

CASE AGAINST MR. M. N. M. PAVALAR

Madras, Oct. 26.

Further hearing of the case in which Mr. M. N. Muthukumaraswamy Pavalar of Nellikuppam stands charged by the police under Sections 153 (A) and 505 (C), I. P. C., (class-hatred), was resumed by Mr. Abbas Ali, Chief Presidency Magistrate, Egmore, on Wednesday last (19-10-38).

Cross-examined by Mr. Allah Pitchai, Counsel for Mr. Pavalar Mr. C. V. Arunagiri Mudaliar said that Mr. Kesava Menon was one of the sub-Inspectors attached to the Crime Branch. Witness did not ask Mr. Menon to attend the meeting held on August 10 last. Mr. Menon had submitted a written report of the speech to the Deputy Commissioner of Police. It was a confidential record. Witness had gone through the whole speech which was in Tamil. He did not try to know what the letter referred to in the speech, was. He knew the accused since 1927, and that he (Mr. Pavalar) was taking part in labour agitations in Nellikuppam. Witness did not know if he had any occasion to warn the accused, when he (witness) was the sub-Inspector of Cuddalore Town Police for some time. He did not remember to have worked up any security proceedings against the accused.

Mr. Swaminatha Sastri, Short-hand Sub-Inspector, was next cross-examined. He said that the accused spoke in Tamil and was present from the beginning of the meeting. The accused referred to the story of Kailas in the course of his speech. Since witness knew it as he had heard it more than once, he did not record the same in shorthand. But he had written the same in English for the information of the officers. Witness could not say the time, when the accused began his speech, but he could give the order of the speeches made. Mr. C. Basudev spoke first followed by Mrs. Sivaraj, and Mr. Balasundaram Pavalar.

Magistrate:—What is meant by Pavalar?

Witness:—One who is versed in writing poems.

Continuing, witness stated that Mr. Muthukumaraswamy Pavalar then spoke. The theme of the speeches was opposition to Hindi. They did not confine themselves to anti-Hindi alone, but they spoke all sorts of things.

Counsel:—That is alright.

Counsel:—Did any one of the speakers indulge in violent attack against the Brahmins.

The Crown Prosecutor, interrupting:—What relevency has it.

Witness:—Yes. Mr. Balasundaram Pavalar and Mr. S. K. Swamy also spoke.

The Crown Prosecutor:—What other people spoke has no relevency here.

Proceeding witness said that he could not say how much time all the speakers occupied. The accused began to talk about the letter after ten sentences.

The Crown Prosecutor:—Does the witness know that the accused had a letter in his hand. He had some paper in his hand.

Witness went on to say that he did not know who the accused was before he saw him at the meetings held in the city. He did not know the accused in person. He had not spoken to the accused in his life.

There was no personal ill-feeling between him and the accused.

Witness could record Tamil speeches in shorthand at more than 100 words per minute.

Magistrate:—Mr. Satyamurthi himself cannot speak. He must have vocal diarrhoea. (Laughter)

Inspector Arunagiri Mudaliar:—They have not come across speakers who can speak more than eighty words in Tamil.

Witness had not consciously

made any mistake in respect of omitting words, nor were any mistakes pointed to him.

Counsel: You know Tamil?

Witness: I do. I am a Tamilian by birth. I would have given evidence in about 100 cases, and would have recorded over a thousand speeches.

Magistrate: What is it you are driving at? Tell me.

Counsel: The accused did not make any random attack against Brahmins.

Magistrate: What is your idea?

Counsel:—My contention is that some of the points have been left out.

Witness continuing said that he could not say that his knowledge of English was better than Tamil.

Counsel: Whenever you make any observation in the course of the speeches, you make a note not in Tamil, but in English?

Witness: It is very difficult to find suitable words in Tamil for 'hear, hear'. No one says "kelungal, kelungal" in Tamil.

Magistrate:—Even Adi-Dravidas say, 'hear, hear'.

The words, 'hear, hear' were said when the accused in the course of his speech is alleged to have stated, among other things that a Brahmin should be beaten.

The Crown Prosecutor:—He did not get beaten, referring to the witness.

Inspector Arunagiri Mudaliar, interrupting said:—In Cuddalore, one man wanted to beat a Brahmin Shorthand-Inspector.

Witness proceeding said that the words 'maro, maro' occurred only once in the whole speech. He translated the speech recorded in shorthand into Tamil on August 13.

The Crown Prosecutor, re-examining the witness asked him as who was the fastest Tamil speaker in his experience.

Witness said that he could say it was Mr. S. Satyamurthi.

The Crown Prosecutor:—You have recorded his speeches correctly? Can you give any idea of the speed with which Mr. Satyamurthi speaks? How many words does he speak?

Witness: About 90 words per minute. I have recorded them correctly.

Mr. Kesava Menon, cross-examined, said that he had been asked by Inspector Srinivasa-chari to attend the meetings. Witness did not make any entry into the diary that he was going to attend the meeting. They had no diary. The Intelligence Section did not keep any diary.

In pursuance of a general order which had been issued, he attended the meeting. He was there from the very beginning. He had not made any note of the speeches. Witness had made a report about his having attended the meeting. Witness could not give the speech of the accused in detail in relation to the story of the 'Kailas' for further hearing.

The case stands adjourned to Wednesday next.

ANOTHER CASE

Charge Of Abetment Of Picketing

Madras, Oct. 26.

The case against Mr. M. N. M. Pavalar on a charge of abetment of picketing in connection with a speech made at Tiruvottiyur on 19-8-38, was taken up yesterday before Mr. D. Samuel, Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Saidapet.

Messrs. Subbarayalu, C. I. D. Inspector, K. Sambandam, Sub-Inspector, Tiruvottiyur and Nagayya were examined for the prosecution.

The prosecution witnesses were cross-examined by Mr. Pavalar, the accused.

Charges were framed under Section 117, I. P. C. and Section 7 of the Criminal Law Amendment Act, and the case was adjourned to 10th November.