

SWATANTRA PARTY

MADRAS CONVENTION

(31 — 10 — 1959)

Resolution 1

This CONVENTION welcomes and endorses the Principles of the SWATANTRA PARTY, and more especially, the emphasis on individual initiative enterprises and energy, the need for basing the policies of the Government on faith in the people instead of a legislative compulsion; and of sustaining the values that are inherent in Gandhian democracy by fostering spiritual values and preserving what is good in our culture and tradition, and avoiding a purely materialist philosophy of life.

Resolution 2

This CONVENTION views with alarm the increasing incursion of the State into the lives of the people in every sphere under the cloak of creating a Socialistic society, and the growing centralisation of authority which seeks blindly to iron out the rich variety of regional cultures; and the inevitable emergence of an omnipotent state, controlled by a political Party voted to power and clinging to it by using the powers of the State for the purposes of the Party.

Resolution 3

This CONVENTION reiterates the faith of the SWATANTRA PARTY in the economic and social necessity of protecting the self-employed peasant and the self-employed artism, and condemns any policy which converts the one into a managed labourer employed in a collective farm which is camouflaged as a co-operative, and the latter into a paid worker without freedom or initiative; it, therefore, stresses the need for maintaining a rural economy built on the basis of an independent peasantry and an industrial economy in which the self-employed craftman has his due place a function.

Resolution 4

This CONVENTION is of the view that the present plans of the Government involve excessive taxation, abnormal deficit financing, and foreign loans which are beyond the capacity of the country to repay; it is therefore opposed to this kind of planning which only leads to excessive inflation, high prices which reduce the value of saving, fixed incomes, and endowments and creating in thier wake misery for the present generation for the sake of the remote likelihood of benefit for posterity.

Resolution 5

This CONVENTION considers that industry and trade should be free and competitive with adequate safeguards for the protection of labour and against unreasonable profits, prices and dividends where there is no competition, or where competition does not secure the necessary corrective; and it holds that State enterprises should be restricted to heavy industries and not to services and new enterprises such as are difficult for private initiative. It strongly condemns the attempt of Government to nationalise bus transport in spite of the manifest inefficiencies displayed by State-run buses; and also notes with deep regret the attempt of the Government of Madras to nationalise the publication of Text Books leading to the teachers and students being deprived of the right of selecting higher standards of books and ultimately to such indoctrination as may be desired by the Party in power.

Resolution 6

This CONVENTION shares in the general feeling of anxiety over Chinese activities on our borders. While fully maintaining our attitude of non-alignment in the cold war, and whatever may be the motives of the Chinese Government in encouraging such activities, it feels strongly that more effective steps consistent with national dignity should be taken to forestall and prevent these acts of aggression on the border; and further that more effective diplomatic steps be taken to secure our Foreign Policy and the respects of other Nations towards India against deterioration.

Resolution 7

The CONVENTION is of the view that there should be a fair deal for Labour in fields, factories shops and offices, and reiterates the workers' right to organise for the purpose of collective bargaining; and it is further of the view that the interests of Capital and Labour which are inherently the same should be promoted by harmonious co-operation and understanding and by the preservation of the freedoms necessary for such harmony which will be seriously jeopardised under a system of State capitalism in an atmosphere of class hatred generated by the policies and pronouncements of the leaders of the Party in power.

Resolution 8

This CONVENTION demands that Government should immediately give up State Trading and Control of commodities which have led and will lead to further high prices and the creation of artificial shortages.

Prop:- Veerajumchikal

Secmd:- Chari

Prop:- Prof. M. R. Raghav
Secy:- M. K. Raghav
Resolution 9

This CONVENTION gives expression to the widespread feeling against the interference of Congress Party members in the normal course of administration and in the discharge of the duties of officials. This evil has most injurious consequences in an administration which holds vast powers under the policies of the present Government, to distribute favours or hurt the interests of private individuals in their occupation.

Prop:- S. S. Maridam
Secy:- Mr. Sathya
Resolution 10

This CONVENTION condemns the practice of the Congress Ministry using the services of the Government Intelligence Police to get information about the progress of the Swatantra Party, membership campaign and its affairs. Subversive or criminal activities real or suspected can form the legitimate subject for police attention and the present practice in respect of the Swatantra party is a clear misuse of Government servants for party purposes.

Prop:- At. Khader K. M. Shivarajam
Secy:- V. Devanathan
Resolution 11

This CONVENTION considers that the interests of the Handloom Weavers require to be specially protected by suitable measures being taken to reserve the traditional lines of their production in their favour, subsidies and other forms of assistance given to co-operatives do not help weavers but only the smaller section absorbed by the co-operatives. The Government is fully aware that the Co-operatives with their special privileges are unwilling and financially unable to admit the vast majority of weavers to membership.

Prop:- A. M. Rajamani
Secy:- Manikavasagam
Resolution 12

This CONVENTION records the deep concern of the people of the South India over the hardships to which the people of Indian Origin in Ceylon are subjected and expresses its hope that a firmer attitude will be taken in this matter by the Government of India and leaders of parties so as to put pressure on Ceylon leaders to being racial discrimination to an end and inaugurate a just and enlightened outlook in dealing with the people of Indian Origin to whom rights of citizenship are now denied.

Prop:- Dr. Krishnaswami
Secy:- Rajamani
Resolution 13

This CONVENTION is of opinion that steps should be taken to remove the feeling among the minority sections of the community that while the Constitution rightly enjoins non-discrimination the actual administration is not satisfactory in this respect. This Convention holds that the Swatantra party should stand for complete justice and elimination of all discrimination in actual administration and the generation of a feeling of security and full citizenship among the members of all minority communities.

Resolution 14

This CONVENTION view with deep concern the deterioration and instability of the Water Supply position of the City, and is of the view that suitable arrangements should be made with the Andhra State to ensure the supply of drinking water to the City and suburbs by diversion of the waters of one or more of the major rivers north of Madras.

Resolution 15

This CONVENTION is concerned over the failure of the Government and its subordinate agencies to improve the living conditions of the slum dwellers of the City in spite of the expenditure of large sums of money which has led only to an increase of house building for other types of citizens without any benefit to the dwellers in the slums and stands for a more realistic policy in regard to the provision of houses for the poor in the City making use of the powers taken by Government under the slum acquisition Act.

Mp: K. M. Subramanyam
Sec: - Kannappa Murudick
Lthor: K. Govindasamy

