

# Clauses On Property Rights In Draft Constitution

## FORMULATION ENTRUSTED TO SPECIAL COMMITTEE

From Our Special Representative

NEW DELHI, August 9.

THE Congress Assembly Party, which met here this evening under the chairmanship of Mr. N. V. Gadgil, decided to entrust the drafting of the clauses in the Draft Constitution relating to rights to property to a special committee.

The committee will include Mr. K. M. Munshi, Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant, Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari and Sir B. N. Rao, the Constitutional Adviser to the Government of India.

The close voting at the meeting on this controversial issue indicated the sharp division of opinion among Congressmen over the proposed discrimination between agricultural and non-agricultural properties for purposes of justiciable compensation.

It is believed that a new compromise formula will be evolved out of the draft proposals, debated at length at previous meetings, of Dr. H. R. Ambedkar, Mr. K. M. Munshi and Pandit Pant.

It is generally expected that the new provision, while accepting the principle of compensation for all property, will specify that the property of intermediaries such as zamindars will not be entitled to justiciable compensation. After Parliament or the Provincial Assemblies determine the principles of acquisition and compensation in regard to agricultural property, it is suggested that the Court will have no rights to challenge those principles.

Some Congressmen appear to feel that since the principle of compensation has been generally accepted by the Party, some provision could be made in the Constitution to ensure

the quantum of compensation in regard to zamindari property which could also be challenged in a Court if not found just and adequate, while the principle of acquisition might not be open to judicial intervention.

It is believed that the decision of the Party was preceded by tense scenes, and certain Congress circles feel that the last word on the subject had not yet been said. These circles urge uniform application of the principles for all properties both in regard to their acquisition and the method and manner of compensation.

The Congress Party is believed to have decided also that while there could be one or more official languages for the Indian Union, English should continue to be exclusively used for the purposes of administration. In Parliament, English and Hindi would probably be recognised, while every State would be entitled to have its own regional language as the official language.

The question as to how long English should continue to be the State language will presumably be decided at the meeting tomorrow. It may be recalled that the Congress Working Committee recommended a period of 15 years during which English could be gradually replaced by Hindi, while the All-India National Language Convention held here this week wanted this period to be reduced to ten years.