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September 3, 1974.

COM. P. RAMAMURTI, GENERAL SECRETARY, CITU, HAS ISSUED
FOLLOWING STATEMENT TO THE PRESS :

The Statement issued by Shri K.G. Srivastava, Secretary of the AITUC and published in 'PATRIOT' of 31st August, 1974 stating reason for the AITUC not responding to the appeal by the National Convention against Wage-freeze is an astounding one.

The two reasons he advances are : (1) " The Convention has given no concrete programme" and (2) " The Convention has lent enthusiastic support to the proposed C.I.T.U. sponsored General strike which is really a part of the CPM'S Liberation struggle against the Menon Ministry ". - This is a travesty of facts.

Firstly the Convention has given a call to all organisations of workers and employees throughout the country to forge the broadest unity and to launch upon a sustained struggle which would include Conventions, marches and demonstrations and strikes in individual factories, region-wise and state-wise according to conditions prevailing and on dates suitable in the next two months. The Convention has thus taken into account the uneven conditions and sought to unify the entire trade union movement and the charge of adventurism insiduously made later in his statement by Shri K.G. Srivastava is pointless.

Secondly the Convention has taken note of the fact that resistance to the Ordinance has already stated in many places, including Bharatpur, Kerala, Karnataka and Tamilnadu. It is in this connection the proposed statewide strike against the wage freeze in Kerala on September 10, not only by CITU unions but jointly by several other unions is mentioned. The resolution also appreciated the fact that the AITUC also has jointly participated in the Conventions in Maharashtra and Karnataka.

The CPI(M)'s agitation against the Achutha Menon Ministry is not the issue in the proposed strike of September 10th and in fact efforts are being made to persuade the AITUC in Kerala also to join the strike which is in protest against the wage freeze ordinance.

Is it the contention of Mr. K.G. Srivastava that because his party leader heads the Ministry in Kerala any agitation by CITU and other unions in Kerala against the wage freeze or other measures of the Central Government is automatically directed against the State Ministry ?

The AITUC may have other reasons which it may not like to make public for not joining the common struggle; but let it not put up false pretexts.

I hope they have no other and if so, this statement of bare facts should remove all misapprehension. I expect that the AITUC will reconsider its stand.

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