

CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS
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5th January, 1971

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

CITU OFFICE BEARERS MEETING

The meeting of the Office-bearers of the CITU held in Calcutta on 4th January 1971 decided to postpone the General Council meeting which was scheduled to be held at Kanpur in the middle of February, in view of the forthcoming Parliamentary elections.

Com. B.T. Ranadive President CITU, presided over the meeting.

The Office-bearers noted with satisfaction that CITU Unions all over India have contributed more than Rs. 30,000 to Durgapur Fund in response to the call given by the last meeting of the Working Committee.

The meeting also reviewed the State Conferences held in Rajasthan, Andhra, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Tripura States recently.

By a resolution the meeting protested against the tactics of de-linking Parliamentary and Assembly elections in West Bengal and demanded immediate announcement of holding both the elections simultaneously in the State. It called upon the working class and other sections of the people in India to defeat both the alliances led by Indira Congress and Syndicate in the polls.

The meeting condemned the Achutha Menon Government for advocating wage freeze policy and congratulated the State Government employees in Kerala for their decision to go on strike in February to press for a wage rise.

The meeting, by another resolution congratulated jute workers in West Bengal on their recent victory.

Text of the Resolutions enclosed. General Council meeting which was scheduled to be held at Kanpur in the middle of February, in view of the forthcoming Parliamentary elections.

Com. B.T. Ranadive, President CITU, (M.K. Pandhe) the meeting,
Secretary

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To

The Editor,
_____, Calcutta

RESOLUTION ON FORTHCOMING ELECTIONS

The Centre of India Trade Unions launched its protest against the tactics of delinking of Parliamentary and Legislative Assembly elections in West Bengal by the Central Government. The plea of breakdown of law and order is only being raised in this context to cover up the conspiracy to deny a popular Government in this State. The CITU therefore demands immediate announcement of holding both the elections simultaneously in West Bengal.

Despite tall claims of Smt. Indira Gandhi that the Parliamentary mid-term poll is being held in the country to enable her Government to take radical steps towards socialism the experience of bank nationalisation and huge compensation offered to princes have amply made it clear to the people that her claims are a big hoax. People have also seen that basically there is no difference between the policies pursued by the ruling Congress and the Syndicate. Hence, two alliances being led by these groups represent only two sections of vested interests and parties supporting these alliances have become handy tools of reactionary forces in the country

The CITU calls upon the working class and other sections of the people in India to defeat both these alliances in the polls and vote for **candidates** who fight both the a lliances and stand for a genuine democratic regime of the people.

ON THE POLICY OF WAGE FREEZE BY ACHUTHA MENON GOVERNMENT

The meeting of Office-bearers of the CITU strongly condemns the open declaration by Achutha Menon Government in Kerala of wage freeze for the State Government employees, workers of State Government undertakings and teachers. The CITU notes that even the Chief Ministers of Congress, Swatantra and Syndicate Governments have not gone to the extent of making such non-chalant anti-working class pronouncements during the recent past.

The Third Pay Commission had granted paltry interim relief to the Government employees and the Central Government employees have been fighting for a higher interim relief. Yet the Pay Commission had to admit the need for wage rise to the Government employees. The Maharashtra, and Tamilnadu Government employees have also fought for a rise in their emoluments and obtained some concessions. The State Government employees in West Bengal and other States are also fighting to get a wage rise.

Under these circumstances the Kerala Government has come out as open spokesman of big business and rjected the demand of the State Government employees. This reactionary attitude has already been reflected in other trade union struggles in Kerala where Achutha Menon Government has shamelessly sided with the big business interests.

This meeting congratulates the State Government employees in Kerala for their decision to go on strike in February to demand for higher wages and condemns the threats of Achutha Menon Government to suppress the strike with force and impose break in service of the employees. These threats have only further convinced the people in this country that Achutha Menon Government is only carrying forward the discredited policies once doggedly pursued by Mr. Morarji Desai when he was the Union Finance Minister.

The CITU calls upon trade unions all over the country to resolutely oppose the policy of wage freeze and rally behind the State Government employees in Kerala in their just struggle.

GREETINGS TO JUTE WORKERS IN WEST BENGAL

The CITU congratulations 2 lakh 30 thousand jute workers for their united strike struggle which resulted in snatching several important concessions from the unwilling hands of jute millowners.

The spectacular success was achieved because of the remarkable unity achieved by the jute workers during the struggle which made it impossible for the jute magnates to disrupt the movement from within. It is this unity that forced the Central Government to intervene and bring pressure on the jute millowners to concede just demands of the workers.

The CITU calls upon the working class in other industries to build similar unity so that mighty struggles could be launched to defeat the offensive of the employers.
