

**FIGHT  
AGAINST  
REPRESSION  
AND  
DISRUPTION**

**Resolutions of the CITU Working Committee Meeting**

**Jaipur October 2-4, 1970**

**CITU PUBLICATION**

# The Meeting Of The Working Committee Of The C I T U.

The meeting of the Working Committee of the Centre of Indian Trade Unions was held in Jaipur on October 2- 4, 1970 to consider the following agenda :

1. Adoption of the Draft Constitution of the CITU.
2. Report of the CITU activities after the All-India Trade Union Conference.
3. Reports of industry-wise meetings held during the All-India Trade Union Conference.
4. Consideration of applications for new affiliations.
5. Resolutions.
6. Any other subject with the permission of the chair.

The meeting began on October 2, 1970 at 9.00 A. M. The following members were present :

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|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Shanti Ghatak        | 14. Sudhin Kumar       |
| 2. Ajit Kumar Mukherjee | 15. A. Balasubramanyam |
| 3. Kamal Sarkar         | 16. C. A. Peter        |
| 4. Biren Roy            | 17. S. Y. Kolhatkar    |
| 5. Monoranjan Roy       | 18. Dinen Bhattacharya |
| 6. Mohammad Ismail      | 19. Hari Sadhan Mitra  |
| 7. Benoy K. Chowdhury   | 20. N. Prasada Rao     |
| 8. Niren Ghosh          | 21. O. Bharathan       |
| 9. Robin Mukherjee      | 22. A. Nallasivan      |
| 10. Jyoti Basu          | 23. Samar Mukherjee    |
| 11. B. T. Ranadive      | 24. M. K. Pandhe       |
| 12. P. Ramamurti        | 25. Mohan Punamia      |
| 13. E. Balanandan       | 26. Ram Asray          |

- |                       |                               |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| 27. R. Umanath        | 32. Ravi Sinha                |
| 28. Bimal Chatterjee  | 33. Chandi Prasad             |
| 29. K. Ananda Nambiar | 34. Parimal Mitra             |
| 30. P. Satyanarayana  | 35. T. Ayyappan.              |
| 31. Robin Chatterjee  | 36. Suhrid Mullick Chowdhury. |

The following comrades attended as special invitees :

1. Com. B. N. Kuttappa (Karnataka)
2. Com. Shanti Sekhar Bose ( West Bengal )

On behalf of the chair, Com. P. Ramamurti moved a condolence resolution on the death of Nasser. All comrades stood up for one minute in silence to pay their homage.

Com. Monoranjan Roy moved a resolution on the murders of some trade union leaders in West Bengal.

The resolution was then put to vote and adopted unanimously.

Com. M. K. Pandhe proposed the following names to function as the Credentials Committee :

- (1) Com. Monoranjan Roy (Convenor), (2) Com. A. Nallasivan, (3) Com. N. Prasada Rao, (4) Com. Suhrid Mullick Choudhury, (5) Com. E. Balanandan.

The proposal was endorsed by the Working Committee.

Com. M. K. Pandhe proposed the following names for the Resolutions Committee :

- (1) Com. Sudhin Kumar (Convenor), (2) Com. S. Y. Kolhatkar, (3) Com. Keshto Ghosh, (4) Com. Samar Mukherjee, (5) Com. M. K. Pandhe, (6) Com. Biren Roy, (7) Com. N. Prasada Rao, (8) Com. Niren Ghosh and (9) Com. R. Umanath.

The proposal was accepted by the Working Committee.

With regard to the agenda of the meeting, Com. Nambiar suggested that the question of railway workers' movement should be included and it was accepted.

Com. P. Ramamurti gave a brief report of the GITU activities since the All-India Trade Union Conference.

Since comrades felt that the discussion on Com. Ramamurti's report should take place in the afternoon it was decided that the

Draft Constitution of the CITU should be introduced. A draft was prepared by a sub-committee of office-bearers nominated by the last meeting of the General Council and was circulated among the members.

Com. B. T. Ranadive delivered his written speech on the draft Constitution which was circulated among the members.

The afternoon session began with a resolution on Greetings to People's China on the occasion of Twentyfirst anniversary which was moved by Com. Sudhin Kumar, and passed unanimously.

Comrades from different states then spoke on the Report submitted by Com. Ramamurti. Com. R. Umanath (Tamil Nadu), Com. E. Balanandan (Kerala), Com. N. Prasada Rao (Andhra), Com. Ravi Sinha (U P) and Com. Chandi Prasad (Bihar) spoke on the Report and supplemented it by giving reports on the development of the T. U. movement in their respective states. The debate remained inconclusive on the day.

On 3rd August, at the outset, Com. S. Y. Kolhatkar moved a resolution on Paltry Interim Relief to the Central Government employees. It was passed unanimously.

Com. Biren Roy moved a resolution on Increasing use of Anti-Working Class Measures which was adopted unanimously.

The meeting then resumed discussion on the Report of Com. Ramamurti. Com. Mohan Punamia (Rajasthan), Com. Monoranjan Roy (West Bengal), Com. S. Y. Kolhatkar (Maharashtra), Com. B. N. Kuttappa (Karnataka), Com. Ajit Mukherjee (West Bengal), Com. Santi Bose (West Bengal) participated in the debate.

During the morning session Com. Ramamurti moved a resolution on Kerala which was passed unanimously.

At the beginning of the evening session Com. R. Umanath moved a resolution on the Demands of Sugar Factory Workers. It was passed unanimously. Com. M. K. Pandhe moved a resolution on Repression on Rajasthan workers which was passed unanimously.

The meeting then continued discussion on General Secretary's Report. Com. Biren Roy, Com. Kamal Sarkar, Com. Robin Chatterjee, Com. Robin Mukherjee (all West Bengal) spoke on the Report.

Com. B. T. Ranadive summed up the discussion on the Report.

Com. K. Ananda Nambiar (Tamil Nadu) gave a brief report on the Railway workers' movement.

The meeting discussed the draft Constitution on 4th August 1970 in the morning session. After clause by clause discussion and acceptance of some amendments the Draft Constitution was adopted unanimously.

The meeting then decided to observe Durgapur Day on November 1 1970 all over India. Every CITU union should contribute to the Durgapur Fund and money should be remitted to the CITU centre directly. It was agreed that a pamphlet should be brought out on Durgapur as early as possible.

The meeting authorised the secretariat to redraft the resolutions on Durgapur and West Bengal and they were taken as passed by the meeting.

Com. M. K. Pandhe moved a resolution on Industrial Relations Commission. It was passed unanimously. The meeting authorised the General Secretary to contact other central T. U. organisations and leaders of various Parliamentary groups to fight unitedly this impending legislation both inside and outside Parliament.

Com. Nambiar moved a resolution condemning repression on Railway workers- It was passed unanimously.

Com. Nallasivam read the report of the Credentials Committee regarding affiliation of new unions. It was adopted unanimously.

Com. P. Ramamurti moved a resolution on U. P. Presidential Rule. It was passed unanimously. The resolution moved by Com. N. Prasada Rao on Land Reforms was also adopted unanimously.

Com. Niren Ghosh moved a resolution on Scuttling of the Jute Commission. It was passed unanimously.

Com. B. T. Ranadive moved the resolutions on (1) Bank Nationalisation (2) Kesoram Rayon workers' struggle (3) Nationalisation of Light Railways and (4) Greetings to workers participating in various struggles. The meeting decided to pass the resolutions with some modifications.

Com. Ramamurti moved a resolution on Andhra Industrial Relations Bill which was passed unanimously.

Com. Ramamurti then announced the programme of the State Conferences.

Com. Samar Mukherjee ( West Bengal ) suggested that a meeting of the General Council should be convened as early as possible. The meeting accepted the suggestion and decided to hold the next meeting of the General Council at Kanpur in first week of February, 1971.

The meeting then considered the Reports of the industrywise group meetings held during the All-India Trade Union Conference. It was decided that during the next meeting of the General Council one day should be specially allotted for industry-wise meetings and the Secretariat was authorised to invite certain comrades who are not members of the General Council but whose presence would be essential for such meetings.

The meeting decided that the Bombay union in CEAT factory should be authorised to convene a meeting of all rubber unions and steps should be taken to form a federation of workers in rubber and tyre industries.

The meeting further decided to bring out a bulletin in English as soon as possible. The secretariat was authorised to take necessary steps in the matter.

Com. B. T. Ranadive then summed up the meeting which concluded at 2 P.M.

# RESOLUTIONS

## 1. ON THE SITUATION IN WEST BENGAL

The Working Committee of the CITU draws attention of the trade unions and all democratic organisations to the grave situation that exists in West Bengal, under the President's Rule imposed by Indira Gandhi's Central Government. The situation presents a threat to the economic gains of the people of West Bengal and their political and democratic liberties.

Under the umbrella of the President's Rule the capitalists, jotedars and the vested interests have launched a massive attack on the workers, peasants and other sections to deprive them of the gains achieved during the U. F. Ministry and worsen their economic condition.

The Birlas, the Sree Rams, the jute bosses, the engineering employers all have opened a simultaneous offensive against the fighting working class of West Bengal, which only a few months back, had after a heroic struggle and helped by the U. F. Ministry wrested a number of concessions from them. Lay-offs, retrenchment, lock-outs and closures have become common under the President's Rule. The number of those thrown out of employment since President's rule has reached the figure of 30,000 in organised industries alone. These are accompanied by refusal to carry out agreements regarding increased wages or D.A.

In this offensive the employers are directly helped by the disruptive activities of the Right C.P. leaders of the AITUC.

Similar offensive is unleashed against the peasants by the jotedars with the help of the Congress police. The landlords and their hirelings have been attempting to evict by force the peasants from the benami lands occupied by them during the U. F. regime.

Having failed in the efforts they seek to seize the crop from these lands and rob the peasants. The Government and the police and parties like the Bangla Congress, the Indira and the Syndicate Congress are encouraging the landlords in their designs.

The State Government employees, teachers and others are also experiencing the intensity of the attack on their standard of living under the President's rule. The liberties guaranteed to them by the U. F. Government are being extinguished. Economic offensive against the masses is accompanied by widespread police terror to help the employers and jotedars.

The massive and brutal repression launched against the workers of Durgapur sums up the policy of the State Government. Never before perhaps in any earlier regime day and night curfew and mass raids by armed policemen were used to crush a strike ; nor were measures taken to stop food supplies to workers and milk to their children.

The State Government adopted repressive policy towards the three-day strike of its own employees, the strike of the secondary teachers and the observance of the Martyrs' Day on August 31.

Despite the lathi-charge, curfew, beatings and firings and calling in of the armed forces, the people continue to march forward.

The President's rule which represents nobody except the Centre has within a few months put in jail more than 7,000 people belonging to CPI (M) and others active in mass organisations, in the trade unions, kisan and student movement. Warrants have been issued against more than 60,000 people. Draconian laws of British days such as Suppression of Terrorists' Outrages Act of 1932 have been invoked. Tribunals of Criminal Jurisprudence Act have been introduced. Essential Services Maintenance Act is being applied to the strikes and attempts are afoot to reintroduce the P. D. Act. Meetings are prohibited in large part of West Bengal. Curfew is applied frequently, far more frequently than during the British days. The C. R. P. runs amok in towns and villages. West Bengal has appearance of an occupied territory.

This repression is directed against the CITU organisations, and mainly against the CPI (M). The Right CP and its allies acting

as the agents of the Government are only inciting it to intensify the repression against the democratic forces. The CITU denounces the role of these parties allied to the Congress who are offering a screen to Governmental repression and who indulge in open strike breaking activities when face to face with mass struggles.

The Working Committee of the CITU draws the attention of the working class and the people of India to the new grave development in the West Bengal situation. Systematic attempt is made to use murder as a weapon of eliminating political opponents. Nearly a hundred members of the CPI (M) and other stalwarts in the kisan, trade union and student movements have been killed in recent months, some of them in the presence of police officials. The bankrupt ruling class, unable to beat down the people by repeated police firings, has taken to the assassin's dagger to achieve its aim.

The CITU denounces the role of the Right CP and other parties who far from protesting against these wanton attacks on the advanced political and trade union leaders are lending their indirect support to it by maligning those who are attacked. The bankrupt path of collaboration with the Congress has resulted in collaboration with the anti-social elements against the democratic movement.

The Working Committee of the CITU denounces the despicable and counter-revolutionary role of the Naxalite elements who are joining the ruling class to assassinate members of the CPI (M), the trade unions and kisan sabha. Mouthng revolutionary phrases, advertised by the bourgeois press, certified by the Right Communists, these elements are doing the work of police agency and attacking the very mass forces which the ruling classes want to be attacked.

The working class and people of W. Bengal have to meet this attack from the Government and police, from the anti-social elements and Naxalites, and from the treachery of the parties like the Right C. P., Forward Bloc and the Bangla Congress.

The united struggle of the working class and people of W. Bengal would have been invincible and the Central Government dared not have launched this repression had the unity been

maintained, had the Right C. P. and the Bangla Congress and others not betrayed the people and deserted the front. The people and working class of West Bengal have to go through a fiery ordeal because of this treachery.

But the morale and militancy of the people has reached a new stage. They are reforging their ranks, developing united actions, drawing the masses behind the defecting parties into common struggle and isolating the traitors. Despite the disruptive activities of the leaders of these parties the working class and the people of West Bengal organised the general strike and Bandh of July 14, innumerable strikes in jute, engineering, State electricity, transport, mercantile firms, Birla concerns, and teachers' struggles, struggle of port and dock workers, of students and teachers, of peasants and landless labourers.

The CITU is confident that these struggles coupled with a patient appeal for a united front of all democratic parties and forces against the Congress will once more reforge that invincible unity against which neither policeman's bullet nor the assassin's dagger will prevail.

The working class and people of W. Bengal are engaged in a deadly fight against the enemies of the people, against the Indira Government which wants to extinguish all liberties in West Bengal and rule by police terror. Unable to win the majority in an election, unable to rule by people's vote, the Congress party seeks to crush the popular movement before embarking on a farcical election. The people of W. Bengal are defending the liberties of the Indian people against the advent of a police state, against the dictatorship of the Centre over-riding the will of the people of the State. Democratic liberty, economic well-being of the workers and peasants is at stake in this fight.

To foil the attempts to impose a police state, the people of W. Bengal have raised the demand of immediate mid-term poll, withdrawal of C. R. P. and all repressive measures. The Working Committee of the CITU fully supports these demands and appeals to the working people and to all sections of the people to raise

their voice in support of them and help the struggle for democracy in W. Bengal.

The Working Committee further appeals to all trade unions to raise their voice in defence of the toiling peasantry of West Bengal. Despite goonda attacks, widespread arrests, prohibition of meetings and institution of police camps the peasant masses have refused to surrender the occupied lands ; they are equally determined to defend the crop on the land cultivated by them, come what may. Today the police camps and landlord's goondas are getting ready to swoop on the peasants' crops. Every help must be rendered to the peasants to defend their gains.

The Working Committee calls upon all affiliated unions to mobilise support for the working class and the people of West Bengal and forge united actions and demonstrations with all democratic and working class organisations. The united protest coming from all sections of the working class will be a mighty weapon to frustrate the plans of Indira Gandhi Government.

The Working Committee of the CITU appeals to all trade unions in West Bengal, irrespective of their political and organisational affiliations to come together for joint action to stem the tide of reaction. The C R P, Section 144, lock-outs, firings and murders constitute the class weapons to drown the struggle of the common man in blood. The CITU appeals to the members of other organisations against the pro-Congress policy of their leaders and asks them to realise how it leads to the betrayal of common interests.

The CITU calls upon all its unions in West Bengal to be in the forefront of the common struggle, cement the unity of the working class and frustrate the anti-democratic designs of the Congress and its allies.

## 2. ON DURGAPUR WORKERS' STRUGGLE

The Working Committee of the CITU denounces the barbarous repression launched by the West Bengal Government against the workers of Durgapur when they struck work in August to protest against the arbitrary arrests of their union leaders who were charged with murder and other offences.

The Working Committee demands immediate release of Comrade Dilip Mazumder, President of 22,000 strong Hindustan Steel Employee's Union and member of General Council, CITU and twice elected to State Legislature from Durgapur Constituency ; Comrade Sukhen Sarkar, Vice-President, Durgapur Project Employees' Union and Member, General Council, CITU ; Comrade Benoy Chakraborty, Joint Secretary of Workers' Committee of Mining and Allied Machinery Corporation ( MAMC ) and Comrade Thakur Prosad Das, leader of the workers of Small Engineering unit and Contract Labour, and other arrested workers and withdrawal of all repressive measures including the C R P and other armed forces.

The 60,000 workers of Durgapur Complex led by Hindustan Steel Employees' Union, Heavy Engineering Employees' Union, AVB Employees' Union. Durgapur Project Employees' Union, Durgapur Chemical Employees' Union, Graphite (India) Ltd. Workers' Union, Hein Lehman Workers' Union, Ophthalmic Glass Employees' Union and various other unions went on a protest action on August 4, against the installation of the Central Industrial Security Force, the new police agency which has been armed with powers to arrest without warrant within the plant premises. Within a couple of days of this protest, the police arrested the prominent trade union leaders, charging them with murder and other offences. The workers correctly understanding this as a blatant attack to crush their organisation launched a protest strike on the 12th August demanding the release of the arrested leaders.

Instead of meeting the demand the Government launched unheard of repression against the workers. More than 24,000 armed policemen including the notorious C R P were drafted to crush the workers' protest.

They laid virtual seige to town, as if it was an enemy-occupied territory. The foodgrain shops were forcibly closed, milk supply to the people was stopped and day and night curfew was proclaimed so that the workers could not buy their daily needs.

Finding that this monstrous game of starving the workers into submission did not succeed, the police launched a further offensive against the strikers. They prohibited meetings under section 144

which along with the curfew suppressed all liberties and rights of the strikers. They raided union offices, arrested all those found there and snatched away typewriters and other equipment making it impossible to carry on the daily union activities. And finally they started mass raids at night on workers' quarters arresting, beating and torturing workers in the presence of their wives and mothers. They beat women, used filthy language towards them and did everything to insult them. They belaboured and tortured the workers in police custody. Electric shocks were given to many workers to extract confession and to find out whereabouts of wanted leaders.

The leaders of the INTUC and the AITUC not only opposed the strike, organised strike-breaking activities, but acted as the accomplices of the police. They were found going in police jeeps to identify the workers whom the police wanted to be arrested. They took the help of the anti-social elements to attack the strikers and a prominent trade union leader, Com. A.B. Roy of MAMC was murdered by them in the presence of the police. The CITU denounces the treacherous role of these leaders ; it especially wants the workers to understand the utter degeneration of the Right C.P. and AITUC elements whose policy of alliance with the Congress has resulted in their becoming accomplices of the police to crush the workers.

The sixty thousand Durgapur workers courageously fought for days against the monstrous attack of the police and the treachery from inside. Despite the virtual illegalisation of the unions they kept their organisation intact through the Sector Committees and continued to brave the terror and displayed great marvels of courage and unity.

The Working Committee of the CITU congratulates the workers of Durgapur on their courageous and glorious struggle. It is proud that all its affiliated unions in Durgapur heroically led the struggle and faced the challenge of the authorities with courage and determination.

It sends its warm greetings and congratulations to the women of Durgapur—the wives, mothers and daughters of the workers—

who by their resistance and united efforts not only inspired the men to continue their fight, but frustrated and defeated on many occasions the nefarious designs of the police.

The CITU strongly protests against the continued repression and victimisation of leading trade union cadres and demands immediate withdrawal of all dismissals, suspensions and prosecutions. The CITU further warns against the plans of the management of factories to withdraw the recognition of fighting unions. There is no doubt that the workers will be able to defeat this attack also, on the strength of their unity and solidarity.

The CITU wants the working class of India to understand the full meaning of the unprecedented repression. It shows the real face of the Indira Gandhi Government with its profuse promises of Socialism. It shows that the Indira Gandhi Government and the ruling classes will not shrink from using any repression in the present period.

This fascist type of repression on Durgpur workers is a part and parcel of the widespread repression carried on in West Bengal. The peasants, the state Government employees, the students, the workers and other democratic sections in West Bengal are facing the C R P and police brutalities. At the same time, special vindictiveness was shown in Durgapur, because the workers here have been the vanguard of the democratic movement fighting the Congress rule. Since 1966, and earlier they were in the forefront of the bandhs organised in West Bengal. In March and July, this year when the Six-party Committee gave a call to protest against the President's Rule, they were once again in the forefront. In the past, they had to fight the INTUC and the Congress in Durgapur and in the last two elections they defeated the Congress candidates and elected their own leader, a member of the CPI (M) to the Assembly. They routed the reformist and revisionist parties in the election.

The West Bengal Government then concentrated its fire against the Durgapur workers. Besides, the HSEU, standing firmly by the Steel workers was the only organisation which was successfully fighting the joint conspiracy of the Durgapur management, the

management of private steel companies, the AITUC and the INTUC leaders to betray the workers on the question of interim relief and wage negotiations. It is only through the efforts of the CITU affiliated union that the Steel worker could get an interim relief of Rs. 33/.

The Working Committee of CITU repudiates the slanders propagated by the management, the Government and the bourgeois press, who all hold the workers of Durgapur Steel plant responsible for the plant's failure to reach its full production. The HSEU has already brought to light by stating facts how the corrupt officials are misusing and ruining the plant, reducing its production capacity ; it has exposed the defects in erection for which the responsibility must be thrown on the collaborating British Consortium and its Indian accomplices. An official Committee has also come to similar conclusions on many points. The present propaganda against the workers is thus meant to screen the looters and robbers of public property who should be lodged in jail.

The CITU calls upon the working class and the people to protest against the robbery and chicanery.

The working Committee once more denounces the West Bengal Government for launching this unheard of repression and congratulates the workers of all factories in Durgapur for their courageous struggle. It demands release of arrested leaders and workers, withdrawal of all cases, withdrawal of all suspension and discharge notices, all victimisation measures ; it denounces the conspiracy to withdraw recognition of unions ; it demands the withdrawal of the prohibition of meetings under Section 144, and immediate restoration of the freedom of the trade union movement ; it calls for punishment of police officials guilty of torturing the workers. of indecent and filthy behaviour towards women ; it demands withdrawal of the C R P, the C I S F and other armed personnel from Durgapur.

### 3. GREETING TO COMRADES BEHIND BARS

The Working Committee of C I T U sends its warm greetings to Com. Suryanarayana Rao of Mysore and member of the

working Committee of the C I T U, Com. Dilip Maxumdar and Com. Sukhen Sarkar of Durgapur and General Council members of C I T U and Com. A. K. Roy of Dhanbad, Com. Hamid of Kota, Rajasthan, Com. Benoy Chakravarty of MAMC, Durgapur, Com Biswanath Chaudhury of A V B, Durgapur, Com. Thakurdas, leader of Durgapur shop Employees and other trade union leaders and workers who stood by the working class in their struggles and are now in jail in different States and expresses its firm hope that all of them will be in our midst soon.

The Working Committee of the C I T U condemns the Government for the arrest of these leaders and demands their immediate release.

#### 4. ON MURDERS OF T. U. LEADERS IN WEST BENGAL

This meeting of the Working Committee of the C.I.T.U. expresses its deep sense of indignation at and denounces the murder of of Trade Union leaders who were killed at the hands of Naxalites and other anti-social elements in West Bengal, helped by the police and some other political parties both directly and indirectly.

Com. A.B. Roy an important union functionary of Heavy Engineering Corporation Employees' Union, Durgapur was killed by the Right CP men in presence of C R P personnel on 13th Augst, 1970 when the workers of the entire Durgapur Industrial belt were carrying on their heroic struggle through continous strike from 12th August. Though this murder was part of the strike breaking activity resorted to by Right CP men, both Rihgt CP and police came out with a story that he was killed due to bursting of a bomb he himself was carrying even when no burn injury mark was found in his body during post-mortem. Similarly, Com. B. N. Prasad, General council Member of Hinusthan steel Empeoyes' Union, Durgapur was killed on 29th July, 1970 at the hands of anti-social elements.

Comrade Ramchandra Rai, Secretary of Belur Branch and Central Evecutive Committee Memmber of Bengal Chatkal

Mazdoor Union was killed while he was travelling in a bus on his way to police station to report about the activities of Naxalites and anti-social elements. No action was taken against the miscreants widely known to the police for their anti-social activities.

Comrad Bibek Panja an old trade union leader of Budge-Budge, 24-Parganas and Ananta Dutta, Vice-President of the HMV Employees' Welfare Association who played an important role in trade union struggles in Dum Dum area were also killed by the same elements.

The Naxalities and anti-social elements even did not spare comrade Jiban Maity, aged about 70, an old revolutionary who organised trade union movement in Howrah since thirties and early forties. Comrade Jiban Maity who was returning home at about 1 P.M. for food was attacked by the Naxalites dagger and knife as a result of which he sustained injuries and was sent to Hospital where in he succumbed to injuries.

Comrade Bijan Saha, leader of Orient General Industries Employees, Barangar, Com. Subodh Das, Treasurer of Dunbar Cotton Mills Workers' Union, Garulia, Com. Ramadhar Jadav, Vice-President, Ashok Glass Workers' Union, Com. Jeevananda, leader of jute workers, Ludlow Jute mill branch of Bengal Chatkal Mazdoor Union, were all killed by the Naxalites and anti-social elements with similar cruelty.

Com. Deepak Mazumdar, leader of the Teachers movement in Titagarh, Com. Suhendu Das, a teacher and connected with teachers' movement, Com. Sukharanjan Saha, Secretary, Hosiery Workers' Union and Com. Raghu Mallik an important union functionary of Amrit Nagar Colliery were also killed at the hands of Naxalities and anti-social elements.

This meeting pays its homage to these martyrs who gave their lives for trade union struggles and conveys its deep condolences to their bereaved families.

This meeting takes a serious view of these violent attacks perpetrated with political motives to crush trade union movement and calls upon the working class to be more vigilant and alert in order to foil the game of the murderers to subserve the vested interests

and to take effective measure to safeguard the gains of the trade union movement.

### 5. MURDER OF COM. SOMENATH DUBE

The Working Committee of C I T U expresses its deep sense of indignation and strongly condemns the brutal and cowardly murder of Com. Somenath Dube, active trade union worker of Anil Hardboard factory at Bombay by Shiva Sena gangsters. The murder was the result of a pre-planned conspiracy to terrorise the workers of Anil Hardboard and prevent them from joining the Mumbai Shramik Sangh, a union affiliated to CITU. The Working Committee congratulates the Anil Hardboard workers for having stood up against Shiva Sena attack and foiled its game of preventing the formation of a militant union by the workers.

### 6. ON DEATH OF NASSER

The Working Committee of the C I T U expresses its sense of profound grief over the premature death of President Abdel Gamel Nasser, the outstanding leader of the Arab people. President Nasser played the foremost role in uniting the Arab peoples in the struggle against imperialism. The nationalisation of the Suez Canal, standing up to the Anglo-French invasion of the U. A. R. following its nationalisation, his role in the united struggle of all Arab peoples and Governments against the machinations of the U. S. imperialists through Israel, his role in the Conference of non-aligned countries in support of the peoples struggling for national freedom—all these will go down in history as outstanding contributions in the struggle against imperialism.

The Working Committee pays its homage to the memory of this courageous anti-imperialist leader and is confident that the people of the U.A.R. and other Arab countries will unite more solidly and carry forward the struggle against Israeli aggression and imperialist machinations.

### 7. GREETINGS TO PEOPLE'S CHINA

The Working Committee of the CITU sends its warmest greetings to the Government and the people of People's Republic of

China on the occasion of the 21st Anniversary of the Great Chinese Revolution.

People's China during the last two decades has played an important role in the struggle against imperialist machinations in Asia and Africa and foiled the game of the U. S. imperialism to subjugate Asian people. The valuable assistance given by the Chinese people and the Government of People's China to the people of Korea, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, the Arab people has immensely helped these peoples in carrying forward their struggle against foreign aggression with more firmness and determination.

The recent victories won by the People's Republic of China in space and nuclear research have been possible mainly because of the spectacular achievements in socialist construction. These have further brought confidence in the people of backward countries that they could also advance rapidly by establishing socialism in their country.

The CITU conveys its revolutionary greetings to the workers of People's Republic of China and wishes them further success in socialist construction and advance.

The CITU is confident that relations between India and China would improve and both the countries would be able to come together in common struggle against the U. S. imperialism.

## 8. ON INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS COMMISSION

The standing Labour Commsttee in its session held in Delhi in July has rubber-stamped the Government's proposal to introduce the notorious Industrial Relations Commission both at Central and at State levels. The representatives of the INTUC and HMS have acted as accomplices of the employers in giving their willing consent to foist this anti-working class measure on the working class.

This measure is being imposed by the Government on the T. U. movement at a time when strike struggles of the workers are getting intensified and the provisions of the Industrial Disputes Act and the Essential Service Maintenance Act have failed to check the advancing tide of the united struggles. The proposal to constitute the Industrial Relations Commission is thus one more attempt of the

Government to curb the working class struggles under the garb of providing an independent machinery to settle Industrial disputes.

In the name of Streamlining industrial relations apparatus within the I R C the Government seeks to impose upon the Trade Union movement compulsory arbitration of disputes, putting them completely at the mercy of the employers.

The spokesman of the Government have claimed that the IRC will be headed by a person with judicial qualifications and hence proceedings will be conducted expeditiously and without any bias. However, considering the avowedly anti-working class nature of the Industrial awards, and the pro-employer performance of the judicial representatives on various Wage Boards, such arguments will not hoodwink the workers.

With the failure of the conciliation proceedings the dispute must be referred either to the arbitration of a person who may be member or officer of the Commission or to adjudication by the I R C. Thus either compulsory arbitration or adjudication will be imposed directly on the Union raising a dispute with the IRC.

The right to strike of the workers in the so-called essential services and industries will be completely extinguished. If the union or the workers in these industries does not agree for arbitration then the dispute would automatically go to adjudication and the award of the IRC will be final and binding on the workers. The retrograde provision lays down that the decision of the majority—which will mean in effect the decision of the bureaucratic judge and the management's representative will be binding on the workers. It further lays down that if there is no majority, the decision of the judge shall be binding. The working class is thus turned into a bonded slave of the capitalist class. There is no provision for even an appeal against the decision of the adjudication. The wide powers given to the State Government to include any industry or services as essential will further impose a blanket ban on all strikes. The right to strike is thus placed at the mercy of the State Governments. The State Government is further empowered to move the IRC to terminate the strike on the ground that "its continuation may affect the security of the state, national

economy or public order". The IRC is thus given full authority to terminate a strike already launched and compulsorily adjudicate on the dispute.

The draconian powers given to the IRC to compel the union to withdraw a strike after 30 days will only encourage the employers to turn down all the legitimate demands of the workers who will be deprived of their powerful bargaining weapon.

The IRC proposal further seeks to curb the militant trade union movement by denying the right of a union to raise a dispute unless the union is recognised as a bargaining agent by the Commission. The IRC has been given full powers for granting the representative status to a union and these are bound to favour only stooge unions. Under the IRC rules the representative character of union will not be decided on the basis of a secret ballot of the workers concerned but by the arbitrary will of the Chairman of the IRC.

The union arbitrarily chosen by the President as recognised union, will be given the right to collect compulsory subscriptions from the workers, nominate representatives on all committees, and exclusive right for handling all grievances of workers. Thus workers will have to represent only through the stooge union, making a mockery of right to organise.

The award given by the IRC in respect of a dispute raised by the stooge union will also be made binding on all the workers. Thus the workers will be debarred from opposing even the treacherous deals of the company unions through legal means.

The proposal to instal the IRC on the workers is therefore an attempt to suppress the militant trade union movement and the working class must resist with full force every effort on the part of Centre as well as State Government to impose this draconian legislation on the workers.

The revisionist leadership of the AITUC, though formally opposed the proposal to constitute such a commission in Guntur session and boycotted the Standing Labour Committee, have refused to come forward for a determined struggle against the Commission. Several revisionist representatives on the study group constituted by the National Labour Commission have lent their

support to many provisions in the proposals. In Andhra, the revisionist representatives have accepted the proposal of granting sweeping powers to the Commission to curtail and suppress workers' rights.

The Working Committee of CITU demands immediate withdrawal of the Government proposal to instal the IRC and calls upon all trade unions and national centres to join in an all India campaign against this new assault on the working class. The working class, if united, will definitely succeed in forcing a retreat on the Government.

It calls upon the representatives of the all central trade union organisations in Parliament and State Legislatures as well as the representatives of democratic parties to present a combined opposition to the new proposal and defeat them when they come for sanction before the legislatures. It directs the General Secretary to get into touch with the representatives of the Central trade union organisations and political parties in Parliament to discuss common action in legislatures and outside against the impending attack.

## 9. ON KERALA ELECTION

The Working Committee of the CITU congratulates the working class and toiling people of Kerala, who have massively voted for the United Front of the Parties who have consistently fought for their interests and returned 45 of their candidates to the Assembly. Despite the fact that the total votes polled by this United Front has increased by 9 lakhs—from 21 to 30 lakhs in this election as compared to the General Elections of 1967, and the total votes polled by the mini-front-Congress combine has decreased from 33 lakhs to 31 lakhs, it is a fact that this strength has not been reflected in the Assembly due to the system of elections and the mini-front-Congress combine has succeeded in getting a majority in the Assembly—69 out of 133 seats.

The electoral majority of the mini-front-Congress combine became possible only because of the complete betrayal of the masses by the Right Communist Party. The Government that is now

being installed is completely at the mercy of the Congress party, which will be the real masters of the Government through back seat driving.

Already, the working people of Kerala have tasted the repression that the mini-front Government had let loose on agricultural labours and industrial working class whenever they went on struggle. In fact the massive increase in the votes polled by the United Front of democratic parties became possible precisely because of the innumerable struggles of the agricultural and industrial workers facing severe repression of both the state government, police and the CRP. It is clear that the mini-front Government, which is completely at the mercy of the Ruling Congress, will in the coming days resort to more severe repressive measures to suppress the mass movement.

The CITU is confident that the working class of Kerala will carry forward the mass struggles for its demands with still greater determination, win over the democratic sections of the people who have been temporarily misled by the mini front-Congress combine, forge greater unity and overcome this temporary set-back in the electoral battle. The CITU pledges that it will give its fullest support to all the struggles of the toiling masses of Kerala.

#### 10. ON INCREASING USE OF ANTI-WORKING CLASS MEASURES.

The Working Committee of CITU expresses its serious concern at the increasing use of draconian legislation and the blatantly illegal practices pursued by the Congress Government at the Centre and by several State Governments to suppress the strike struggles of the workers and employees.

Under the Presidential rule in West Bengal, the Essential Services Maintenance Act was invoked against the united strike struggle of the Port and Dock workers. During the General strike on 14th July 1970 army personnel was used to run the Telephone Exchange in Calcutta.

The Rajasthan Government in a similar fashion resorted to the use of Essential Services Maintenance Act to suppress the strike of

State Government employees and teachers. In Maharashtra, the State Government also took refuge under this Act to crush the strike of its employees. Strikes of employees in I A C. of U. P. and Tamil Nadu Electricity workers, and of D. V. C. employees in West Bengal were declared illegal under this Act by the respective State Governments,

The Government of Tamil Nadu used convicted prisoners as black legs during the the strike of Madras Dairy Farm Workers in clear violation of the ILO Convention. In the N.F.Rly workers' strike, the Territorial Army was used to run the trains and the strike declared illegal under the Essential Services Maintenance Act.

The reckless use of the CISF, the CRP, the Border Security Force, the Home Guards as well as the Section 144 has become a routine affair during industrial disputes. Curfew was imposed against the strikes in Durgapur.

The Working Committee of the CITU denounces these ruthless measures of suppressing the trade union struggles. The CITU congratulates the workers who have been heroically fighting against these attacks and carrying forward their struggle in a determined manner.

The CITU demands that these repressive measures and legislations should be withdrawn immediately and calls upon the workers to resist unitedly this onslaught on their right to organise.

## 11. ON PALTRY INTERIM RELIEF TO CENTRAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.

The Working Committee of the CITU condemns the Central Government for accepting the recommendations of the Third Pay Commission to grant paltry sum of Rs. 15 to 45 to the Central Government employees as interim relief.

The Pay Commission, despite its findings that the real wages of the Central Government employees have eroded more than that of the industrial employees, failed to award adequate relief to fill in the gap. The adverse effect of the recommendations will be especially felt by the lower salary groups who constitute the overwhelming majority of the Central Government employees. The

Government has added to the injustice by granting retrospective effect to the recommendations from March 1970 only. Since as per recommendation of Gajendragadkar Commission the appointment of the Pay Commission was due as early as the beginning of 1969, the employees were entitled to retrospective effect from that date. The Government has thus robbed the employees of large sum of money due to them.

In awarding this nominal rise in interim relief the Third Pay Commission has point blank rejected the norms laid down by the Fifteenth Indian Labour Conference. This has once again proved that the Wage Boards and Pay Commissions have become handy weapons in the armoury of the employers and the Government to impose wage freeze on the workers.

The CITU denounces the role of State Government who opposed granting of higher interim relief to the Central Government employees to avoid making similar concessions to their own employees.

The CITU fully supports the demand of Rs. 70 as interim relief for the lowest paid employees raised by Confederation of Central Government Employees which has rightly rejected the ridiculously low interim relief announced by the Government and called upon the Central Government employees for a phased programme of action to win their declared demand.

The Working Committee calls upon the CITU unions to mobilise the support of all sections of workers in support of these demands.

## 12. ON THE STRUGGLES OF RAILWAYMEN AGAINST POLICE REPRESSION & RETRENCHMENT

This meeting of the Working Committee of the CITU congratulates the Railwaymen particularly of the North East Frontier Railway, South Eastern Railway, Eastern Railway and Northern Railway for their heroic struggles against police repression, use of "Essential Services Maintenance Act" and the victimisation onslaught let loose on them by the Railway officialdom.

It strongly condemns the use of Territorial Army in working

class centres like Siliguri, Alipurduar and other places of N. F. Rly and the institution of a terror regime to suppress the growing resistance of the railwaymen. Repressive actions were taken by the S A P men while on duty. The workers courageously replied with a widespread strike action. Attempts at victimisation by the Railway bureaucracy were resisted by a tool-down strike by the carriage and wagon staff of E. Railway.

In these struggles the Railwaymen exhibited a new militancy, unity and determination to stand against ruthless repression despite the betrayal by the recognised unions and the leadership of the NFIR & AIRF who in many places played the role of strike-breakers and police-agents.

The Working Committee of the CITU condemns the revisionist leadership of the S E R Union for denigrating the valiant action of the S E R workers against police repression by agreeing to describe it a wild-cat strike. By agreeing to abjure such action the leadership has openly surrendered the workers' right to launch instantaneous protest against repression or grave provocation.

The strength of the unions to resist the combined onslaught of the Territorial Army, the C R P, Railway bureaucracy arose out of the unity achieved between the struggling Railwaymen and other sections of the working class in other industries and the democratic masses of the area.

These recent struggles of the Railwaymen in N. F. Railway and S. E. Railway are not isolated instances. Recently ten thousand casual workers of South Central Railway fought heroically against retrenchment and for wage increase. The Railway electrification workers of Northern Railway from Tundla to Kanpur resisted proposed retrenchment of workers with five to fifteen years' service and about 300 of them were arrested and put in jail. The struggles of the casual workers of South Eastern Railway administration is determined to embark on large scale retrenchment and increase of workload. Automation, dieselisation, and other job-saving devices have made the matters worse for the Railway workers.

The total number of Railwaymen are sought to be reduced to

10 lakhs in the first step and finally to 8 lakhs from the present strength of 16 lakhs including 3 lakhs casual labourers.

The Working Committee of the CITU while conveying its greetings to the fighting Railwaymen pledges all support to them in their struggles against this policy of the Railway Ministry put into practice with the connivance and support of the N F I R and A I R F leadership and calls upon them to strengthen their unity and organisation from below which constitute the only guarantee of success.

### 13. RESOLUTION ON THE REPRESSION ON RAJASTHAN WORKERS

The Working Committee of the CITU greets the working class of Rajasthan which is putting up a strong resistance against large scale police repression and mass scale victimisation.

The Working Committee is shocked to learn that more than 900 workers have been involved in various police cases under Section 107, 151, 144 & 307 of I.P.C. for their participation in various Trade Union struggles in several centres of Rajasthan. The indiscriminate use of armed police to protect the employers and suppress the workers have become a matter of common occurrence in all recent industrial disputes. These measures have emboldened the employers to resort to large scale victimisation of Trade Union functionaries. Special mention may be made of suspension and dismissal of more than 100 workers in Jaipur Spinning & Weaving Mills, 50 in J. K. Synthetics, Kota and 50 in Gopal Industries, Kotta. The State Government has recklessly used Preventive Detention Act & Essential Services Maintenance Act to suppress workers in several struggles.

The Working Committee strongly condemns these repressive measures of the Rajasthan Government and demands their immediate reversal. It demands withdrawal of all police cases against workers and union leaders.

The Working Committee of CITU congratulates the workers of Jaipur for organising one day strike on 8th September, 1970 in all Industrial Establishments and raising powerful voice against

these repressive measures. It assures full support to the workers & employees in Rajasthan in their struggle against the repressive measures of the Sukhadia Government.

#### 14. ON THE DEMANDS OF THE SUGAR FACTORY WORKERS

The Working Committee of the CITU views with grave concern the continuance of the old wages and other service conditions fixed as early as in 1960, in the Sugar Industry in the country as a result of the recommendations of the second Wage Board Report and their acceptance by the Government.

All the Central trade union organisations including a section of the INTUC at their joint meeting held in Delhi some time back passed a unanimous resolution rejecting the recommendations of the Second Wage Board as absolutely unrelated to the long standing needs of the workers and demanded that the Government should call the meeting of representatives of the employers and of the employees at the All-India level for bipartite negotiations on the basic demands of the workers. The All-India Trade Union Conference at its session held in Calcutta also rejected the Wage Board Recommendations.

This meeting of the Working Committee of the CITU condemns the Government of India for having accepted the recommendations ignoring the almost unanimous rejection of them by the workers.

This Committee wishes to draw the attention of the workers to the fact that at the tripartite meeting convened by the Union Labour Minister, the representatives of the AITUC and of others went back on their earlier unanimous resolution and declared themselves in favour of accepting the Wage Board Recommendations saying that it was subject to the Government giving moral support to the demand for payment of retaining allowance to the unskilled workers. This meeting wishes to go on record that it is this gross betrayal by the leaders of the AITUC and others, that emboldened the Government to favour the employers and accept the Wage Board Recommendations to pave the way for forcing them on the fighting workers.

The meeting while denouncing this treachery, calls upon the entire Sugar factory workers to unite, irrespective of their affiliations and initiate mass united actions to defeat this betrayal and secure their just basic demands.

#### 15. ON U.P. PRESIDENTIAL RULE

The Working Committee of the CITU condemns the imposition of President's Rule in Uttar Pradesh on the 2nd of October when the State Legislative Assembly had been summoned to meet on the 6th October.

This is one more and the most blatant example of how the ruling party in the Central Government abuses its powers in its partisan interests, through the institution of Governors.

The entire drama of ministry making and toppling in U.P. completely exposes the claims of Indira Gandhi that she has been fighting for progressive policies. She had no compunction to support and instal the minority ministry of such an arch reactionary as Charan Singh, enter into a coalition with his party in the ministry and then to impose the Presidents' Rule to suit the factional interests of her party.

And now, horse-trading and bribery and corruption will go on in order to bolster up a majority for the ruling Congress party and instal it into power.

The imposition of the President's Rule, in gross violation of the unanimous decision of the Presiding Officers of the Legislatures and Parliament, and of the unanimous recommendations of the Administrative Reforms Commission that the majority behind a Chief minister should be determined by the Legislatures and not by the Governors, demonstrates the contempt of the Central Government to all elementary democratic norms and process.

#### 16. ON KESORAM RAYON WORKERS' STRUGGLE

This meeting of the Working Committee of CITU congratulates the four thousand workers of Kesoram Rayon—a Birla managed factory at Tribeni, West Bengal—who are heroically fighting against the vindictive policy of the management.

On 17th March 1970, the workers observed a protest strike against the toppling of the U.F. Ministry in West Bengal. The AITUC leaders of the union were furious at this bold stand of the workers. Taking the help of armed security men of the factory, the hirelings of the management murdered three workers including a leading local organiser Com. Nani Debnath. The AITUC revisionist leadership who incited this butchery were repudiated by the workers and they organised a union under the direct leadership of the CITU. To crush the struggle of the workers for wages and other demands the company in connivance with the Dangeite leaders charge-sheeted and suspended seventy workers and discharged nine others. The workers faced the attack with unity and determination. Ultimately, the Birla management declared a lock-out on the 10th July 1970. The workers are continuing their struggle against the management with firmness.

This meeting calls upon the workers all over the country to rally in support of the fighting workers of Kesoram Rayon in their struggle against lock-out and victimisation and the treachery of the AITUC leaderships

## 17. ON SCUTTling OF JUTE COMMISSION

The Working Committee of the CITU protests against the winding up of the Jute Commission of Inquiry appointed by the United Front Government of West Bengal in 1970.

The Commission which was appointed to inquire into all aspects of the jute industry including the corrupt practices of the jute magnates was the result of the mass struggle and up-surge of the jute tycoons who wanted to see it scuttled.

The interim report of the Commission recommended a floor price of Rs. 60/- per ton for raw jute—a recommendation to which the so called experts of the big business and the jute speculators were opposed.

On the installation of the President's rule, the Central Government and the jute tycoons combined to scuttle the Commission. Under the instigation of the Indira Gandhi Government which

loudly talks of socialism in New Delhi, the West Bengal Government refused to extend the time for completing the inquiry and disbanded the Commission.

The Working Committee of the CITU condemns the Central Government and the West Bengal Government for liquidating the Commission and demands its immediate revival to complete the inquiry which started in early 1970.

## 18. ON TAKING OVER LIGHT RAILWAYS

This meeting of the Working Committee of CITU expresses its deep concern at the proposed move of the Martin Burn & Co. to wind up the Light Railways running through the rural areas of Hooghly and Howrah Districts of West Bengal. This company which so long enjoyed the monopoly of running the Railway traffic in a number of rural areas of Delhi, U. P., Bihar and West Bengal has been neglecting the minimum maintenance of railways while it was making huge profits at the expense of the people.

The company has already closed the Delhi-Shahadara line. It is now making all arrangements to wind up Howrah-Amta and Howrah-Sheakhala Lines in West Bengal which constitute the main means of transport for thousands of people. The closure therefore will bring great suffering to the travelling public. Besides it will throw more than five thousand workers out of employment. In spite of repeated representations both by the workers and other sections of the people of West Bengal the Government of India has not done anything to see that the Light Railways are kept running.

This meeting while condemning the attitude of the Government demands that the Government should immediately take over all the Light Railways in India, beginning with those managed by Martin Burn & Co.

## 19. ON BANK NATIONALISATION

The measure for the nationalisation of fourteen commercial banks was announced by the Congress Government with fanfare,

raising high hopes among certain sections that a new leaf was being turned in the management of the economic affairs of the country and especially in the disbursement of credit monopolised earlier by big houses through these banks.

The hangers on of the Indira Congress, the leaders of the AITUC joined in the game of raising false illusions among the lower sections of the people.

The developments following nationalisation have served to open the eyes of all to the reality of the situation. In the first place, the Supreme Court gave a verdict making it mandatory to give full compensation to the former owners of the banks. Following this, those who were placed in charge of the nationalised banks as custodians were mostly drawn from the former managers and directors.

The credit policy pursued by the nationalised banks is not different from the earlier ones and the needs of smaller industrialist have hardly been met. Needless to say, the still lower sections of the people, the self-employed persons, petty businessmen, artisans and others who were promised a new deal have been cheated.

On the other hand, the representatives of the monopolists are now endorsing nationalisation and trying to push their interests ahead. The foreign banks have also been given full freedom to continue their unhindered loot of the Indian economy.

The CITU Working Committee while supporting the nationalisation of means of production and distribution states that nationalisation can have a meaning for the people only if it is used to undermine the power of big business. The Indian experience has been that nationalisation under the present bourgeois-landlord regime has been used as a weapon of consolidating monopoly interests.

The Working Committee of the CITU raises its voice of protest against the policies pursued by the Indira Government and calls upon the people not to be beguiled by its "socialist" promises or nationalisation measures.

## ON ANDHRA PRADESH INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS COMMISSION BILL

A Bill called the Industrial Relations Commission Bill, with the purpose of promoting settlement of industrial disputes, facilitating collective bargaining, recognising Trade Unions, curbing unfair labour practices and constituting Industrial Relations Commission for the purpose, has been introduced in the Andhra Pradesh Legislature and is now before the Joint Select Committee. A perusal of the provisions of the Bill will show that the Bill seeks to put fetters on the T. U. movement. If the Bill is passed scab unions will alone get recognition through the new machinery. The I. R. C. which is sought to be formed to replace the existing Labour Department will, in reality, become an arbiter of the T. U. movement and T. U. functioning.

Chapter V, together with Schedule III, defines unfair labour practices, according to which, gherao, stay-in-strike, go-slow, tools-down, etc. become unfair labour practices. Threat, coercion, intimidation, force, violence, which are very wide terms, are also declared unfair labour practices. Under Clauses 18 and 26, strike without notice, strike when a dispute is under conciliation or before a Court, is declared illegal. Any T. U. or its functionary is liable for punishment, if found practising these so called unfair practices. Thus, in the name of settlement of industrial disputes, any sort of working class action is made illegal and punishable. Workers have to sit with folded hands for months and years, praying for favourable settlement.

The Joint Negotiations Committee to be formed to deal with disputes in hospital, educational, charitable & religious institutions, solicitors' firms and clubs, which will be covered by this law also lead to paralyzing the movement of the employees in these establishments and in procrastination and dilatoriness of the issue. A succession of appeals provided for in the Bill will practically kill any independent action of the workers,

The I. R. C. which is being paraded as a judicial body, is being given vast powers in dealing with industrial disputes and T. Us. The I. R. C. gives recognition to T. Us, derecognises them, inter-

venes in T. U. elections, hears and decides unfair labour practices, punishes the guilty, decides law points and adjudicates industrial disputes referred to it under the I. D. Act. This is nothing but intervention in union affairs. Vesting of such wide powers in the hands of this body will constitute a frontal attack on the freedom and liberty of the Trade Unions. It is intended to emasculate the independent movement and transform it into a favourable tool of the management. The judicial form of the body is only to provide a facade of independence from the executive so that attacks on the trade unions and workers can be justified in the name of law.

The recognition given to a T. U. is based on the verification of a fraction of the challenged membership, with the only change that it will be the I. R. C. instead of the Labour Department that verifies the membership and accords recognition. This results in the continuation of the present state of affairs, where the company unions, often get recognition. The system of secret ballot, limited to only the fraction of the challenged membership, will only be a caricature of secret ballot and cannot result in finding out the really representative unions.

The check off system, sought to be introduced by this Bill, will lead not only to coercion and compulsion of workers by the already recognised union but will also give scope to the management to poke their nose in membership enrolment, influence it and thus see that their favourite unions get recognition.

While thus the character of this Bill is to smother the free and militant working class movement, it is a matter of deep shame that the leadership of INTUC and AITUC unions in the state have generally welcomed the Bill, supporting the basic principles underlying it, while suggesting only minor changes. Thus, these unions have once again proved their servitude to the interests of the capitalists.

These main provisions of the Bill together with other provisions, will result in throttling the independent and militant trade union movement in the state. The working class will never accept such

fetters being put on its activities. It stands for the unfettered right to organise, the right to get recognition and the right of collective bargaining. It stands for the right to strike and will not barter it away for arbitration or conciliation by even judicial bodies. Hence, the C I T U demands the withdrawal of this BLACK BILL and calls upon all the T. Us to oppose this Bill unitedly and see that it will not enter into the Statute Book.

### ON LAND REFORMS

The Working Committee of the C.I.T.U. lends its full support to the demand of the landless and poor peasants for redistribution of land and congratulates them on their growing determination to secure it through mass action.

The Working Committee, in this connection, warns the peasant masses against putting their trust in the promises of the Indira Gandhi Congress Government. In spite of repeated assurances the Indira Congress and its State Ministries have done nothing to meet this legitimate demand. The promises made at the Bombay Session of this organisation were repeated at the Patna meeting. But these verbal assurances also were virtually repudiated at the Chief Ministers' Conference held in New Delhi. The Chief Ministers owing allegiance to the Indira Congress as well as to the Syndicate have virtually negatived the demand for the lowering of the ceiling limit ; besides all available land is either auctioned to the rich or grabbed by landlords or persons well placed with the Government. Some Chief Ministers have openly stated that there is no land to distribute and all radical land reforms have already been implemented.

There has been failure to take effective steps to protect the toiling peasants and the agricultural workers from the rapacity of the landlords and others. The Home Ministry's report on implementation of land reforms virtually admits that the current legislation has failed to protect the interest of these sections of landless.

The Working Committee of the CITU therefore calls on the agrarian masses not to be fooled by the honeyed promises of the

Indira Government ; they should realise that every effort is being made to fool them with the assistance of certain parties like the Right C. P. who are sowing the illusion that the Indira Government stands for progressive policies and that the demand of peasantry can be achieved through symbolic movements. The Working Committee is of the opinion that only direct action of the landless labourers and poor peasants will generate the mighty sanction required to smash the present landlords and others. It pledges its full support for such action,

### GREETINGS TO WORKERS ENGAGED IN STRUGGLES

The Working Committee of CITU congratulates the working class all over India who have been fighting a grim battle against the onslaught on their living and working standards.

The CITU greets the working class of West Bengal and Kerala who have been in the forefront of these struggles. It sends its greetings to plantation workers of Tripura for their struggles for wage-rise, to workers in Hindustan Explosives at Gomia for their resistance to victimisation, workers of New Victoria Mill, Kanpur, for their longdrawn struggle against closure, state Government employees in Maharashtra and Rajasthan for their struggle for wage-rise despite use of Essential Services Maintenance Act, Bidi workers in North Arcot District, sugar workers of Parry & Co., workers of Hindustan Teleprinters, Road Transport workers of Punjab and Kerala, Electricity workers of Assam and several other workers who have shown the growing tenacity to wage longdrawn struggles. In many of these struggles the workers snatched concessions from the unwilling hands of the employers.

The CITU assures its full support to these workers in their future struggles.

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