

CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS

249, Bepin Behari
Ganguli St.,

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PRESS RELEASE:

CITU OFFICE BEARERS' MEETING

A meeting of the CITU Office Bearers was held in Calcutta on 22nd July to consider the progress made by the CITU unions during the recent past, to discuss the Constitution and fix the venue and dates of the Executive Committee meeting.

Com. B. T. Ranadive, President, C.I.T.U. presided over the meeting.

The office-bearers noted the progress regarding the constitution of the State Committees of the CITU as per decision of the General Council. Committees have been formed in Andhra, Rajasthan, Kerala, Maharashtra, W. Bengal, Punjab, U.P., Karnatak and Goa while meetings of representatives of unions have been called in the month of August to form committees in Assam, Bihar and Tamilnadu. All these committees have the status of Ad-hoc bodies and the State units have to hold State Conferences before the end of December to elect new committees.

Com. Balanandan, Vice-President, CITU gave a report of the recent strike in Kerala on 13th July 1970 demanding resignation of Achutha Menon Ministry. He noted that nearly 5 lakhs industrial and agricultural workers participated in the strike of a political nature. Workers in coir, cashew, textile, engineering, private motor transport, plantation, tile and other industries struck work. Several agricultural workers and toddy tappers also participated in the strike. The meeting noted that the strike was partial in some establishments due to the opposition of AITUC and INTUC leadership. However, a large number of new sections of workers were drawn into the strike action. The meeting congratulated the Kerala workers for their glorious action and condemned the repression of the mini-front Government.

The meeting also noted the united strike of working class of Bengal on July 14, in support of the demand of immediate mid-term elections and other T.U. demands. The general strike was a complete success and the office-bearers congratulated the historic action of over a million workers throughout W. Bengal despite the intimidation and provocative show of armed strength by the army. The meeting condemned the use of military to run the telephone installation on July 14.

The meeting supported the struggle of shore workers and bargemen and condemned the threat of the authorities to declare a lock-out. It further condemned the treachery of the AITUC, INTUC and other leaders in accepting retrenchment and increase in workload in the port and congratulated Dock Shramik Union for its refusal to sign the anti-working class agreement. It called upon the working class of Bengal to stand by the side of the heroic bargemen in their hour of trial.

The meeting decided to send greetings to about 40,000 bidi workers in Tamilnadu for their united strike struggle for legitimate demands. It condemned the atrocious use of convicted prisoners by the DMK Government in Tamilnadu during the

recent strike of milk scheme workers.

The meeting strongly condemned the recent efforts of the Government to implement the reactionary recommendations of the National Labour Commission. The Congress Government is systematically using the Wage Board machinery to delay and obstruct all wage settlements and Government had a desire to impose its ideas on the trade union movement through the recent meeting of the Standing Labour Committee held in New Delhi. The office-bearers of the C.I.T.U. strongly criticised the role of AITUC representatives on the Committee on the functioning of the System of Wage Board which immensely helped the National Labour Commission in making these reactionary recommendations. The meeting was happy to note the belated wisdom of the AITUC leadership in boycotting the meeting of the Standing Labour Committee along with the UTUC representatives. The meeting, however, felt that the Government's game can be defeated only if all the Central and local trade unions organised organisations who oppose the recommendations of the National Labour Commission come together and gave a united battle.

The meeting discussed the proposals to improve the draft of the CITU Constitution and decided to finalise them in the next meeting of office-bearers to be held in Calcutta on 21st August.

It has been decided to shift the CITU Office to 172, Lenin Sarani, Calcutta-13, from 1st August next. Decision was also taken to hold the meeting of the Executive Committee on 4th, 5th and 6th September, 1970, at Jaipur.

M.K. PANDIT

Secretary,
Centre of Indian Trade Unions.

For favour of publication:

To
The Editor,

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