

Let the fate of workers be your last Concern

On December 19 last, Mr. Jyoti Basu, the Chief Minister of West Bengal, addressed a meeting of the industrialists at Grand Hotel, Calcutta, jointly convened by Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Bharat Chamber of Commerce. Industrialists, besides West Bengal, who came from Bombay, Delhi, Ahmedabad and Madras to attend the meeting lauded Mr. Basu to such an extent that even the daily like *The Statesman* in its Calcutta edition on 20th December described the industrial policy of the CPI(M) as a departure from its earlier stand. The so-called Marxist Chief Minister and at the same time Politburo member and Vice-president of CITU, assured the capitalist exploiters of our country through his speech that he had 'no theoretical inhibitions regarding involvement of the private sector in the state economy'. And it 'had such an impact that the President of Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Mr. R. S. Sikand, summed up the session saying "When it comes to selling West Bengal who can be a better salesman than Mr. Jyoti Basu".'

"The Chief Minister said that modernisation was necessary and his government realised this. He, however, felt that the process of modernisation should have begun long ago and the delay in commencing the process might result in retrenchment. The government knew that "tears should be shed but the question was how much," Mr. Basu said. "I understand the fate of the workers will not be your first concern when an industry became sick. Let it be your last concern".

He further assured the industrialists by saying that the CITU is the largest Trade Union Organisation in West Bengal and they have advised CITU not to stir against all these retrenchments etc.....

"Retrenchment, at least partially, would have to be accepted." At one point he commented that Lenin had the courage to say as early as 1917 that the Russians had a lot to learn from America."

All these shameless advocacy for the crisis-ridden capitalism from a leader of the party which professes Marxism-Leninism may seem a departure from the party policy, or incompatible with Marxism to many. But to those who know the real character of this party and its leaders, these statements are nothing but the continuation of a consistent approach of the CPI(M) and the latest approach of the party to renew the confidence reposed in them. We are

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Rajiv's ploy to rope in adversaries— what it portends

Of late, Shri Sharad Pawar of Maharashtra Congress(S) leader, along with 53 MLAs has joined the Congress (I). Dr. Chenna Reddy of Andhra also meanwhile has joined the Congress (I) along with his followers. Report goes Nandini Satpathi, Chandrajit Yadav and sundry other old guards of Congress are in the queue. Publicity media are at work with exhortation that in the interest of the territorial integrity and erstwhile Congressites have come back to the fold of the Congress(I) only to strengthen the hands of Shri Rajiv Gandhi, representing the forces of 'Democracy and Secularism'. They made us to believe that it was only the Congress(I) who was capable of containing the separatist, parochial and disruptionist forces.

Is it the summum bonum of all? Individual rivalry and feuds between groups in the Congress are no new things; rather it is on the increase day by day. However much is said to the contrary, behind the facade of the so-called ideology and principles, actually it is the manifestation of conflict of vile individual, group and regional interests. The more the crisis in the capitalist economy is sharpening, the more the internal squabbles and conflicts within it are getting intensified. During the reign of Sm. Indira Gandhi, in

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Proletarian Era

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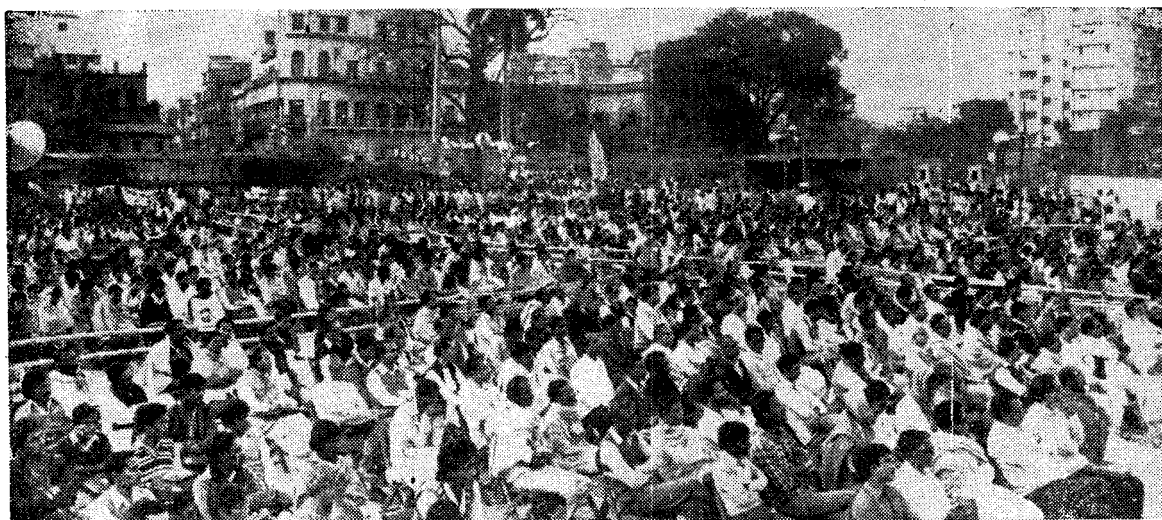
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Convention against disastrous National Education Policy

The country is seething with the valiant movement against the disastrous National Education Policy (NPE) '86 and with the passage of time, this movement is gaining momentum with greater and active participation of the eminent educationists as well as the education loving people throughout the length and breadth of the country. Though the draft policy on education has been passed by the brute majority of the ruling Cong. (I) in the Parliament without paying any heed to the growing resentment of the common people in general, and though they have started to implement the policy, at least some aspects of it, the distinguished intellectuals of the country believe with firm conviction that any settled fact, whoever may be behind it and whatever may be their strength, may be unsettled by a well concerted protracted people's movement.

Such was the experience of the recently concluded two-day long All Bengal Save Education Convention held at Calcutta on the 16th-17th of January, '87. The students, teachers, educationists and guardians from all districts of West Bengal travelled miles together encountering very many odds, ignoring the pinching cold gathered in thousands overflowing Subodh Mallick Square, the venue of the inaugural session, at 4 p.m. on the 16th. Earlier the students from all the eight universities, numerous colleges and schools of the state assembled at College Square at the foot of the statue of Vidyasagar, the pioneer of modern education in India, to take pledge to resist the anti-people education policy. Then they came to the venue of the Convention in a well-disciplined and beautifully decorated procession raising

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A view of gathering at open session of West Bengal Save Education Committee's Convention at Calcutta.

Shameless advocacy for crisis-ridden ruling bourgeoisie

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accustomed to hearing these sorts of pro-capitalist speeches by the Congress leaders, the most trusted representative of the ruling capitalist class. But perhaps this brazen-faced advocacy of capitalists in respect of retrenchment and capital-intensive industry etc. would have put even the Congress rulers in shame.

One may well remember the speech by Mr. Jyoti Basu in June 1977 at a Victory Rally at Brigade Parade Ground in Calcutta. There he appealed to the capitalists to come forward to build-up *Sonar Bangla* (Golden Bengal) by assuring that they would look after their interest also. He further assured the exploiters that this anti-Congress Government was distinctly different from the earlier two United Front Governments as the forces like SUCI were not there. At the same time we cannot forget their attitude and treatment towards the legitimate democratic mass-movements in the state. Not only they are discouraging the democratic movements by saying: 'instead of creating any mass commotion, the people should directly approach the Government for any demand,' 'movements will hinder the smooth-sailing of the Government,' etc. but at the same time they are ruthlessly suppressing any democratic movement, be it aimed against them or the Centre, through brutal force and other nefarious means. The memory of the historic movement is still fresh in the public mind when our party organised the people against bus-fare and train-fare hike, anti-people language and education policy and the junior doctors' legitimate demands in the state. In almost all these they not only applied state apparatus but also put in use their party cadres to brutally suppress these movements. In short, they are showing their prowess to the capitalists that they are far able protector of their

interest than the Congress(I).

In contrast, even today the people remember with pride the days of the United Front Governments. In spite of its so many weaknesses people had witnessed a sense of liberty and self-dignity of toiling millions through waves of mass-movements against the exploiters in fields and factories. This had been possible because of one factor—the presence of our party, the SUCI. Our most beloved leader and teacher, Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, then had enunciated a policy in the government much to the dissatisfaction of the CPI(M) that "Police shall not interfere in legitimate democratic mass-movements". The essence of the policy was to pave the way for revolutionary struggle of the workers and peasants to free themselves from the capitalist shackles. To every revolutionary party if it forms the Government under the bourgeois system, it must be its only aim. In respect of reform, it must involve people in the administration through directly encouraging their various movements so that the people can gain political consciousness through experience and come to the conclusion beyond doubt that this capitalist system is the breeding ground for all the ills in their life and to do away all these they have no other alternative than to break this exploitative capitalist system and establish socialism through revolution.

To conceal his sin Mr. Basu had to quote Lenin. But he perhaps forgot why and in what context Lenin said this. To put the semi-feudal Russian economy on a modern industrial footing Lenin appealed to the Russian working-class to learn efficiency and know-how from their American counterpart. He neither invited the American imperialism to Russia to exploit the toiling people there, nor he appealed to the workers to adopt a slavish mentality. It may seem strange but it is a

reality that the owning class and businessmen in this state are getting their demands fulfilled whenever they raise a hue and cry about their 'plight' or 'crisis' in running their business. To get concession from this imbecile government they put mock threats to go on an indefinite strike if their demands are not fulfilled. The government hastily sits with them and settles the matter across the table to the satisfaction of the owners and to the detriment of the people's interest. People cannot forget the strike threat of the bus, minibuses and petrol-pump owners. On the contrary when different sections of the people, after their demands fell on the deaf ears, start agitation the government comes down with a heavy hand. This is quite usual for a party like CPI(M) who has now-a-days come out openly to protect the interests of the owning class. They are encouraging the bourgeoisie to rally round them and take them in confidence as they are serving them in a far better way than their Congress predecessors.

To hoax the exploited masses and his party rank and file Mr. Basu had to take refuge in a giant leader of Lenin's stature. But the performances of the parties and leaders like the CPI(M) have been defined by Lenin in his work *The Historical Destiny of the Doctrine of Karl Marx*. There he said: "The dialectics of history were such that the theoretical victory of Marxism compelled the enemies to disguise themselves as Marxists." From the above quotation it is quite understandable what Mr. Basu is preaching. All the certificates one after another are adorning as teachers in their caps. Mr. Basu, this is why, has been termed as the best salesman of West Bengal. In reality they have sold out the militancy of the working class movement from within and outside in West Bengal to the capitalist class and gave them a blank cheque to plunder West Bengal so that modernisation and capital-intensive industry would be introduced here at the cost of the

Rajiv Gandhi's ploy

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order to establish her individual authority over the party, she utilised the group conflicts towards that end. To be a 'close man' of her liking there ensued a hustling amidst the members. Those who are now coming back to the Congress(I)-fold led by Shri Rajiv Gandhi, were then known as close men of Mrs. Gandhi. But subsequently, group conflicts made some of them bereft of her 'favour' which made many of them to quit the party; a slightest wavering in the blind allegiance irked Sm. Gandhi so much so as to make some of those loyalists quit the party or face expulsions. Yet, there are some who, at the defeat of Sm. Gandhi at the polls in 1977, viewing the prospect of being dislodged from power, flocked to the Janata, Lok Dal etc. to

workers' job. The workers will lose their jobs with tears but they must not combat it, according to Mr. Basu, hie 'Marxist'. And he put a note of doubt here by asking 'how much tears would be shed'. That obviously means that he wants to know from their lords, the capitalists, to what extent they are going to retrench the workers. And in this way he gave them the tacit assurance that they are free to retrench to whatever extent possible without any hindrance. In his speech he requested the industrialists to take the plight of the workers as the "last concern".

All these things in Mr. Basu's speech reflect a stark reality. During its 10 years' tenure in government the CPI(M) has struck hard at the very root of any democratic movement both from inside and outside. In addition, the last prop of the democratic norms and more fabrics in politics have been shattered by them during their two terms in office. They have made the exploited masses of West Bengal imbecile through all these acts. Will not the CPI(M) workers ponder over whether the leaders are leading their party to?

anyhow quickly regain their lost power of formed regional parties in their respective states so as to be able to stage a comeback in the governmental power cashing in on anti-Congress outbursts of common masses. It, therefore, becomes all the more crystal clear that behind their quitting the party and making their re-appearance in the same fold, there is absolutely no relation with principles and ideology as perfidiously made out to be. Close scrutiny will reveal that only the greed for restoration of previous powers even at the cost of individual dignity, is at work behind their come-back; can there be any justified reason to think that return of such discredited persons will be helpful towards strengthening the national unity and integrity? The return of these erstwhile Congressites has been described as aiming at strengthening the hands of Rajiv Gandhi in his fight against communalism-provincialism. Is it so? Who does not know that Shri Rajiv Gandhi himself abetted the regional-parochialist forces to instal a government in Assam and is still abetting those hated forces to continue their nefarious game? Knowledgeable circles know it for certain that Punjab has to fall prey to this hated politics of Congress (I)! Mizoram Accord with Shri Laldenga sharing powers between the Congress (I) and the MNF has only boosted the narrow separatist forces in the country. Behind the Gorkhaland movement, Rajiv's dubious role is now known to all.

Then is it not a ludicrous claim for the proponents of merger between Cong(I) and Cong(S) to strengthen the hands of the very party which is, in the main, architect in instigating the communal-parochial trends and tendencies throughout the country and to strike a bargain with them? On the question of secularism also, the heinous role of the Congress(I) led by Shri Rajiv Gandhi has been established beyond doubt through enactment of

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Baliapal—Whose defence

In December, an all-party bandh was successfully observed in Balasore district, Orissa, against large areas of cultivable lands being requisitioned by the Government of India for installation of a missile station under the name and style of National Test Range (Defence project) at the cost of Rs. 400 crores. The Janata Party also joined in the bandh although the decision to set up the project was taken during its rule in 1979. The area—99 villages in the Baliapal block and 23 villages in the Bhograi block and 4 villages in the Bastave block—if allowed to convert into missile testing centre, will reduce about 50,000 or more peasants to beggars. The Baliapal-Bhograi area harvests and exports cashew nuts, cocoanuts, ground nuts, paddy and fish annually worth Rs. 200 crores. Apart from disturbing the ecological balance, eviction of peasants at such a large scale, and turning the granary of Orissa into desert are being justified by the Rajiv Government as essential for the defence of the country in the face of stiff opposition of the people. Our party is very much there in organising people's resistance.

Certain very relevant questions arise. First, for whose defence the Government works? If it is for the country then can it be inimical to the interests of the people who are actually meant when we talk of country? Secondly, how can a country be defended? Do not the people, not arms, that ultimately decide when the question of defence of a country comes? Do not people in dire misery and pauperisation even act as the guarantee of the country's defence? Thirdly, when the government cannot create jobs for the teeming millions of unemployed, has it got any right to rob those who are employed, on their life and livings whatever may be the plea?

However, the Central and the State Governments' arrogant defiance of

people's protest movement exposes what the so-called declaration of Mr. Rajiv Gandhi about keeping the 'nuclear options open' by his government means!

The *Economic And Political Weekly* (December 6, '86) reports that Mr. Raja Ramanna, Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC), informed in a recent press conference that India had developed the capability to enrich uranium up to any level, including that required for a nuclear weapon. In fact, he said, "An experimental facility had been in operation for some time at the Bhaba Atomic Research Centre (BARC) in Bombay". The writers of the article in that weekly inform: "The basic requirement for a nuclear weapons programme is the ability to produce enough bomb grade fissionable material. There are two routes to a weapon, uranium and plutonium—and India has opted for both."

"The 40 MW Cirus reactor and the 100 MW Dhruva operate so that they yield enough weapons grade plutonium. Such full scale manufacturing facilities, far beyond pilot experiments, are part of 'Keeping options open'. Indeed, in the years since the Pokhran blast of 1974 India has very significantly developed the infrastructure for a weapons programme."

The launching pads of missile come therefore as necessary part of the nuclear infrastructure. And the semi-starved people pay doubly for the price for the nuclear muscle of a rising imperialist power like the Indian bourgeois state. First, they are bled white apart from capitalist exploitation by fiscal savageries of both the Central and State governments. Their hard-earned money extorted thus does not find its way to meet minimum urgent needs but in growing pace of militarization. And secondly, the exploited and deprived are being driven out of their hearth and home and livings for what the government claims to

Sonepur (Orissa)

Historic victory for workers

After a prolonged struggle workers of Sonepur Spinning Mills Ltd., a Govt. of Orissa Undertaking, Bolangir, Orissa, became victorious under the banner of Sonepur Spinning Mill Workers' Union, affiliated to UTUC (Lenin Sarani). A historic agreement was signed on 6th January through tripartite agreement on their 26-point charter of demands.

The agreement entered into envisages enhancement per month, inter alia, of Rs. 30/- in basic wages, Rs. 75/- as medical allowances, Rs. 30/- for attendance bonus, Rs. 5/- as night shift allowance, Rs. 7/- for sundry other allowances, besides introduction of provident fund for all categories of employees and workers including a school for the children of the workers.

The economic benefits so achieved, though do not reflect any neutralisation of wage erosions compared to present day unprecedented cost of high living index, it at the same time serves as a morale booster for the workmen. They learned through bare experience what a price in the shape of fighting zeal, united efforts and above all correct guideline provided by the leadership meant for achieving any tangible result!

The immediate fallout after this victory has been the sabotage efforts geared

be defence programme. The government selects for the sites of missile centres not in desert or waste lands, but the lands turned granary by the toil of the people.

If you raise these most relevant points and ask the all-important question as to for whom is the defence really, you will be dubbed 'anti-national' by those whose nationalism starts from and ends with serving the capitalist class and its rule of exploitation. The so-called 'defence' programme is to defend this ruling class and the rule of capital against the people but at their cost and future.

at frustrating the workers' morale by adopting nefarious tactics by a handful of workers led by the CITU union. The CITU-led union, whose efforts throughout the gigantic battle conducted by the overwhelming majority of the workmen was to strengthen the hands of the management, has now become so enraged at the defeat of their nefarious tactics that they even went to the filthy extent of starting terrorization of workers. Even the female workers are not spared. Being unable to dampen the spirit of the workers who are now busy closing their ranks through organised efforts, the CITU-leadership is instigating, particularly the workers of Ring Frame Deptt, to break down the machines and to go for 'go-slow' tactics in order to lower the production target. For example, on 12th January last in 'B' shift at about 4 PM Shri Anakar Nag and Ganesh Sahu on duty in Ring Frame Deptt were physically assaulted by CITU members led by Shri Ramesh Jena. Shri Nag got bleeding injury on his forehead. The management and the local police, remained silent onlookers in spite of timely report.

It is worth recalling in this context, that the present CITU-led Sramik Union was originally founded by INTUC which could not gather sizable support of the workers ostensibly because of its pro-management leadership. The management, having failed to work through the fiddle of INTUC, invited some labour leaders from outside to form a union and accordingly in collusion with the INTUC installed the CITU-led Sramik Union and accorded ready cognition. Since its inception the role of the CITU leadership has been to stab the cause of the working people from behind. However, Shri Gobinda Maharana, General Secretary of Spinning Mill Workers' Union, has called upon the entire working people to be more vigilant about the treacherous role played by the CITU-led workers and to resist it through united efforts.

Tactless Foreign Secretary

Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, who is always for showing something 'new', did it again in his press conference on January 20. He not only made it 'new' by breaking all previous records in length of time of the press conference, but by virtually dismissing the Foreign Secretary, Mr. A. P. Venkateswaran. This was like a king banishing a courtier after being displeased. The bureaucracy is shocked very much at this treatment to one of its members before the eyes of even the foreign correspondents.

The *Statesman*, Calcutta edition of January 21, reports that the Prime Minister was greatly annoyed over the Foreign Secretary's remarks in Islamabad about Mr. Gandhi's visit to Pakistan later this year. What was there in the Foreign Secretary's remarks that caused so much annoyance to the Prime Minister? The reason is not far to seek.

The Prime Minister in that press conference told that the border exercises of Pakistani troops had "caused us tremendous concern." Earlier the Indian Press made the 'concentration of Pakistani troops' in borders a headline news. A Pakistani correspondent asked Mr. Gandhi whether it was a 'propaganda' or not against Pakistan. The reply was 'no'. The reason for concern according to the Prime Minister was that although the troop exercises in Pakistan had been an annual feature which India does also, the Pakistani troops had not yet been withdrawn. The Pakistan correspondent must be aware that India and Pakistan are in the way of coming to an agreement of not striking nuclear reactors of each other. The Indian Press reported it earlier. The Foreign Secretary's visit to Pakistan might be to do the ground work. It was also reported in the press of both the countries that Mr. Gandhi as Chairman of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation

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Save Education Convention in Calcutta

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slogans denouncing the disastrous NPE.

At the very outset, Dr. Ajit Saha, the ex-director of the Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics, Calcutta, opened an exhibition of quotations of our illustrious predecessors who advocated and fought for secular, democratic and universal education for all. The posters were carrying the teachings of Vivekananda like "... Education is not the amount of information that is put into your brain and runs riot there undigested all your life. We must have life-building, man-making, character-making, assimilation of ideas...", or that of Rabindranath like "The process of imparting education will trickle down barely skinddeep into the upper stratum of society and cover beneath that thin veneer the vast barren stretches of the underlying layer in their ever sapless hardness—no civilized society has ever accepted such profound and ruinous foolishness", and others. After the inauguration of the exhibition, the participants went to the spot and one by one visited all the posters. One septuagenarian ex-headmaster was heard saying, "if these are the teachings of the great men of the Renaissance, then why this education policy?"

Then started the Convention with Dr. S. K. Mukherjee, ex-Vice Chancellor of Calcutta University, a scientist of international repute and the President of the Eastern Regional Save Education Committee, in the chair. Besides Dr. Ajit Saha, the other speakers were Dr. Ajit Ghosh, the ex-Dean of Arts, Rabindra Bharati University, Dr. H. N. Prasad, the ex-head of the Department of Economics, Ranchi University, Dr. Sachi Routroy, the famous journalist and litterateur of Orissa, Prof. Sukomal Dasgupta, an ex-member of Senate, Calcutta University, and Sri Dipankar Roy, President AIDS, West

Bengal. Sri Debashish Roy, read out the message of Mr. Krishna Iyer, the ex-Justice of Supreme Court and the Chairman of South Zone Save Education Committee. Dr. S. K. Mukherjee described NPE as not only "anti-people but also anti-social" and told that though the policy had been adopted, it is quite possible to resist it through organised mass-movement with the students and youths taking the lead. Dr. Ajit Ghose observed that the promise of universalisation of primary education by 1990 was fake, introduction of 'Navodaya Vidyalayas' was a step for further discrimination and 'value-oriented education' was vague. In his address Sri Sachi Rout Roy showed by citing the history of Italy and Germany how the present education policy was laying the cultural foundation of fascism in the country. Dr. Ajit Saha raised the question of honesty and sincerity of the present planners of education.

Dr. H. N. Prasad stressed the need of unity of all sections of education loving people against this national education policy.

Prof. Sukomal Dasgupta, highlighting the thoughts of Tagore observed, how the makers of the new policy and the so-called advocates of the marching forward to the twenty-first century deliberately threw away into the dustbin Tagore's views regarding the modern education in India, how the demands of universal, secular, democratic and scientific education have been ignored in the policy. Quoting Lenin that "The minister regards the workers as gun-powder, the knowledge and education as a spark; that minister is convinced that if the spark falls into the gun-powder the explosion will be directed first and foremost against the Government", he explained how the ruling class is out to frustrate the very purpose of education of 'man making, character-building' by introducing the worn-out

ideals in their bid to foster fascism in the country through a deliberate attempt to bring about a fusion between spiritualism and technological aspects of science.

On the next day at 8.30 a.m. started the delegate session at University Institute Hall, which was too small to accommodate more than three thousand delegates. The session opened by Dr. Ajit Ghosh was chaired by Prof. Panchkari Dey, the ex-Principal of Midnapore B. Ed. College. The delegates participated in the deliberations on the main resolution moved by Sri Tapan Roy Chowdhury, a leader of the teachers' movement of West Bengal and President of STEA, and was seconded by Sri Selim Shah, a student leader.

Next followed a number of resolutions on 'Obscenity and drug-addiction', 'the present academic and administrative stalemate in Calcutta University', the 'victory of the recent student movement in France' etc.

While participating in the discussions the delegates moved some important amendments which were duly incorporated afterwards. The house elected unanimously the 'All Bengal Save Education Committee' comprising Dr. S. K. Mukherjee, Dr. R. K. Dasgupta, Dr. A. N. Mamood as advisers, Dr. Ajit Ghose as President, Sri Tapan Roy Chowdhury as Secretary, Sri Debasis Roy as Treasurer.

Sri Tapan Roy Chowdhury, the Secretary, announced some programme like observing all Bengal Protest Day on 6th of February and called upon the delegates to immediately form local and district-level Save Education Committees as the instrument of a greater struggle against NPE. At the end of the session, Sri Rabin Samajpati, General Secretary, AIDS, in his brief address, discussed the impending danger of NPE and called upon the delegates to organise a concerted movement to foil this anti-people disastrous bid of the ruling class.

Tactless Foreign Secretary

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(SAARC) would visit Pakistan this year. The correspondent might therefore be struck by hard comment on his country by the SAARC Chairman. He reminded him of the Indian Foreign Secretary's remark about Mr. Gandhi's visit to Pakistan. Piqued by lack of knowledge about the tricks of politics of the Foreign Secretary, Mr. Gandhi retorted, "You would be speaking to a new Foreign Secretary." The indication was enough for Mr. Venkateswaran, who was taking notes as the PM's aide at the conference, to tender his resignation on the very day.

He must be 'tactless' not to notice that elections in four states are coming within months. The news of massing of troops near the border a big way in the Press of a neighbouring state has already come in to help the ruling

party leaders to make a good use by raising alarm about external danger least to last till the elections are over. How could the Foreign Secretary be so careless to divulge that after the election purpose being met, the Prime Minister and SAARC Chairman would have no difficulty to go to Islamabad and if the preparation goes alright even to sign the agreement on non-aggression of nuclear reactors?

If any Foreign Secretary does not want to be foreign to the 'value based politics' (!) of Mr. Gandhi then he must not utter anything that discloses the tactics of the ruling party before elections and thereby damages its prospect. After all if the ruling party has nothing else offer it must have at least bluffs to give to the people before elections.

TAMILNADU DYO fights obscenity and drug menace

Batlagundu is a small town in the newly formed Anna district of Tamil Nadu. A recent event there had caused considerable commotion. It was a successful agitation launched by DYO, which started work in the town only just a few months back. The movement was spearheaded against the ruling capitalist class's vile design of crippling the whole nation by means of proliferating pornography and intoxicants.

With a strong public opinion behind it formed through propaganda against obscenity and drug addiction, the DYO organised a procession of youth on 29.12.86. which marched through the town, with thousands watching them from both sides of streets. The procession evoked such an emotional affinity that some mothers even sent their children to join the

procession. Later, DYO held a demonstration before the local police station, where Comrade Pandian, a leading DYO organiser spoke exposing the class design behind obscenity and spread of drug. Meanwhile the DYO delegation, led by Comrade Udhaya Kumar, Secretary, DYO Local Committee, met the Inspector of Police, Batlagundu urging him to take stern measures against such vices. The authority complied and as a result the Police raided local cinema halls, seized films and warned the hall owners against pasting obscene posters. All obscene films and posters were stopped forthwith.

This victory created great enthusiasm among people and they are gradually rallying round the DYO. Even the Tamil newspapers could not blackout the news.

Rajiv Gandhi's ploy

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Muslim Women's (Divorce) Protection of Rights Bill.

Actually, Shri Rajiv Gandhi's interest identified to enlist those Congressites who will reciprocate him in lieu of some 'spoils' by demonstrating their unwavering loyalty in respect of tiding over the in-fights of contending groups inside the party.

It is in this context the question of Rajiv-Farooq Abdullah accord comes in.

It is to be noted that Rajiv Gandhi of his own, took initiative to dislodge the Farooq Ministry in Jammu and Kashmir. At his behest G. M. Shah engineered splits in the National Conference paving the way for quitting 15 MLAs from the National Conference. And making a plea of minority government led by Farooq, the State Governor Jagmohan dismissed his Ministry and formed instead, a new Ministry led by G. M. Shah in league with Congress(I). Dumb-founded people witnessed, the ugly face of authoritarian role of Congress(I) behind the smoke-screen of wild cry out of 'Clean Politics' of Rajiv brand. In support of this misdeed, both Mr. Rajiv Gandhi and the Congress(I) leadership began malicious campaign (in one voice) against Shri Farooq Abdullah dubbing him as 'traitor', 'secret agent of Pakistan', 'patron of providing armed training camp for extremist Akalis and so on and so forth. It is not that those serious charges were brought forth after the fall of the Farooq Ministry; long before, preparation of the ground by levelling those unfounded but serious charges of sedition started. That the charges brought forth were fictitious became all the more clear in no time. The reason behind is not far to seek: what the Congress(I) wanted was to teach Shri Farooq a good lesson because of his active association with conclave politics in the opposition camp of Congress(I).

Meanwhile, Farooq Abdullah having failed to muster support of opposi-

tion parties, concentrated his protest within his own state. Total disarray in Rajiv's house vis-a-vis Farooq's total disillusionment with the opposition parties and forces became the common ground for pulling each of them nearer. So, Rajiv proposed restoration of his power to Farooq and Farooq too, reciprocated with a promise of unconditional support to Rajiv. So, a whirlwind change of political scenario occurred and a coalition Ministry with National Conference-Cong-I combine was installed.

However much both Rajiv and Abdullah applaud this accord as a 'model' one, the common people and Kashmiris alike view it as nothing more than convergence of rank opportunism. The people at large can ill-afford to forget the serious charges of sedition hurled against Farooq for bringing his downfall. Only about a year ago Rajiv made untiring efforts to denigrate Farooq Abdullah with 'traitor', 'agent of foreign power' and so on. If an iota of truth was in the allegations against Farooq, surely Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, as Prime Minister, ought to have provided his countrymen a plausible explanation for his volte-face. This attempt to put an end to Farooq's political career by levelling charges of sedition is no doubt a manifestation of a scoundrel's politics!

On the other hand, the behaviour of Farooq Abdullah quite likely calls for denunciation from all well-meaning democratic minded people at large. Still then, some relevant questions are bound to be raised as to how Farooq Abdullah had to meet such an ignoble fate at the cost of his dignity! One can ill-afford to forget that in order to channelise the mounting protests of the Kashmiri people against Rajiv Gandhi's authoritarian attack to a logical end and linking it with opposition politics at an all-India plane, Farooq rushed to the doors of all national leaders of left and opposition parties including these of CPI

and CPI(M). Had they been really serious about developing countrywide mighty democratic movement against the butchery of democracy by Rajiv, politics in Kashmir would have then merged with the mainstream of democratic struggles and lifted it to a still higher phase and ultimately would have paved the way for making the Central Govt. led by Mr. Rajiv Gandhi to give in at the impact of such a united democratic movement.

Instead, they, with an eye to reaping a rich harvest in the parliamentary politics, and utilise developing mass outbursts against the authoritarian assaults of Rajiv government, began providing Farooq Abdullah with forums of conclave, a conglomerate of disparate forces in various states for his deliberation on the theme of the issue. During the period of conclave politics, we in the pages of this paper, struck our note of caution that the fascist attack of Rajiv Gandhi government cannot be forestalled simply by staging conferences and mass meetings in different states. What was then urgently called for was release of action programmes for a countrywide movement of all the left and democratic opposition parties. Our repeated appeals fell on their deaf ears. The fate of the subsequent events of meeting a tragic end of Farooq chapter only vindicated our oft-quoted stand. Ultimately, loner and frustrated as he was, Farooq hastily entered into an accord with Rajiv in

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is culture which they once raised verbally at least is no longer to be heard from them. Their sole concern is anyhow to stick to governmental power. For that, they are ready to do anything, even to aid and abet cultural degradation of the people. But they forget one thing like the proverbial one-eyed deer that if the people are culturally

degraded the base of leftism no longer remains; only some cultural and democratic conscience of the people can save them from falling prey to divisive parochial politics and the state being turned into a rampaging ground of the same. The power-greedy petty politicians may forget this but history cannot forgive them.

KKMS Conference in Tripura

The third annual conference of Laxmibati Gram Sabha KKMS was held with much enthusiasm at Kotamati, Tripura on 12th January '87. A powerful 9-member executive committee was formed with Com. Nityananda Debnath and Com. Ballabh Debnath as President and Secretary respectively.

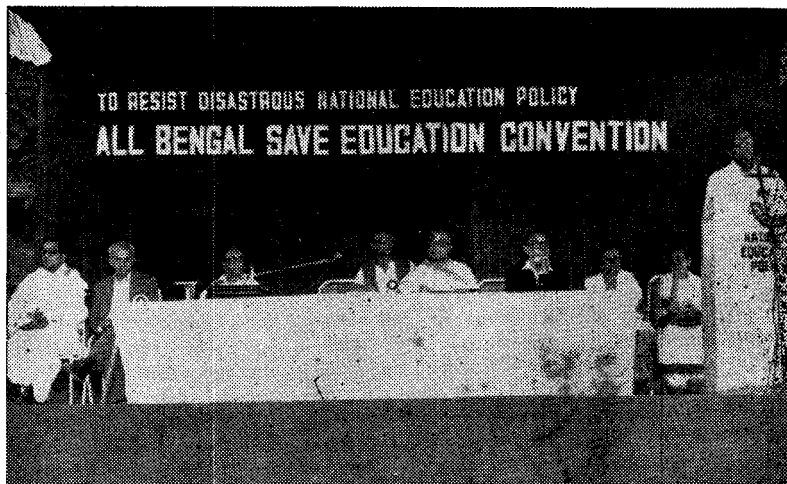
Com. Milan Majumdar, Amalendu Bhowmick, Phani Bhakta, Ballabh Debnath,

Sadhan Das, Dipak Das and Subrata Chakraborty in their speech appealed the peasantry to come forward to join KKMS and build up movement on various problems of peasant life. They also warned the people against the non-left and anti-people policies of pseudo-leftists in power, which are eating away the vitals of the people's protests against all sorts of injustice and exploitation.

order to restore his lost governmental power.

Not only this accord will go down as an out and out opportunist alliance, but, it at the same time, has set in a new phenomenon of coming together of pro-fascist forces which have alarmed the democratic minded people with grave concern. So, if all the well meaning people as well as the Left demo-

cratic and Opposition parties and forces are seriously concerned over the situation, then they will have to grasp this impending danger of foisting fascist rule. And the only counter-current that can save the country and the people from this situation lied in building up united democratic movement against the Central Government throughout the country.



Distinguished educationists on dias at Save Education Convention in Calcutta.

Editor-in-Chief—COMRADE NIHAR MUKHERJEE

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