

CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS

172, Lenin Sarani, Calcutta.13

7th July, 1974

Com.B.T.Ranadive, President, Centre of Indian Trade Unions, has issued the following statement to the press:-

The CITU strongly condemns the new ordinance of the Government imposing compulsory depositing of additional D.A. and wage and salary rises for a period of one to two years. This is the beginning of the wage freeze attack which has been looming for months. Today when the workers and employees require every additional paisa from their inadequate dearness allowance to make both ends meet, this immobilisation of their earnings will intensely add to their distress. It is nothing but imposition of a direct wage-cut in the midst of rising prices.

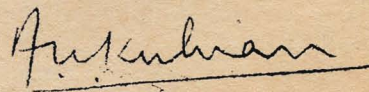
This is part of the Government's war against the working class, the employees and other toiling sections whose gruesome face was seen during the railway workers' struggle.

The utter hypocrisy behind official reasoning exceeds all bounds. This anti-working class measure is being justified on the ground of checking inflation. At the same time, this same Government had absolutely no scruples in agreeing to the extortionate prices for foodgrains demanded by the landlords and traders, or raising the prices of cloth and other necessities of life. These, of course, did not add to inflation or bring about an undesirable shift in incomes. It is only wage adjustments that do this. This is the same old reasoning of exploiting classes out to pass on the burdens of the crisis to the people, out for more exploitation of the working class. The whole exercise including the limitation of distribution of dividends is to put more money in the hands of industrial tycoons and cut down the living standards of the people. And it is not going to be a temporary measure. Like the DIR this measure will be permanently with us unless defeated.

The effective measure against inflation and rising prices is to stop deficit financing, commandeer the foodgrains stocks of landlords and hoarders, take steps against the profiteering monopolists, ensure distribution of necessities at reasonable prices and end all blackmarketing. But the Government does not want to move against these classes. It is therefore attacking the economically oppressed.

The new ordinance constitutes the biggest challenge to the organised movement of the workers and employees. There is no guarantee of protecting the hard-earned wage or the living standards of the ordinary man unless the offensive is defeated. The CITU calls upon all central trade union organisations, organisations of Central and State and all other employees to come together to plan common action and fight against this attack. There is no doubt that the united strength of these sections will succeed in compelling the Government to withdraw this hateful measure.

For



For favour of publication:

To

The Editor,

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