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Draft Minutes of the first meeting of the newly elected General Council of the Swatantra Party held at the Ravindralaya, Lucknow on December 15 and 16, 1973.

Mr. K.D.R. Pandey, Returning Officer (in the Chair)

ANDHRA

Mr. G. Latchanna
Mr. J. Chandramouli
Mr. Y. Shivaji
Mr. Y.G. Gowd

DELHI

Dr. H.R. Pasricha
Mr. M.R. Arya
Mr. Satish Sharma
Mr. V.C. Chanana
Mr. Mohanlal Jatav
Mr. Rameshwar Dasmana
Dr. H.C. Trivedi
Mr. R.C. Sharma
Mr. D.N. Patodia
Mr. R.P. Gill
Mr. R.S. Dadar

GUJARAT

Mr. Piloo Mody

HARYANA

Mr. Sukchain Singh
Mr. Mangeram

KARNATAKA

Mr. N.K. Ganapaiah

KERALA

Mr. Johnson Vallikkappen
Mr. C.N. Sudhan
Mr. K.T. Joseph
Mr. Jacob Cherian

MAHARASHTRA

Mr. Madhu Mehta
Mr. Indukumar Thakkar

ORISSA

Mr. R.N. Singh Deo
Mr. Harihar Patel
Mr. Tribikram Tripathy
Mr. Sarat Chandra Mohapatra
Mr. Kshetramohan Panigrahy
Mr. Guru Charan Tikayat
Mr. Chandrabhanu Singh Deo
Mr. Madannchan Sahu
Mr. Jagdish Panda
Mr. Purna Chandra Deo
Mr. Rudramadhab Ray

RAJASTHAN

Maharawal Laxmansingh
Mr. Keshari Nandan Jain
Mr. Chousar Singhji Bawel
Mr. Sangram Singh Bawel
Mr. Kalyan Singh Kalvi
Mr. Ramkumar, M.P.
Mr. Rao Narpal Singh Baghera
Mr. Devi Singhji Mandawa

TAMIL NADU

Mr. J. Ramabhadran
Mr. V. Viswanathan
Mr. C.T. Rajagopalan
Mr. H. Ajmal Khan
Mr. A.K. Ramamurthy
Mr. S. Balasubramaniam
Mr. V. Padmanabhan
Mr. L.P.S. Mani
Mr. V. Devanathan
Dr. M. Mathias

UTTAR PRADESH

Sardar Harbhajan Singh
Mr. H.K. Srivastava
Mr. Karunesh Pratap Singh
Mr. Shyam Lal Gaur
Dr. Kamla Kant
Mr. Hari Kumar Pathak

- 3, General Secretary : Invite nominations
Scrutiny
Withdrawals
Polling
4. Joint Secretaries : as above
5. Treasurers "
6. Members

With regard to item 1, the recommendation after discussion was unanimously accepted.

In regard to the next item while the Council accepted unanimously the recommendation of Six Vice Presidents and six Joint Secretaries it decided that two Treasurers should be elected at the meeting with option to the National Executive to nominate more as and when required and available.

In regard to the procedure for the election of Office Bearers the Council unanimously accepted the National Executive's recommendation as mentioned above in item 3.

II. Scrutineers :

The Returning Officer appointed, from among those present (who were themselves not candidates for any elective post in the elections being held that day), the following two scrutineers to scrutinise the nominations and balloting --

Mr. V. Devanathan (Tamil Nadu)

Mr. Jagdish Panda (Orissa)

III. President :

The Returning Officer then called for nominations for the office of President.

Seven nomination papers were received and were found to be in order. All the nomination papers were in favour of Mr. Piloo Mody. There being only one nomination for the post of President, Mr. Piloo Mody was declared unanimously elected President.

IV. Vice Presidents :

Fourteen nomination papers, duly proposing and seconding between them the following nominations, were received.

Dr. H.R. Pasricha
Mr. R.N. Singh Deo
Mr. G. Latchanna
Mr. Madhu Mehta
Mr. J.M. Lobo Prabhu
Smt. Gayatri Devi
Sardar Harbhajan Singh
Maharawal Luxmansingh
Dr. M. Mathias
Mr. Munnu Singh

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Scrutiny
Withdrawals
Polling
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Mr. R.N. Singh Deo
Mr. G. Latchanna
Mr. Madhu Mehta
Mr. J.M. Lobo Prabhu
Smt. Gayatri Devi
Sardar Harbhajan Singh
Maharawal Luxmansingh
Dr. M. Mathias
Mr. Munnu Singh

Maharawal Iaxmansingh and Mr. Munnu Singh declined the nomination, thus leaving 8 candidates for six vacancies.

The Returning Officer ordered election by secret ballot with the following results :-

Mr. R.N. Singh Deo	- 66 votes
Rajmata Gayatri Devi	- 65 votes
Mr. G. Latchanna	- 60 votes
Mr. Madhu Mehta	- 50 votes
Sardar Harbhajan Singh	- 48 votes
Dr. M. Mathias	- 30 votes
Mr. J.M. Lobo Prathu	- 26 votes
Col. H.R. Pasricha	- 19 votes

The first six viz., Mr. R.N. Singh Deo, Rajmata Gayatri Devi, Mr. G. Latchanna, Mr. Madhu Mehta, Sardar Harbhajan Singh and Dr. M. Mathias were declared elected as Vice Presidents.

V. General Secretary :

In view of his anxiety to ensure that the Party elected a General Secretary who would be in a position to devote the necessary time and effort particularly in the context of the forthcoming elections to the State Assemblies of U.P. and Orissa and due to the outgoing General Secretary's inability to continue owing to indifferent health the President Mr. Piloo Mody recommended to the General Council that the authority to elect or nominate a General Secretary be left to the National Executive. After considerable discussion in which various suggestions were made as alternatives to the President's proposal, it was decided unanimously to accept his proposal and the General Council adopted the following resolution :

" The General Council of the Swatantra Party directs the National Executive to nominate the General Secretary of the Party for the years 1974 and 1975. In the meanwhile the newly elected Vice President, Mr. Madhu Mehta " (be requested to continue to discharge the functions of the General Secretary."

Mr. Madhu Mehta accepted the request and the resolution was carried unanimously.

VI. Treasurers :

Three nomination papers were received and found to be in order.

All these three were in favour of Mr. K. Sundaram and Mr. J. Chandramouli. There being only two nominations for the two vacancies of Honorary Treasurers, Mr. K. Sundaram and Mr. J. Chandramouli were declared unanimously elected Honorary Treasurers of the Party.

The National Executive was given an option to nominate more Honorary Treasurers as and when required and available.

VII. Joint Secretaries:

Nineteen nomination papers duly proposed and seconded, nominating between them the following, were received :

1. Mr. A.M. Khan
2. Dr. Mr. Santosham
3. Mr. M.R. Arya
4. Mr. K.N. Jain
5. Mr. T. Tripathy
6. Mr. Kalyansingh Kalvi
7. Mr. K.C. Panda
8. Mr. Y.G. Gowd
9. Mr. Aizaz Rizvi
10. Mr. D.N. Patodia
11. Mr. R.Y. Ghorpade
12. Mr. Ratnasabhapathy

Mr. Kalyansingh Kalvi, Mr. Aizaz Rizvi and Mr. D.N. Patodia declined the nomination. As there were nine candidates left for six vacancies the Returning Officer, ordered elections by secret ballot with the following results :-

Joint Secretaries

1. Mr. M.R. Arya	..	58
2. Dr. Mr. Santosham	..	52
3. Mr. A.M. Khan	..	48
4. Mr. K.N. Jain	..	41
5. Mr. T. Tripathy	..	40
6. Mr. K.C. Panda	..	34
7. Mr. B. Ratnasabhapathy	..	29
8. Mr. R.Y. Ghorpade	..	17
9. Mr. Y.G. Gowd	..	11

The first six, viz., Mr. M.R. Arya, Dr. M. Santosham, Mr. A.M. Khan, Mr. K. N. Jain, Mr. T. Tripathy and Mr. K.C. Panda were declared elected as Joint Secretaries.

VIII. National Executive Nominations :

The Returning Officer then invited nominations for the election of 20 members of the National Executive. The following nominations duly proposed and seconded were received, viz.,

ANDHRA

Mr. Y.G. Gowd
Mr. B. Ratnasabhapathy

GUJARAT

Mr. H.M. Patel, M.P.
Mr. Jashbhai C. Patel

BIHAR

Mrs. Swaranalatha Mahajan
Mr. Yashwant Kumar Choudhary

HARYANA

Mr. Sukchain Preet Singh

KERALA

Mr. Johnson Vallikkappen

DELHI

Mr. D.N. Patodia
Mr. H.R. Pasricha
Mr. Mohan Lal Jatav

KARNATAKA (Mysore)

Mr. N.K. Ganapaiah
Mr. J.M. Lobo Prabhu
Mrs. Louella Lobo Prabhu
Mr. R.Y. Ghorpade

MAHARASHTRA

Mrs. Serla Datar
Mr. Indukumar Thakar

ORISSA

Mr. Harihar Patel
Mr. P.K. Deo
Mr. Gurucharan Tikayat
Mr. K.M. Panigrahy
Mr. V. Jagannadham
Mr. Sarat Chandra Mahapatra
Mr. K.P. Singh Deo

RAJASTHAN

Mr. Ramkumar M.P.
Mr. Narpat Singh
Mr. Meethalal Meena
Maharawal Lexman Singh

TAMIL NADU

Mr. Ajmal Khan

TELENGANA

Mr. T. Purshottam Rao

UTTAR PRADESH

Mr. H.K. Srivastava
Mr. Eyyan Lal Gaur
Mr. Abdul Ali Khan
Mr. Karunesh Pratap Singh
Mr. Aizaz Rizvi
Mr. Munnu Singh
Mr. Kameshwar Sahay
Mr. Baldeo Choudhary
Mr. Ram Pal Singh
Mr. Pannalal Gupta
Mr. Gangadhar Dwivedi

The Returning Officer announced that withdrawals would be open till the following morning when the meeting would reconvene at 10.30 a.m.

The meeting then adjourned for the day.

The adjourned meeting of the General Council met on Sunday, December 16 at 10.30 a.m. at Ravindralaya, Lucknow.

Mr. K.D.R. Pandey (Returning Officer) in the Chair.

ANDHRA

Mr. G. Latchanna
Mr. J. Chandramouli
Dr. Y. Shivaaji
Mr. G. Gadilinganna Gowd

DELHI

Mr. R.C. Sharma
Mr. D.N. Patodia
Dr. H.R. Pasricha
Mr. M.R. Arya
Mr. M.L. Jatav
Mr. Satish Sharma
Mr. R.P. Gill
Dr. H.C. Trivedi
Mr. V.C. Chanana
Mr. Rameshwar Dasmana
Mr. R.S. Dadar

GUJARAT

Mr. Piloo Mody

HARYANA

Mr. Sukchain Singh
Mr. Margeram

KARNATAKA

Mr. N.K. Ganapaiah

KERALA

Mr. Johnson J. Vallikkappen
Mr. K.T. Joseph
Mr. C.N. Sudhan
Mr. Jacob Cherian

MAHARASHTRA

Mr. Madhu Mehta
Mr. Indukumar Thakker

ORISSA

Mr. Harihar Patel
Mr. Tribikram Tripathy
Mr. Sarat Chandra Mhapatra
Mr. Kshetramohan Panigrahy
Mr. Chandrabhanu Singh Deo
Mr. Purna Chandra Deo
Mr. Rudramadhab Ray

RAJASTHAN

Meharawal Laxmansingh
Mr. Keshari Nandan Jain
Mr. Chousar Singhji Bawel
Mr. Sangram Singh Bawel
Mr. Kalyan Singh Kalvi
Mr. Ram Kumar M.P.
Rao Narpal Singh Baghera
Mr. Devi Singhji Mandawa

TAMIL NADU

Mr. J. Ramabhadran
Mr. V. Vishwanathan
Mr. C.T. Rajagopalan
Mr. A.K. Ramamurthy
Mr. S. Balasubramaniam
Mr. V. Padmanabhan
Mr. V. Devanathan
Dr. M. Mathias

TELENGANA

Mr. T. Purshottam Rao

UTTAR PRADESH

Sardar Harbhajan Singh
Mr. H.K. Srivastava
Mr. Karunesh Pratap Singh
Dr. Kamla Kant
Mr. Hari Kumar Pathak
Mr. Jagdish Singh Chandel
Mr. Parma Lal Gupta
Mr. Murnu Singh
Mr. Abdul Ali Khan
Mr. Gangadhar Dwivedi
Mr. Lakhman Lal Ambedkar
Mr. Baldeo Singh
Mr. Munshilal Jauhari
Ch. Leyak Singh

WEST BENGAL

Mr. N. Bhattacharjee

IX. Permanent Invitees to National Executive:

The President Mr. Piloo Mody suggested to the meeting that the Council should recommend to the next National Convention an amendment to the Party's Constitution whereby Presidents of State/Regional units would automatically become full members of the National Executive.

Pending this amendment, Mr. Mody said, the Presidents of State Units should be permanent invitees to the National Executive.

The President's suggestion was approved and the General Council decided that an appropriate amendment be drafted for the purpose to be presented to the next National Convention which in all likelihood would meet a few months before the next Lok Sabha elections.

The Returning Officer, then asked if there were any withdrawals.

X. National Executive Withdrawals and Election :

Of the 41 nominations received, the following 21 were withdrawn either by the Proposers and seconders or the nominees themselves:

Withdrawals

Mrs. Swarnalata Mahajan
Mr. Mohanlal Jetav
Mr. Jashbhai C. Patel
Mr. Y.K. Choudhary
Mr. Sukchain Singh
Mr. N.K. Ganapalaiah
Mrs. Sarla Datar
Mr. P.K. Deo
Mr. K.M. Panigrahy
Mr. V. Jagannadhan
Mr. K.P. Singh Deo
Mr. Meethalal Meena
Mr. Shamlal Gaur
Mr. Abdul Ali Khan
Mr. Aizaz Rizvi
Mr. Kameshwar Sahai
Mr. Baldev Choudhary
Mr. Ram Pal Singh
Mr. Pannalal Gupta
Mr. Ganga Dwivedi
Maharawal Iaxman Singh

As there were now twenty candidates in the field for the twenty vacancies, the Returning Officer declared the following unanimously elected as members of the National Executive:

Mr. Y.G. Gowd
Mr. B. Ratnasabhapathy
Mr. D.N. Patodia
Dr. H.R. Pasricha
Mr. H.M. Patel, M.P.
Mr. Johnson Vallikkappen
Mr. J.M. Lobo Prabhu
Mrs. Louella Lobo Prabhu
Mr. R.Y. Gharpade
Mr. Indukumar Thakkar
Mr. Harihar Patel
Mr. Gurucharan Tikayat
Mr. Saratchandra Mahapatra
Mr. Narpal Singh
Mr. Ramkumar M.P.
Mr. Ajmal Khan
Mr. T. Purshottam Rao
Mr. H.K. Srivastava
Mr. Kurunesh Pratap Singh
Mr. Munnu Singh .

Acting on the President's suggestion, the following Presidents of State/Regional Units who were not on the Executive would be permanent invitees to the National Executive, viz.,

Mr. Yeshwant Kumar Choudhary (Bihar)
Mr. R.C. Sharma (Delhi)
Mr. M.N. Amersey (Gujarat)
Mr. Sukhchain Preet Singh (Haryana)
Mr. N.K. Ganapaiah (Karnataka)
Mr. A.J. Dominic (Kerala)
Mr. P.K. Deo, M.P. (Orissa)
Maharawal Laxman Singh (Rajasthan)
Mr. B.K. Saha (West Bengal)

With the elections concluded the Returning Officer invited the newly elected President, Mr. Piloo Mody to take the Chair.

Mr. Piloo Mody in the Chair

XI. Minutes Confirmed:

The Minutes of the last meeting of the General Council held on April 13, 1973 in Madras were confirmed.

XII. Sabarkantha By-election:

The President then made a statement on the reasons that had led the Party to set up our candidate in the by-election to the Lok Sabha from the Sabarkantha Parliamentary Constituency.

Mr. Madhu Mehta and Maharawal Laxman Singh of Durgapur who, along with Mr. Piloo Mody had campaigned in Sabarkantha, also gave their own impressions of the by-election campaign. All three expressed surprise at the manner in which the Party's candidate, Mr. Mam Amersey, had been defeated.

Mr. D.N. Patodia, Dr. H.R. Pasricha and Sardar Harbhajan Singh participated in the discussion.

XIII. Merger of Bombay and Maharashtra Regional Units:

The National Executive's decision taken by circular approving the merger of the Bombay and Maharashtra Regional Units to be known as Swatantra Party, Maharashtra was ratified.

XIV. Resolutions :

Thereafter, the Council went on to consider resolutions on the following subjects which, after discussion, were unanimously adopted :

1. Revival of Linguistic and Communal Unrest
2. Economic Situation
3. Repressive Measures of Government

(Texts attached Annexure A)

The meeting then terminated with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

SWATANTRA PARTY

General Council

Lucknow, Dec.16,1973

RESOLUTIONS

Annexure A.

Revival of Linguistic and Communal Unrest

The Swatantra Party views with grave concern the revival of linguistic and communal unrest engineered by political vested interests who are fomenting these tensions for their narrow, selfish and partisan interests. At a time when there is considerable suffering and so much remains to be done to provide relief to the people, it is criminal to spark off linguistic and communal trouble. The Swatantra Party appeals to the people not to be misled by political vested interests who are working against the interests of the nation. The time has come for people to unite and thwart the evil designs of these people engaged in such anti-national activity.

Proposed by : Mr. Madhu Mehta
Vice President

Seconded by : Mr.N.K.Ganapaiah
President,
Swatantra Party, Mysore

Economic Situation

The General Council of the Swatantra Party expresses its grave concern with the increasing hardships of the people as a result of the rapidly deteriorating economic situation more particularly in respect of -

Soaring Prices of all essential commodities which have risen by no less than 33% in the last 18 months. Even worse is the fact that food articles alone rose by 36%. The inflationary spurt in money supply by as much as Rs.1,600 crores within one year for financing the unproductive expenses of the Central and State Governments on the one hand and the absence of growth in agriculture and industry on the other, have caused widespread rise in the prices of all basic items like food articles, cloth, fertiliser, coal, steel, kerosene and a host of other commodities leaving society gripped in an economy of shortages. The failure of the public distribution system in respect of all essential items like wheat, coal, cement and steel has resulted in maldistribution, undue price rise and rampant corruption.

Continued shortage of power, fertilisers and increasing transport bottlenecks which have brought stagnation to the process of growth and has affected the farmers adversely to such an extent that the current year's crop of foodgrains earlier estimated to be 115 million tons may now finally be reduced to 105 million tons only. Industrial production during the first six months of the current year has shown a distinct decline compared to the same period last year.

Growing Unemployment which within one year has risen to unbearable proportions was 7.3 million in April 1973 of which as much as 3.3 million constitute the educated unemployed.

Growing Unrest in the industrial and non-industrial fronts as evidenced by strikes and lock outs in power stations, steel projects, Airlines, Railways, Industrial Projects and Hospitals and by widespread disturbances in university campuses all over the country.

Defective unimaginative policies based on outdated and imported ideas adopted by the government and the gross ignorance and wrong application of economic laws have all been responsible for the present miserable state of the Indian people. The Swatantra Party is convinced that Mrs. Gandhi's Government obsessed by doctrinaire and personal considerations is bent upon continuing the disastrous socialist policies which is leading India to the stage of complete economic chaos and political slavery. This is evident as not a single step has been taken or is proposed to be taken which may provide some relief to the people.

The Swatantra Party therefore demands that:

- strict discipline should be imposed against any further increase in governmental expenditure for non-productive purposes particularly on administration and to put a stop to deficit financing;
- the country's resources should be diverted more to the growth of agriculture, power and transport upon which the progress of India's economy mainly depends;
- the public distribution system seething with corruption, mismanagement and inefficiency, should be scrapped. The Government should concentrate more on giving incentives and encouragement for production, as increased production alone can remove scarcity, bring down prices and reduce unemployment.

The Swatantra Party emphasises that production and savings alone can be generated only by improving the performance of the public sector, drastic reduction in taxes and substantial removal of constraints on productive activities through licences, permits, quotas and levies.

Moved by: Mr. D.N. Patodia
Member, National Executive

Seconded by: Mr. Lakhan Lal Ambedkar
Joint Secretary,
Swatantra Party, Uttar Pradesh

Supported by: Mr. Mohan Lal Jatav,
Vice President,
Swatantra Party, Delhi Pradesh

Repressive Measures of Government:

The Swatantra Party warns the people against the campaign of political oppression launched by the ruling party, particularly against the opposition parties, arbitrarily detaining all those who are legitimately protesting against administrative injustice and economic hardships caused to the people.

The Swatantra Party condemns the use of the draconian powers usurped by government under the pretext of national security - applying such laws as the D.I.R. and the M.I.S.A. against innocent citizens and particularly students - depriving the people of their fundamental right to Habeas Corpus, detaining them without trial.

The Swatantra Party deplores the virtual takeover of various independent administrative machinery, such as the Election Commission of India, which is being freely used as an instrument by the Ruling Party in furthering its election prospects by arbitrary fixation of election dates, delimitation and reservation of constituencies.

Proposed by: Sardar Harbhajan Singh
President,
Swatantra Party, Uttar Pradesh

Seconded by: Mr. Aizaz Rizvi
President,
Swatantra Party, Lucknow Dist.
