

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CENTRAL
PARLIAMENTARY BOARD HELD AT THE RESIDENCE OF
PROF. N.G. RANGA, 4 SUNHERI BAGH ROAD, NEW DELHI
ON JULY 20, 1969.

Present : Prof. N.G. Ranga (in the Chair)

Prof. M. Ruthraswamy

Mr. Dahyabhai V. Patel

Mr. G. Iatchanna

Mr. N. Dandeker

Mr. M.R. Masani [by special invitation]

1. The Minutes of the Central Parliamentary Board meeting held in Madras on June 22, 1969 were confirmed.

2. Nationalisation of Banking Ordinance : The Board reviewed the circumstances under which the Ordinance for nationalisation of banks was issued on 19th July, 1969, less than 48 hours before the opening of the Session of Parliament. The Board condemned the action of the Government in passing the Ordinance and in contempt of Parliament. The Board was surprised and shocked at the issue of the Ordinance and felt that the normal democratic processes should have been allowed to operate and, if at all, a Bill should have been properly introduced and passed in the Parliament.

3. Election of the President of India : Mr. Dandeker reported that both Pandit Kunzru and Justice Subba Rao had declined the offer to put them up as Presidential candidate. He also referred to his discussion on 15th July with Mr. Charan Singh and Mr. Prakash Vir Shastri who had suggested the name of Dr. C.D. Deshmukh.

Mr. Masani gave an account of his meeting on the 19th July with the Leaders of the Democratic Opposition Parties in this matter.

Mr. Dandeker then referred in detail to his meeting on the night of 19th July with Dr. C.D. Deshmukh at Bombay, indicating to him the probability of the support for his candidature by the Swatantra Party, Bharatiya Kranti Dal, and Jan Sangh with the possibility of support also from Akali Dal, P.S.P. and some other democratic opposition groups. Mr. Dandeker further stated that after much discussion Dr. Deshmukh had agreed to be put up as a Presidential candidate in the event of most of the democratic opposition parties agreeing to support him.

Mr. Masani reported that at a meeting with leaders of Jan Sangh, B.K.D., P.S.P. and Akali Dal this morning at his residence it was generally agreed that (except for any other equally eminent person whom the D.M.K. might wish to suggest) the only candidates for consideration were Dr. Deshmukh and perhaps Acharya Kirpalani who had not yet made up his mind. Mr. Masani added that thereafter, shortly before 1 P.M., he and Mr. Dandeker met Acharya Kirpalani at his residence, where the Acharya made it quite clear that he did not wish to contest.

On considering these reports the Board decided unanimously that in consultation with the other democratic opposition parties, the Swatantra Party should put up Dr. C.D. Deshmukh unless some other (equally eminent) person's name was suggested for consideration. It was further decided that all the voters for the Presidential election

belonging to the Party should be directed to give their First Preference Vote to our official "third candidate" (presently Dr. Deshmukh) and that they should also be advised to cast their Second Preference Vote not in favour of Shri V.V. Giri but of Shri Sanjiva Reddy; and in the very unlikely event of there being no "third candidate" at all (Dr. Deshmukh or any other), the Second Preference Candidate (Shri Sanjiva Reddy) would of course automatically become our First Preference candidate. //

It was further decided that it would perhaps be advisable to seek the support of the leaders of the Muslim League also for the candidature of Dr. Deshmukh.

The meeting then terminated.