

Defeat Divisive, Communal And Parochial Design Of The Ruling Class

Anyone with the well-being of the country and the people in heart cannot but be deeply shocked at the spectre of fratricidal strife haunting the land. Parochialism, communalism are rearing their ugly heads from one end of the country to the other. Suspicion and mistrust grow between people with different language, cast and creed, tension mounts, and at the instigation of self-seeking politicians out to make political gains by playing upon the regional and communal sentiments of the people, one section of the people attacks another—a brother strikes another brother.

Look at Assam where a series of bloody mass carnages have taken place in Nelhi, Gohapur and other places—so ghastly that even the Lebanon massacre pales in comparison. The mass killings are the direct outcome of the parochial agitation inciting one section of the people against another, the Government's utter inaction in the face of intelligence reports indicating that large-scale organised violence was in the offing, playing upon mutual suspicion and fear of the communities for electoral gain by the Congress(I)—active instigation to both the communities to attack each other by local Congress(I) leaders, connivance and even participation by the police in the rioting. The killings have taken a toll of thousands of lives. Villages after villages have been burnt and razed to the ground. Lakhs face destitution and seek refuge in the adjoining states. Such has been the price paid by the people for the electoral 'victory' of the Congress(I) in Assam.

Punjab, the land of the five rivers, faces an explosive situation and threatens to go up in communal flames. For long have Congress and other bourgeois parties and politicians, the pseudo-lefts masquerading under the garb of leftism and com-

munist, dabbled with communal politics in that state and hobnobbed with communal Akali politicians for securing gains in election politics. The communalism fostered thus has become a 'Frankenstein' and can no longer be controlled. The extremist section of the Akalis has given the call for creating "Khalistan", a homeland for the Sikhs. Arms are being collected, people being openly incited to take to arms to conduct a war for achieving "Khalistan". Organised looting and arson goes on, bombs are thrown and shooting to kill has become daily occurrence. Pitched battles take place between members of different communities and the situation threatens to escalate into a blood bath of communal holocaust.

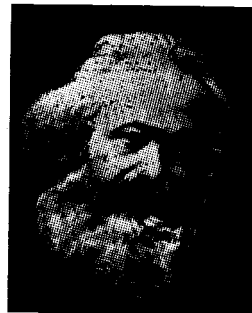
Wither is our country going? One section of the people attacks another in mass frenzy in the name of language or religion—is this what our civilization has come to? The crisis-ridden capitalist system in our country is utterly reactionary, moribund. It has nothing good or noble to offer to the people any more. This is the root cause of the all-encompassing crisis, corruptions, stagnation and degradation that we see in economics, politics, morals and ethics to-day. There is an all-out crisis in our civilization.

The bourgeois parties, the pseudo lefts calling themselves communists, are all serving capitalism in the country. They cannot save the country and the people from the degradation that results from the capitalist system. In the interest of the ruling capitalist class, they act as disruptors of the peoples' unity by fanning up parochial and communal feelings. This is their historic role.

But can we remain passive spectators and allow the situation to drift towards an all-out calamity? In every parochial or communal flare up, it is the peoples' cause which

is the casualty whereas the paramount need is to uphold the unity of the toiling classes, of protecting it like the apple of the eye. Therefore, it is the people who must act. And the only way of safeguarding the peoples' unity is through conducting democratic movements, by freeing the people from the pernicious parochial and communal feelings.

It is the only course open, and the revolutionary party of the proletariat, acting as anti-these to capitalism in the society, is historically the only force that can spearhead an upsurge of democratic mass movements. This has been demonstrated



"Both for the production on a mass scale of his communist consciousness, and for the success of the cause itself, the alteration

of men on a mass scale is necessary, an alteration which can only take place in a practical movement, in a revolution; this revolution is necessary, therefore, not only because the ruling class cannot be overthrown in any other way, but also because the class overthrowing it can only in a revolution succeed in ridding itself of all the muck of ages and become fitted to found society anew."

when our party, the SUCI armed with the thoughts of Com. Shibdas Ghosh, fought single-handed against onslaughts from the police and hooligans, against social democratic cunning of the pseudo-lefts to wrest a glorious victory

in the movement against tram and bus fare rise in West Bengal.

This shows the path, the beaconlight to be followed. Should not the people rally round, stand up and act?

Police Firing On Construction Workers At Kanti, Bihar

The police started indiscriminate lathi-charge and resorted to 20 rounds of firing on the construction workers of thermal power project at Kanti on May 11 last when they were squatting peacefully near the Kanti Police station, demanding immediate release of Comrade Murari Sahi, a known political and trade union organiser of SUCI, who was arrested suddenly at the instance of a contractor.

As a protest to the police action and also for realisation of pending demands the construction workers were on strike from May 11 last. Their demands include i) settlement of about one dozen labour disputes which are pending for a long time ii) punishment to those contractors who have violated the provisions of the Labour Acts, Agreements, all norms and code of conduct all along iii) immediate and unconditional release of Comrade Murari Sahi and nine others injured in lathi-charge and firing, who were still in jail and handcuffed there iv) setting up judicial probe and punishment to the guilty and v) compensation to all the injured.

Kanti on May 13 and May 16 under the auspices of our party SUCI and UTUC (Lenin Sarani) were held. Comrade N. R. Singh, the SUCI, M-L-A and President of the Thermal Power Project Labour Union affiliated to UTUC (Lenin Sarani) addressed a press conference on May 14 and the campaign committee constituted at Muzaffarpur on the line of N.C.C. also met the D. M. Mazaffarpur on May 17. Comrade Prithvi Chanda the Central Committee Member, SUCI addressed a press conference on May 17.

The Bihar Labour Department has just moved in the direction of conciliation proceedings under pressure of the struggle and Comrade Murari Sahi has been released on May 24 last. The D. M. and commi-

ssioner has also agreed to enquire into the incident.

The other side of the development is that the Congress(I) under the leadership Mr. Shambhu Sharan Thakur and the CPI(M) (which is very weak in Muzaffarpur in general and Kanti in particular) are active in their respective ways to sabotage and break the strike.

Com. Prithvi Chanda General Secretary, All India Committee of the U.T.U.C. Lenin Sarani said the following in a Press Conference held at Muzaffarpur on 17th may 1983 :—

The entire construction work of the Thermal Power Project at Kanti is stopped, due to complete strike of the construction (Contd. on page. 4)

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Big mass meetings at.

More power of the states or more power of People's Movement—Which is the real answer ?

The meeting of four Chief Ministers of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and the Union Territory of Pondicherry held in Bangalore, the unanimous demands framed for more financial power and resources for the states, more autonomy, formation of a Chief Ministers' Council, the support given to this move by CPI(M) led Governments in West Bengal and Tripura as also of Jammu & Kashmir, the prompt decision of the Indira Gandhi Govt. to appoint one man Sarkaria Commission have once more brought to the fore the question of Centre-State relation in the country's politics. And this is at a time when two other states Assam and Punjab are tormented very much by parochial regional slogans and agitations. The depth of crisis of moribund capitalism thus manifests in all aspects of the body politic, the situation demands most careful and scientific thinking on the part of every democratic minded and class conscious person in the land in the interest of peoples' cause and progress.

CONCLAVE & THE DEMANDS

On 20th March, the four Chief Ministers of the States mentioned above met in Bangalore City to frame joint demands for reviewing the centre-state relations on fiscal matters and recommending suitable amendments to the constitution to ensure a more equitable relationship in the future.

From the avowed objectives of the Chief Ministers, it is now known that they want to place before the Eighth Finance Commission on the demand for revamping the allocation procedure of fiscal resources between the centre and the states. To be more specific, they demand that 1) instead of the present ratio 40%, the state's share in Excise Duty collected by the Central Government should be raised to 60%.

ii) surcharge and corporate taxes to be included in the divisible pool for

distribution to the states; and iii) bulk of the resource transfer to the states should be on a statutory basis and not at the discretion of the centre.

The second objective as expressed in formation of a Chief Ministers Council by these four states, a new one in the country, is stated to be for mutual consultations and settling amicably various interstate disputes and problems like sharing of river waters, in their case, the waters of Kaveri and Krishna, distribution of electricity, movement of cereals between the states, settlement of linguistic minorities in reclaimed lands etc. In short, they do not want the centre's interference in these matters, although they have not suggested what should be the scientific norm of looking upon natural resources by a modern and democratic state.

They also want that the states should be freed from the interference or non-cooperation of the centre in implementing the states social and economic development planning. But one thing has been commonly expressed by all the Chief Ministers that like Smt. Indira Gandhi, they are also for a strong centre and that they have no intention of weakening the centre. MGR of Tamil Nadu said in an interview to PROBE, a news magazine (May, 1983) that : "The whole issue has stemmed from the fact that the financing is inadequate. One, the finances are not enough. Two, we do not have the authority to do some kind of good work."

Ramkrishna Hedge, Karnataka Chief Minister and a Janata Party leader said : "Every Chief Minister who participated in the meeting emphatically stated that there should be a strong centre... it is the centralisation of powers and resources in the Central Government that may jeopardise the integrity of the country."

Now, all these views and demands are nothing new. The CPI(M) after coming to power in two states, West Bengal and Tripura in 1977 raised these demands more stridently and circulated a memorandum addressed to the Central Government, then under the Janata Party of Morarji Desai for eliciting popular support. We can even trace it back to the first CPI Ministry in Kerala in 1957, the Chief Minister of which, Mr. EMS Nambudiripad raised similar demands and organised seminars or conference on the issue.

THE DEMANDS ANALYSED

Before we go to analyse different aspects of these demands we should not forget for a moment that the present exploitative capitalist system which is continually putting unbearable burden on to the shoulder of the half-starved millions of the country is not going to alter and "solution", if any, has been sought within the framework of this basic limitation and deep-rooted crisis of the very capitalist system.

No doubt, lopsidedness, authoritarianism, discrimination, have long been the usual features in the character of the Central Government in dealing with the states. In the fiscal field, since the early part of '70 and more specifically after Smt. Gandhi's return to power in 1980, it has been observed that the Central Government is systematically demanding the State's powers of collecting financial resources. The Central Government, in order to deprive the states of larger share in the divisible pool of taxes collected, is resorting more and more to tax devices over which the states have no share according to Fiscal Commission's formula. Centralisation of fiscal resources by this means has rendered the states entirely dependent on the Centre in the matter of finance. And the party at the Centre, using the constitutional provisions like Articles 275 which gives it the power of dis-

tributing grants-in aid or Article 282 which empowers it to make discretionary grants to the states can make and is actually making discriminatory treatments to the states under the rule of opposition parties, whether regional or of all national character although following faithfully the same game of parliamentary competition to serve the ruling capitalist class. The Indira Gandhi Government takes the plea that unless this provision for special grants-in-aid to states remains, the economically well off states will gain by larger share in divisible pool whereas the backward states will remain backward. What her Government has done to make the backward states advance in economic development is obvious from the instances of Assam and other North eastern states, to mention specifically. Not only this, as a legacy of the colonial rule, the power of dissolving elected Governments was incorporated in the constitution of the Indian Republic after independence and has since been applied on many occasions for political expediency by the party in power at the Centre, be it the Congress or the Janata Party. It has proved to be a handy tool in the competition for parliamentary power and privileges.

A new phenomenon of two-party system both at national and state level was under experiment by the bourgeoisie. The Janata experiment at the centre though being proved abortive, there is no reason to conclude that the idea has been abandoned by the ruling capitalist class. At the state or regional level, the two party system has come to stay so long the parties coming to power at that level follow the class desire and rule of the game of bourgeois parliamentary politics.

The stresses and strains between the centre and the states on fiscal matter and at administrative levels, obstructions in giving sanction to industrial licence etc. which are still there flow not from clash of class interests as such but from contention between the parties in bourgeois parliamentary

politics, serving particular section or the aggregate interest of the same capitalist class. It is therefore to be noted, while the parties in power of the states clamour for more power, they do not espouse any particular popular cause and give call to the people to rise against the injustice of the Centre.

There are contradictions and conflicts between monopoly and regional capital over the share of market and fiscal assistance but regional capital or even particular group or sections of the monopoly capital whose interest is represented by the parties coming to power in the states cannot think of weakening the centralised coercive state apparatus of the ruling capitalist class defending and protecting the class exploitation over the people.

THE BASIC REASONS AND CLASS MOTIVE

To have a clear understanding about these demands raised by the non-Congress regional bourgeois party or parties, some claiming to be 'left' or even 'Marxist' we must understand first, the historical facts, about development of Indian capitalism, second, the class content of such demands and third, what should be the real direction of people's struggle.

First, we need not repeat in elaboration which we discussed earlier on a number of occasions the regional disparities, in matters of socio-economic development, weakness of secular democratic thoughts and ideas, and in the development of language, culture etc. for reasons of basic weakness of Indian capital grown and developed in the womb of colonial rule, started by imperialist overlordship, industrialisation or more generally economic development in this vast multi-nationality state has carried and still carries the mark of regional disparity and imbalance.

The disparity that was inherent in the development of India capitalism which though gave rise to monopoly finance capital still suffers from want of a wide base of

(Contd. on page 5)

OBSERVE NCC DAY

4th June is the NCC Day i.e. the date of foundation of National Campaign Committee. The Committee has taken a programme of observing this Day' all over India.

It was on the last 4th June, 1980, i.e. three years back that this All India Committee was formed in a Convention held in Bombay, with the object of protecting the rights earned by the working class and developing movement against price-hike throughout the entire country. The Committee comprises eight Central trade unions organisations including the UTUC (Lenin Sarani).

The country, which for a long time past was passing through a critical phase is at present facing a very critical and suffocating situation.

The capitalist class after shifting the burden of their economic crisis which is becoming more and more acute, on the working class on the toiling people of the country. They have launched an all out attack, including lock out, lay out, wage cut, retrenchment etc., etc., on the workers. They pay no heed to the legitimate demands of the workers for rise of wage, allowances and other economic benefits to meet the present price hike for which the sky is the only limit. As a result the real wage, the real income of the workers is on the decline. Not only that they are refusing to accept the legitimate demands of the workers, they are even ready to nip in the bud any movement of the workers for their justified legitimate demands. And the Central government led by Mrs Gandhi by enacting black acts like ESMA, NASA etc, is snatching the minimum rights of the workers that they once earned through hard struggle and thereby helping the capitalist class, perpetrating conspiratorial activities against the working class. To this one must add the heinous recommendation of the Bureau of Public Enterprise which is in reality aimed at crushing the legitimate demands of the workers for wage-rise and increase of allowances. In fact all of them are hand in glove to crack down on the toiling masses in general and the working class in particular and deprive them not only of their right to

claims but also of their right to organise movement for their legitimate demands. In such a situation, the mighty united movement of the workers is the only way, the only means to forestall the conspiratorial activities of the Central government and the ruling capitalist class. And it was with this object that the National Campaign Committee was formed. We firmly believe that if the workers can stand on a firm solid unity, then they will ultimately win. But we are constrained to note that of late, we have witnessed certain moves on the part of the Committee to draw away the struggling workers fighting for their cause, from the path of movement.

For furtherance of their cause and cement their struggling unity and solidarity, and to give them caution about the anti-movement forces that are working within the Committee, we like to reflect upon some of these recent steps and moves of the said Committee, which have already appeared in the press.

The manner in which the public sector employees' struggle has been called off deserves criticism. The fact was, the N. C. C. changed its earlier decision of an indefinite coal mine strike & instead organised a 12 hours strike (in the month of January). This was not all. Another backward step was taken, and that was taken during that successful two day strike—when the proposed one day all-India public sector strike due on January, 28 was called off. Obviously this raised a serious apprehension among many, whether N. C. C. was eager to call off the whole struggle. Such an apprehension gained momentum around the country particularly from a communique issued on behalf of the N. C. C. which stated that it was the N. C. C. that made the proposal of appointing a committee on the D.A. question and that it was on the acceptance of the said proposal by the Union Finance Minister, that the strike had been called off.

Once the press reported that the Government accepted the need for all

upward revision of D.A. But it was not the fact. All that the Government agreed to was the appointment of a committee to go into the matter. This was amply clear from the communique of which we have earlier mentioned.

Now, anyone conversant with the science of struggle knows well that at times, particularly when a movement is on the verge of breaking down or the workers' instrument of struggle i.e. their unions or organisations are in danger of becoming disintegrated even a proposal of framing up a committee can become a valid ground for calling off the struggle for the time being. But all of us know that the situation was completely different.

The authorities i.e. particularly the Government were in weak and defensive position. The workers were in high spirit fighting mood and zeal. This was particularly noted during the 72 hour coal mine workers' strike which was a grand success despite various nefarious attempts on the part of the authorities including the Government and the Congress (I) dominated unions to frustrate the struggle. From these one may like to conclude that the movement was called off at the moment when it was the right time to forge ahead and strike hard by developing a mighty movement.

Such a decision naturally, to a large extent dampened the spirit of the workers who were then in high fighting mood, just after achieving a successful two day strike. While voicing the general sentiment and protest of the pro-movement people and struggling workers, comrade Prithvi Chanda, the General Secretary, All India U T U C (Lenin Sarani) in a press statement strongly criticised this decision.

This indicates to what extent the anti-movement compromising and divisive forces are active within the N. C. C. So long these forces will remain active and enjoy dominating position within the organisation, the workers will not
(Contd. on page 4)

Movements in West Bengal

The people of West Bengal have witnessed how the glorious movement launched by our party SUCI against tram and bus fare hike has forced the obdurate 'Left Front' government to reduce the enhanced bus fare substantially in Calcutta, 24 Parganas and Howrah. Not only that, the 'Left Front' government did not dare to give effect to the earlier decision of enhancing the bus fares in other districts of the state and adopted a wait and see policy to feel the public pulse because of the great impact of the movement. The 'Left Front' government is however trying to do the same step by step by enhancing the fares in some selected routes of the district. For examples, the RTA Midnapore raised bus fare in two out of five subdivisions in the district on April 25 last. In North Bengal too, the same tactics have been taken recourse to. The 'Left Front' government have not yet dared to enhance the bus fare of the North Bengal State Transport Corporation but in certain selected routes operated by private bus owners the bus fares have been enhanced. But wherever there is enhancement of fare, the common people and passengers under the leadership of our party SUCI are putting up heroic resistance from the very date of the enhancement of fares. In these places our party is organising street corner meetings, demonstrations, and road blockades and the bus conductors are being compelled to return the excess fares to the passengers.

The attitude of the 'Left Front' government towards this peaceful democratic movement conducted by our party SUCI is the same everywhere. The police and the CPI (M) stormtroopers pounced upon the peaceful demonstrators, injured them in hundreds in different places by brutal lathi charge, teargas shelling and even firing. Even the woman volunteers are not spared and besides merciless beating, they are subjected to molestation. The

people of Midnapur town, being deeply aggrieved at the brutalities of the CPI (M) stormtroopers and the police atrocities spontaneously participated to observe April 30, as the 'Protest Day' and the authority was forced to withdraw enhanced fare in some routes in Midnapur District.

In North Bengal also the people under the leadership of our party put up a stiff resistance through strike in North Bengal University, the market at Shibmandir and gherao of the BDOs and other officials. Here also the workers of our party and the DSO faced assault and torture of the Police-CPI (M) stormtroopers combine and the police even resorted to firing on May 12 last at Shibmandir bazar.

Meanwhile the movement for introduction of through buses instead of recently introduced shuttle services is gaining momentum in Calcutta and a big demonstration was organised in support of this demand on May 20, last at the Esplanade East in Calcutta.

Our party SUCI has also been organising movements against other oppressive and anti-people measures of the 'Left Front' government. The people under the leadership of our party have organised movement against the launch fare increase on the routes between Howrah Ramkrishnapur Ghat and Calcutta Babu Ghat. Everywhere the fares of public transports and price of all essential commodities are increasing by leaps and bounds; but what is not increasing is the people's purchasing power and so the people have no other alternative but to organise movements against these anti-people measures. In anti-launch fare-rise movement, the police-CPI (M) stormtroopers combine, besides attacking the passengers and volunteers made severe lathi-charge over a press photographer, arrested him and seized his camera and films. But the passengers heroically repulsed all the attacks
(Contd. on page 6)

Police firing at Kanti, Bihar

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workers from the 11th May 1983. I have personally visited the spot, met the workers and various sections of the local people there, and gathering all the informations I like to emphatically say that this strike called by the Thermal Power Project Labour Union affiliated to U.T.U.C (Lenin Sarani) is fully justified.

This construction of the power project is no doubt very important for the people but unfortunately has turned to be a hunting ground for all sorts of contractors and money grabbers.

The contractors big or small are in the habit of depriving the workers of their legitimate and legal dues, make under payment. they also indulged in all sorts of corruption, malpractices, pilferages in connivance with the executive of the BHEL and also with the local police administration. Many labour disputes and legitimate demands of the workers are pending for long, the majority of which are related to complaints of non-payment, under payment even payment less than the fixed minimum wages for the area. And for the lack of the guarantee of job etc.

The present situation originates from incidents of 6th May, when a group of workers approached a contractor named Ajit Agrawal for long due payment which the said contractor continuously refused to pay. On 11th May morning all on a sudden the officer Incharge of the Kanti police station arrested Com. Murari Shai, a known political and Trade Union Organiser of the SUCI and Asstt. Secy. of the Thermal Power Project Labour Union and took him to its custody at the instance of the said contractor. News of the arrest spread like wild fire and the construction workers immediately came out of the work spontaneously and went near the Kanti police-station, where they squatted peacefully, demanding immediate release of their leader. Neither any Kanti police station officer nor

any other responsible police or administrative officer talked to the workers. There was no attempt at all from the police administration to pacify the workers. Large number of workers and local people in several thousands waited upon near the police station from 8-30 A.M. to 12-30 Noon. completely peacefully and no untowards incident happened during these four hours. A big contingent of police force rushed there from the Muzaffapur Town at 12-30 and immediately started indiscriminate lathi charge later on resorted to about 20 rounds of firing without any provocation. Eye witness reports say they even attempted to drive the vehicles on the body of the squatting workers.

We are convinced that there was no cause for such indiscriminate lathi charge and firing and so we hold that the police officials are guilty of unjustified lathi charge and firing. This only shows how the police people have become trigger happy and that to them the poor workers and peasants are only object of their hunting and therefore strongly condemn the police action of firing to lathi-charge.

As a protest to the police action and to realise the pending demands the Thermal power project workers are on continuous strike completely peacefully from 11th May. onwards. The strike is so successful that no picketing is required to be staged by the union, till this day. Although it is also reported that the local police officials along with some paid agents of the contractors and management claiming themselves to be Congress (I) men are trying to spread rumours and threatening the local village workers to break the strike.

The vital question coming to the fore is that in the interest of rapid completion of this Thermal Power Project why the Bihar State Electricity Board whose child is this Thermal Plant is not coming forward to normalise the Industrial relation here. Why the Board is escaping its responsi-

bility? Similarly why the Bihar Govt. which is going to be the first beneficiary is showing such a callous and irresponsible attitude towards the most critical labour situation in the Thermal plant project. Thirdly the BHEL which have undertaken main job of the construction of the project have engaged so many big and small contractors, to do the job for them. It is known to all that the BHEL as a big public sector undertaking which have all expertise for such construction work and which has fully equipped Division under a separate wing is not doing the job itself. Who can deny that the contractors system vitiates the atmosphere and only breeds corruptions?

In the end I demand that the Bihar Electricity Board, the authority of the BHEL and the Bihar Govt. labour Ministry should come forward and through negotiation with representative of the Thermal Power Project Labour Union U.T.U.C. (Lenin Sarani) settle the dispute and this pave the path for settlement of strike and normalise the industrial relation, the Behar Govt. should also immediately set up judicial enquiry to investigate the circumstances and justifiability or otherwise of lathi charge and firing resorted to by the police on 11th May, on the people at Kanti.

I further want to draw the attention of the authorities concerned that unless the authorities, shaking off their callous and anti-people attitude come forward for amicable settlement forth with, the union will go forward to execute its declared programme of hunger strike to be resorted by Comrade Nalini Ranjan Singh S.U.C.I. M-L-A. and President of the Union, demonstration and 'Kam Roko Andolan' throughout the district simultaneously with General strike in the Thermal power project. If the authority fails to respond in time, the situation may develop into a much wider People's agitation.

Mass Meeting at Trivandrum

A public meeting on the present political situation was held in Trivandrum on May, 10. Com. Krishna Chakraborti, the main speaker blamed the Congress I and the government of Smt. Gandhi for the Assam genocide. He explained that the responsibility of the communal and divisive tendencies taking ugly form in Assam, Punjab, Gujrat and elsewhere rests on the ruling class and the bourgeois parties.

Condemning the Jyoti Basu government for resorting to lathi-charge, teargassing and firing on the unarmed and the peaceful demonstrators protesting against the bus and tramfare rise in West Bengal he stated that this brutal suppression of

democratic mass movement by employing police in mufti and the private army of CPI(M) goondas in addition to the regular police has exposed the real colour of the CPI(M) and the class for whom it stands for.

Com. James Joseph, state secretary of SUCI called upon the people of Kerala to defeat the communal forces raising their ugly heads in Kerala in the name of Nilackal and other issues.

Com. C. K. Lukose, member, Kerala State Committee of SUCI and district secretary of Quilon translated the speech of Com. Chakraborti. Com. M. Subramani, Trivandrum district secretary presided.

Observe NCC Day

(Contd. from page 3)
be able to free their instrument from inherent drawbacks and weaknesses.

In this connection, one may like to mention that it is particularly due to the divisive role of the CITU that in West Bengal, the Central Trade Unions sponsored by the parties of the ruling Left Front have refused to join the N. C. C.

The underlying reason is of course clear to every one. The present Left Front Government in West Bengal is pursuing a non-left anti-people anti-working class policy. It is taking recourse to all sorts of repressive measures, including firing, on the fighting people in general and workers in particular to curb their movements. The Police onslaught that it let loose on the people's movement against tram-bus fare rise led by the SUCI is a glaring example of its anti-people policy and activities.

All these, reflect to what extent the Left Front is non left and anti-people and anti workers.

And on the contrary to what extent it is pro-

owners pro-capitalist has been glaringly testified from a report recently published in the daily press. It has been stated that during the period of November, 1982 and February, 1983, while all over India there was a rise in price-index by five points, in West Bengal for some unknown reason it declined by nineteen points. Now the decrease in price index by one point mean decrease in the rate of D.A. by Re. 1.2 accordingly. This means that the workers in the state had been deprived of getting four crores of rupees from the owners!

The pertinent question that one would like to obviously raise is that, when all over the country we are witnessing the sky rocketting of prices, then how is it, that in West Bengal alone the price index is on the decline, and that too, to such an extent?

In the background of the people's day to day experience of life, will it not appear to them as a concocted 'fact'?

Will the Left Front Government provide any (Contd. on page 6)

(Continued from p. 2)

industrialisation and infrastructure. This disparity or regional imbalance in economic and social development could be minimised, as far as possible within capitalist system, had there been full-blooded industrialisation and modernisation of agriculture within this not-too-small span of time after independence.

But moribund capitalism, deeply enmeshed in evergrowing crisis at this third phase of intense crisis of world wide capitalist system coupled with dominating interest of monopoly capital even within the ruling class which is the natural corollary of capitalist development and the domineering nationality complex attached to particular group or section of monopoly capital have, rather accentuated the regional disparities and imbalance. Secondly, capitalist development has for it as essential condition the formation and consolidation of large market for commodity circulation. It also demands centralisation of financial and administrative powers as the reflections of growing centralisation of capital and concentration of products along with the growth and development of monopoly capital and its sway over market. With in-built regional imbalance and disparity in Indian economy due to historical reasons, this capitalist law of development creates further problems for the non-big regional or local capital in as much as it loses local market and fails to stand up against big capital in the face of acute crisis in the productive system. Capital devours capital and it is more so at the time of continuing and more and more deeper recession in the economy. Besides, when the big capital is sustained by increasing concessions in the shape of subventions and subsidies, the central government although looking after the aggregate interest of the ruling capitalist class cannot dole out adequate concessions to the non-big capital at regional level. This leads to conflict of interests within the same ruling class across the regions or even between groups within big

Even The Limited Power of the States Not Being Used For People's Welfare

capital. And this is what is exactly happening now in the whole productive system.

Under such a circumstance, the locally placed small or medium regional capital seek greater powers and financial resources through the regional or even some all-national opposition parties, or using those to further their interest or survival, however illusory may be the idea in capitalist development. Regionalism, in whatever form it may appear has behind it this concrete fact of capitalist development and clear class content. The parties depending and protecting regional interests do in fact, want for a group or section of the same ruling capitalist class more freedom and power to exploit the masses. They do not oppose the centralised coercive state machinery to gain in strength to defend and protect the exploiting capitalist class as a whole against the uprising of the exploited masses. They do not oppose the loot and plunder over the masses in the name of fiscal management; rather these parties follow the same fiscal model as is being practised by the government at the centre. In the same manner, these regional or all-India parties champion regional interest, raise tax burdens on the common people, either in the shape of increasing tax burden or raising fares of tram and buses and other government run services, give fiscal concessions to big or non-big capital, exempt the thriving rural gentry from any income tax or impose it on them nominally, withdraw levy on cereal production as in West Bengal or provide subsidy from government exchequer to maintain government controlled price of cereals instead of taking stern measures against the jotedars, hoarders and black-marketeters. They do not call the people to organise any movement against the fiscal loot perpetuated by the government at the Centre, nor do they adopt a concrete project for the cause of common people and ask them to fight for wresting

necessary financial help from the centre. All they want instead, is a share and bigger at that, in the fiscal loot and plunder over the people. This reality cannot be concealed by any plea or other. It should be incidentally mentioned in this connection that in India where the role of small capital is very much there, the regional bourgeoisie back and support different regional parties, in their bid to influence the Government and administration both at the states and the centre not only for extracting maximum profit but also for consolidating their strength and position as far as possible. In doing so these parties try to spearhead the grievance against the dominating bourgeoisie, themselves, generally reflecting the interest of the dominated bourgeoisie, in a manner as if they are championing the cause of the people. But when the need of the hour was to mount serious pressure on the intransigent Central Government by building up mass movements even to wrest the just and legitimate demands—judged not from a parochial interest but from the outlook of overall interest of the people—these parties were raising the demand for more power to the states in a manner which bears the dangerous portents of creating cleavage in the struggling unity of the people.

If these parties were really serious about common people's vital problems and their cause, then they would have certainly undertaken such popular cause or projects. And if in fulfilment and implementation of them Central aid and assistance were there necessary then to force the government at the centre to accept the just cause or demand, these parties could certainly ask the people to organise in a movement backed up by the governments in power. Did they ever do such a thing? The answer is in the negative.

Not only these governments clamouring for more power did anything worth-

while for the common people which could be done even within their limited power and resources, they have faithfully followed or even given lead in anti-working class steps and government takes the pride that it has silenced turbulent West Bengal, there being now no strike, no industrial unrest even when lakhs of workers are facing, death out of starvation for lockout of hundreds of factories. The savagery, government led by CPI (M) in West Bengal has perpetrated on the recent tram-bus fare increase resistance movement conducted by our party has gladdened the bourgeoisie very much and definitely brought it in comparison to the blackdeeds of fascist rulers. NTR ministry in Andhra Pradesh, amidst the smokescreen of political stunts has brought down the age of retirement of the government employees from 58 to 55 which not even the reactionary government at the centre could dare. So, are the performances of this kind for the states run by non-Congress (I) ministries. These concrete facts prove that the ruling class led by monopoly bourgeoisie have no cause to resent but it in fact encourages all these non-Congress (I) parties and governments to raise regional demands and thrive on these from a deeper class motive. What is that?

This bourgeois class motive of rather encouraging selected parties in opposition has more than one consideration and calculation.

First, bourgeois politics breeds careerism and ambition of politicians. This is more true in a country where a single party was in the helms for long years and politics became highly personalised in a single or set of 'national' leaders acceptable to major number of nationalities and religious communities. As countervailing force against arrogance of power of such personalised national leadership, the bourgeoisie now wants some selected

political parties at the regional level, particularly after the emergency. Secondly, the scheme of two party system, if not successful at the national level is in exercise in the regional level. Thirdly, at this period of unprecedented crisis which is giving to popular resentment on wide scale, the bourgeoisie want to divert the attention of the people from the main cause of miseries which is moribund capitalist order and tries to whip up regional and communal feelings among politically unaware masses. Bourgeois motive is to divide the toiling masses, so that the working class unity and their struggle for emancipation against the moribund capitalist order cannot grow in strength; instead they are laid astray in fratricidal, self-destructing conflicts and clashes.

It was the historic warning of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh that the bourgeoisie which at the time of undertaking the task of building national state or winning national freedom tried for unity of nationalities and different religious communities for the growth and development of nationhood, is doing just the reverse today by whipping up communal, regional and all other parochial feelings and sentiments with the sole objective of creating obstacle in the path of working class unity and its fight against capitalist order to grow and gain in strength. This vile class motive is at work in all the regional and parochial moves in all the regional and parochial slogans or demands and the complicity of government administration in collusion with one or the other parliamentary parties in communal carnage is no longer a matter of conjecture but a proved fact.

We come to the realisation that definitely there are very many distortions and authoritarian elements in the Centre's relations with the states but these are to be viewed in the definite class context of furthering and strengthening peoples cause and their fight against big regional capital. The class conscious workers will stand for states power and autonomy in so far as those demands are related to the fundamental question of taking up their cause and concrete demands.

(Contd. on page 6)

National Integration And Working Class Unity Essential For Overthrow Of Capitalism

(Contd. from page 5)

But the non-Congress(1) regional bourgeois parties raise the demands not for peoples cause but to serve a section of the ruling capitalist class by demanding more freedom for it, to exploit and thrive.

It is quite understandable when the regional or bourgeois class interest endorse all anti-people fiscal measures of the course, follow the same model in their respective state sphere but only demand a bigger share of the loaf from the centre for the benefit not of the common people but for a section or group of the ruling capitalist class. But it is surely of different political import when CPI(M) gives the lead in such demands. A party professing to be 'Marxist' communist the sin of befooling the people not only by not bringing the scientific teachings of Marxism for a correct political understanding but also shows how deep has been its commitment to the bourgeois class motive and interest by giving lead in anti-working class moves and manoeuvres.

This politics of duplicity indulged by this party is evident when it gives lead in the demands now being raised by the Southern states but comes to bilateral understanding with Indira Gandhi as regards Centre's fiscal assistance to the state economy of West Bengal rendered bankrupt by corruption and mismanagement during its six years rule. In the same manner one top leader of this party reportedly had his hands in framing the parochial demands of the Akalis in Punjab but shuttles now between Punjab and Delhi with compromise formula to draw appreciation from Smt. Gandhi. Social democracy of its worst sort breeds such unethical and treacherous conducts. People are knowing more about the role and character of the party from their concrete experience.

So, Indira Gandhi harps on 'Strong Centre' it has one

meaning. The working class has for it a completely different meaning and purpose of centralism. It is for merging the exploited people of all nationalities and communities on a common class basis in order to build up the working class and its right to overthrow the capitalist order, as also for the speedy work of reconstruction when have the state power in its hands. Indira Gandhi or for that matter, the politicians defending the moribund capitalism want centralism for further fascisation of administration, in the context of today's political reality.

Those who want more power to the states and talk of maintaining federal structure for this, deliberately obscure the fact that centralism is in the very nature of capitalist devo-

Observe NCC Day

(Contd. from page 4) reasonable answer to it? We know, they won't. We of course know the real reason behind it. The pro-owners left front government in almost clever and surreptitious manner pick pocketed four crores of rupees from the workers and put them into the pocket of the owners. So this is the real character of the left front often posing itself "pro workers" and "pro people"

Now in such a situation how can one expect that the central Trade Unions sponsored by the constituent partners of such a left front will join the N.C.C. which if really desires to fulfil its promised object i.e. to protect the rights of the workers and organise movement for realising their legitimate demand will have to develop movement against the left front government in West Bengal? Not only that today, the CITU, to corrupt the glorious role of the NCC is engaged in the conspiracy of disrupting

development and it is bound to reflect in administrative structure. The constitutional form whether unitary or federal cannot change this law as the law conforms to the form of administration.

All these slogans have therefore, the common purpose of sustaining the moribund capitalist order and have nothing to do with the basic question of uniting the exploited people on class basis and furthering their struggle for emancipation.

Common masses of exploited people therefore, must see through the class motive in all these slogan and demands. They must stand for building up the political power of their own in concrete form in order to overthrow this thoroughly rotten and bankrupt capitalist order.

Their slogan is different. They must have power for them and not for their exploitation. SUCI, the revolutionary party of the proletariat alone gives different slogan for them to realise and bring it to reality.

the unity within the NCC. So, to day the task before the workers is to forestall this heinous disruptive attempt and activities. It is fact that NCC has many a shortcoming and weakness. And there exists complexities of various nature too, within it. But despite all these limitations at present the National Campaign Committee can work as the United platform, as the instrument of struggle to protect the rights of the workers and develop movement on their legitimate demands.

To observe the foundation day, of the NCC, the West Bengal committee of the UTUC (Lenin Sarani) as a member of the State committee of the NCC has taken a weeklong programme of campaign which will be followed by a mass meeting of the workers, to be held in Calcutta on the next 7th June. We urge upon the working people to make the programme an all out success.

The workers must

Anti Donation & Anti Capitation Fee Movement in Karnataka

The Anti-Donation and Capitation Fee movement initiated and led by AIDS0 in Karnataka has entered a new-phase when parents are forming their own organisation to fight this social evil. In Rajajinagar, Bangalore Parents' Association has been formed and have taken programme to resist any attempt to collect any donation fee from the students. In Karnataka, not only in Engineering, Medical and General College, even in the secondary or primary school heavy amount of donation or capitation fees are collected. Last year the AIDS0 organised protest movement in different colleges, placed memorandum to the heads of different institutions and finally held

Anti-Donation Capitation State Convention and submitted a memorandum to the government. This year after the formation of the Janata. Kranti Ranga Govt. AIDS0 submitted memorandum to the government demanding immediate withdrawal of this evil social system of collecting capitation & donation fee. But just like the previous Con. (I) government the Janata Kranti Ranga led government in state is pursuing the same policy of allowing the private institutions to collect such fees. AIDS0 led movement created great hopes among the guardians, students and teachers and they are massively coming forward to resist this social evil in Karnataka.

Movements in West Bengal

(Contd. from page 3) SUCI at Purulia town, injured 200 demonstrators including women and arrested 35 demonstrators. Their only fault was that they were staging a sit-in-demonstration before D.C., Purulia District on the demands of taking effective measures against drought situation in the district, ensuring job throughout the year and against the proposed enhancement of bus fare in the district.

But the brutal attacks of the 'Left Front' government are not directed against anti-bus-fare rise movements alone, even the drought affected people for whom the CPI(M) leaders are so much vocal and are pleading for central assistance, are not spared. The police made severe lathi-charge and burst three rounds tear-gas shells on peaceful demonstrators led by the

note, that the only slogan of the NCC day is: Close up the rank, build up firm struggling unity, forestall the heinous disruptive activity of the divisive forces within and develop mighty movement to protect your rights and realise your legitimate demands.

In spite of the brutalities let loose by the 'Left Front' government, the people are attracted to the path of movement under the leadership of SUCI and they have realised that there is no other alternative but to launch democratic mass movement against the anti-people measures and policies of the government.

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