mariswamy
Mr. V.T. Sreenivasan
Sardar M.N. Shitole
Mr. Bhailalbhair Patel
Mr. R.N. Singh Deo
Mr. M.R. Masani

The proposal that a Candidates' Convention at the State Level should be organised to follow up the present Convention was warmly welcomed by the meeting.

General Secretary Letter No.37 issued by the Central Office calling for the enrolment of members and holding elections to local committees of the Party and the setting up of time-tables for the purpose was explained.

Arising out of the suggestion of one or two of those present that the Party should now consider contesting elections to Village Panchayats, Panchayat Samities, Zilla Parishads and Municipal Bodies, there was a long discussion. The Pros and Cons of the matter were fully discussed. The General Secretary reported that, as a result of the warning given by him at a recent Seminar in Delhi about the non-observance of the convention to abstain from this election in so far as certain other Parties were concerned, the All-India Sarva Seva Sangh was likely to call a meeting of spokesmen of political parties to reaffirm the self-denying ordinance and to set up a machinery for giving it force through inspection and control on the part of a neutral body like the Sarva Seva Sangh which would function as an umpire.

It was mentioned that this item was due to be considered by the Parliamentary Board which would bear in mind the suggestions made by those present and that in the meanwhile the present position of the Party would remain unchanged.

Swatantra Party

CENTRAL OFFICE

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CHANCE: SURAJYAM



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BOMBAY 1.

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE CENTRAL ORGANISING COMMITTEE
HELD AT SIR HOMI MODY'S RESIDENCE IN BOMBAY ON
MARCH 15 1962 AT 10 A.M.

PRESENT: Prof. N.G. Ranga (in the chair)

Mr. C. Rajagopalachari
Mr. K.M. Munshi
Shri Kamakhya Narain Singh of Rangarh
Sir H.P. Mody
Mr. Bhailalbhai Patel
Mr. Dabhyabhai V. Patel
Mr. G. Latchanna
Sardar Basant Singh
Raja Anandchand of Bilaspur
Mr. Hari Hara Das
Maharaja P.K. Deo of Kalahandi
Mr. M.R. Masani

Dr. Basant Narain Singh)
Mr. Filoo Mody) present by special invitation.

Minutes of the last meeting held at Agra on November 23rd and 27th were confirmed.

THE GENERAL ELECTIONS:

The General Secretary reported on certain aspects of the election campaign and results. He reported that the strength of the Party in the Lok Sabha was now 27 with the accession of Mr. M.S. Anney and Sardar Kapur Singh.

The necessity of organising and guiding the work of the Party in the Lok Sabha and various State Assemblies was considered and it was decided, on the recommendation of the Parliamentary Sub-Committee, that a Parliamentary Board should be set up consisting of the following members and the Leaders of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha groups as and when elected with powers to coopt:-

Mr. C. Rajagopalachari
Prof. N.G. Ranga
Mr. K.M. Munshi
Shri Kamakhya Narain Singh of Rangarh
Mr. S.K.D. Paliwal
Maharawal Laxman Singh of Dungarpur
Sir H.P. Mody
Mr. Bhailalbhai Patel
Maharaja R.N. Singh Deo of Patna
Raja Raghavendra Pratap Singh of Mankapur
Mr. M.R. Masani.

The Functions of the Parliamentary Board would be to supervise, guide and coordinate the activities of the Legislature Parties.

On the recommendation of the Parliamentary Sub-Committee, it was decided further that a Swatantra Research Bureau should be set up in New Delhi to do research and to service the Swatantra Party groups in Parliament and State Legislatures and generally to help the propaganda of the Party. The Bureau would work under the supervision of the following members with powers to coopt:

Prof. N.G. Ranga
Mr. C. Rajagopalachari
Mr. K.M. Munshi
Prof. M. Ruthmaswamy
Mr. J.M. Lobo Prabhu
Mr. N. Dandekar
Mr. M.R. Masani

Messrs. Munshi, Mody and Masani were requested to work out a budget and arrange for the necessary finance and staff for the Bureau. The activities of the Bureau will be carried on under the general guidance of the Parliamentary Board.

The Central Organising Committee decided that a Convention of Swatantra Party candidates to the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies, whether successful or not, should be held on Saturday and Sunday, April 7 and 8. Rajaji is to preside. The venue should be Nagpur but, if this is not found feasible, the Convention will be held in Bombay.

During the Convention, an informal meeting of the Presidents and Secretaries of State Parties should be called to discuss the programme of enrolment of members and the holding of elections. It was agreed that the Central Office should bear the expenses of the hall, while the delegates themselves will bear the cost of their travel and their board and lodging while in Nagpur or Bombay.

Shri Kamakhya Narain Singh of Rongarh, the President of the Bihar unit, offered to send six to ten volunteers from Bihar to Nagpur to help with the organising and running of the Convention and this was gratefully accepted.

The Central Organising Committee decided, on the recommendation of the Parliamentary Sub-Committee that on the eve of the first session of the new Parliament which may be some time in April or May, the Party's members in the Lok Sabha should meet along with the members of the Parliamentary Board to elect their office-bearers and to lay down the lines of their activities. It was agreed that the Party in the Lok Sabha should be advised to elect Shri M.S. Aney unanimously as leader in view of his eminence and seniority. It was decided that some arrangement should be made for a levy on members of Parliament and Assemblies for the running of their group and for organising and servicing of their group.

It was also decided that Mr. M. Muthuramalinga Thevar from Madras should be admitted as an Associate Member of the Party in the Lok Sabha. Any further cases of this kind should be considered on merits by the Parliamentary Board, if they accept the Party's Manifesto, sign the Party's pledge and accept the discipline of the Party. Any proposal for associate members to the State Legislatures should be referred to the Parliamentary Board.

TREASURER'S STATEMENT:

The Statement of Accounts of the Treasurer was considered. After considerable discussion, it was agreed that there can be no question of monthly subventions to State units being continued as in the past.

The Honorary Treasurer promised to try his best to collect funds as early as possible. It was decided by the Central Organising Committee that, as early as the financial situation made it possible, a new scheme of helping the State units by paying for a certain number of full time workers should be worked out and placed before a future meeting of the Central Organising Committee.

PARTY ORGANISATION:

The need for strengthening the Party's organisation throughout the country was considered by the Committee and the following decisions were taken on the recommendation of the Organisation Sub-Committee.

Enrolment of Party Members should now be taken in hand and this enrolment should close on some date between June 30 and September 30 that may be fixed by the State Executive Committee for each State.

Membership books should be printed by the State units at their cost.

On the closing of enrolment in the States, elections to constituency, district and State Committees should follow. In any event, such elections should conclude by the end of October 1962. This would permit the constitution of the General Council and the National Executive in the months of November and December and would enable the new bodies to function from 1st January '63. Pending the setting up of the new Committees at these levels, the present *ad hoc* committees at the Centre, in the States and in the Districts will continue to function. The existing State Executive Committees are given permission to add to their number in order to enable fresh blood to be brought in, and to reconstitute District Committees wherever they are found necessary.

The Central Organising Committee further decided that the State Parties should be invited to collect data in regard to corruption, administrative improprieties and irregularities in connection with the general elections, and make the data available to the Central Office.

It was also decided that the State units should be asked to send a list of rich people who were put up by the Congress Party as Parliamentary and Assembly candidates, so that the false propaganda of the Congress Party may be suitably met.

The labour policy of the Party and the participation of members of the Party in trade union organisations came up for discussion. It was agreed that the General Secretary should consult with trade union workers in the Party and, if necessary, convene an informal meeting for the purpose so that a detailed programme of work could be evolved.

MF. Hari Hara Das raised the possibility of the Orissa State unit launching some form of direct action in connection with the free movement of foodgrains in and out of the State. While the Committee was in agreement with the State unit's position in regard to the desirability of free trade in foodgrains and the removal of restrictions, it was suggested to the State unit that it might go further into the matter and later obtain the approval of the Central Organising Committee before launching any form of direct action as the Party as a whole might be committed by some such action on its part.

After a great deal of discussion on proposals for the creation of a class of donor-members and permanent members, it was decided that no change need be made in the Party's Constitution, but that State units would be free, if they so desire, in order to save the expenses of re-registration of members every year, to arrange for a class of permanent members to be created specially in urban areas on payment of not less than Rs.10.00 at a time. These names would be carried over to the new register every year without re-registration.

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