

Forge Broad Democratic Unity and Fight the Black Preventive Detention Ordinance

The Congress (R) Government at the Centre has armed itself with the powers of preventive detention without trial throughout the country, except Jammu and Kashmir, by promulgating an Ordinance entitled The Maintenance of Internal Security Ordinance, 1971. Even according to the bourgeois Press, which by and large has supported the measure, the new law in some respects is more stringent than the Preventive Detention Act which lapsed on December 31, 1969 and the Government then in minority in the Lok Sabha could not extend its life in the face of stiff opposition by different left and democratic parties. The new lawless law is, therefore, more draconian than the old black Act.

The Ordinance empowers the governments at the Centre and in the states to issue orders against any person to prevent him from "acting in any manner prejudicial to (i) the defence of India, the relations of India with foreign Powers or the security of India, or (ii) the security of the State or the maintenance of public order, or (ii) the maintenance of supplies and services essential to the community". It provides the government with powers to detain without trial any person upto a maximum period of twelve months at a time in case of an Indian citizen and twenty-four months at a time in case of a foreigner on any one of the above grounds. The Ordinance specifically provides that "no suit or other legal proceeding shall lie against the Central Government or a State Government and no suit, prosecution or other legal proceeding shall lie against any person for anything done in good faith or intended to be done in pursuance of the Ordinance". Officers competent to take action are the District Magistrates, Additional District Magistrates, especially empowered by the Government and the Commissioners of Police for Bombay,

Calcutta, Madras and Hyderabad. The new law in effect gives more wide unrestricted powers in the hands of the police on whose reports the Magistrates and the government are to act.

Like despots of all times ready with their pleas in support of their anti-people despotic acts, Sm. Indira Gandhi too has her plea. She has contended that "the Government's move to revive the Act on an all-India basis" has been actuated by "the difficult situation created by the influx of lakhs of refugees from Bangladesh." There can be no greater lie, no meaner blasphemy on the poor refugees from Bangladesh. Preventive detention without trial is not a new thing in our country; first enacted in 1950 it continued at a stretch till the end of 1969. In the light of our bitter experience for about twenty years of the working of the much hated Preventive Detention Act (we cannot forget the working of the D. I. R. also) it can be said without the least fear of being contradicted that the real aim of the new Ordinance is to equip the administration, particularly the police, with unrestricted powers so as to

(Continued to Page 6)

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Central Committee Statement : Take-over of General Insurance in Aggregate Interest of Monopoly Capitalism

Com. Shibdas Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI has issued the following statement regarding nationalisation of General Insurance by the Government of India, on May 14, 1971.

"The Government of India has promulgated an Ordinance preparatory to the nationalisation of General Insurance in our country. With a view to creating confusion among the people and brightening its image as a progressive party, the Congress (R), in its characteristic manner, is trying to pass it on as a socialist measure. The pseudo-Communists of our country also by their utterances are adding no less to that confusion, one section of the pseudo-Communists openly dancing to the tune of Sm. Gandhi, while the other section doing the same thing but under cover of a different language raising the question as to who will control the nationalised General Insurance, as if any one other than the bourgeoisie can exercise control over nationalised industries in a capitalist country. True Marxist-Leninists always go to the class root of such actions by the ruling bourgeoisie. Keeping the

capitalist state structure and economic system in tact and without fundamentally changing the capitalist relations of production, simply by nationalisation of banks insurance and other industries, socialism is not achieved; on the contrary, such nationalisation is done in the aggregate interest of monopoly capitalism aiming at ultimately establishing fascism in the country. If the people in our country do not realise this class reality behind the act of nationalisation of banks, life and general insurances etc. etc., by the Government of India and step up their struggle to lift the democratic movements to higher and still higher level leading ultimately to seizure of power by the working class in alliance with other exploited classes, then the nationalised industries would become the source of more ruthless exploitation of our people and imposition of fascism in our country."

Mounting Anti-War Demonstration In USA

The Vietnam war has become the costliest war for the imperialist rulers of the U. S. A. Upto the end of April last since 1961, the total number of U. S. combat fatalities in the Vietnam war had been roughly 45,000 which is more than that in the Korean war by 11,371 and less than that in the First World war by only 8,513. The number of those who died from non-combat causes or diseases was 9,459 while of those wounded stood at 2,01,000 which is higher by about 4,000 than the figures in the First World war.

As a protest against the policy of continuing war of aggression in Vietnam of the US rulers and consequent useless loss of thousands of lives of common men of America, unprecedented anti-war protest movements are sweeping the USA. The movement this time is sponsored by the National Peace Action Coalition for Peace and Justice and is much broader in scope than the Moratorium movement of 1969 or the protest movement against extension of the Vietnam War to Cambodia. This time the movement climaxed when the Vietnam veterans against War led a demonstration demanding of the US rulers to fix a date for complete withdrawal of US forces from Vietnam. The veterans threw away their medals and combat

badges on the steps of the White House. The throwing away of the medals was preceded by the reading of a statement by the veterans which ran as follows: "We are the veterans who rose to the call of the nation. We are returning to Washington to tell our story... we cast away these medals as symbols of shame and dishumanity". On April 21 about half a million protesters rallied in Washington. A large number of protesters have been arrested. But it is sure that no amount of brutality by the bellicose imperialist rulers of the USA can stop the advance of the anti-Vietnam War Protest movement. It is sure to succeed in the long run and compel the US rulers to withdraw armed forces from Vietnam completely and unconditionally.

Indira Socialism !

At the annual conference of the FICCI, an organisation of the Indian monopolists, our socialist Prime Minister called for their co-operation "so that our goal can be achieved in partnership and harmony." She further requested them to regard the Government "not as an adversary but as a friend." In other words, Sm. Gandhi wants to reach the goal in partnership and harmony of her friends, the monopolist tycoons. And mind that the goal is socialism. But what sort of socialism is it? Don't raise questions. You are to blindly and silently follow her; otherwise you are a traitor.

By The Way

According to the decennial census, 70.65 per cent of the total population of India are at present illiterate. In the decade ending in April last the increase in literacy had been just 5.32 per cent. By this standard of progress India will take about 135 years to wipe out the curse of illiteracy. One cannot but marvel at the magnificent advance our country has made since independence in this respect. For, after all, 135 years is not a long period.

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The Central Committee of the C. P. M. has in a resolution appealed to the democratic parties in our country to restore democratic unity. It has also resolved to try for the formation of anti-Congress democratic governments with parties like the C P I, P S P, R S P. etc. in Kerala and with the C P I and the F B in West Bengal. By the way, what about Promode Babu's "class-based front"? And does not this resolution of the Central Committee contradict the posture of the C P M leaders in West Bengal that the anti-Congress democratic role of these parties in the democratic movement is completely exhausted?

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Income-tax arrears stood at Rs. 565.73 crores as at the end of December, 1970. It goes without saying that non-payment of tax due to the big guys mostly accounts for this big arrear. You demand realisation of the sum! What an incorrigible fool are you! Do you not realise that, to give flesh and blood to the courageous slogan of Goribi Hatao of our dear Prime Minister, Sm. Gandhi, the poor tax-dodging millionaires should be adequately rewarded? It is simply for this reason that our socialist Finance Minister, Chavan Bhai, has in the first instalment written off Rs. 7.50 crores of the income-tax in arrears. You should wait for other instalments of writing off.

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During the last President's Rule in West Bengal 153 persons were killed in police firing in the State. In reply to a question in the Lok Sabha the Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Shri K. C. Pant, has given this figure. The figure does not, of course, include hundreds others killed by the police secretly in the darkness of night. President's Rule is nothing but rule by the Central Government which at the material time was headed by Sm. Gandhi. The figure of the cold-blooded murder by the police is perhaps not so big a figure as to make you even express doubt about the "progressive character" of the Congress (R). Isn't it? Three cheers for the parties that go by the name Communist!

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258 persons were killed and 2342 injured in incidents of violence in the last mid-term elections in different states in India. What's of threats, intimidation, severe assault and murder, the last mid-term elections have, nevertheless, been most "free and fair" according to the powers—that—be. Don't be perplexed. For, big men have their own ways of arriving at conclusions which the general layity cannot expect to acquire.

Youths Must Organise Movements against the Curse of Unemployment

In a recent address President, Shri V. V. Giri, had exhorted the government as well as the authorities of educational institutions to exercise strict control over admission of students to technological and engineering institutions, for, otherwise, according to him the country would soon be flooded with thousands of unemployed and under-employed technocrats and engineers of different categories.

This warning, if this can be called a warning at all has been sounded not by the President alone. Many so-called educationists, ministers and other V I P's had, before him, called for restricting entry into the portals of higher education on the same hackneyed ground of the increasing number of educated unemployed persons. These gentlemen consider it not only futile but also injurious to the country if all those, who pass the School Final standard, are allowed to prosecute higher studies; they favour selective education not universal education. We do not intend to discuss here why we oppose selective education and favour universal education. We shall limit ourselves to discussing the unemployment problem.

It is true that more than 60,000 engineers are now unemployed, leading to huge wastage of human energy, grinding frustration of the young unemployed engineers and complete financial ruin of several thousands lower middle-class families who staked their all in expectation of getting their wards employed in relatively lucrative posts after they had graduated from the engineering colleges or universities. It is equally true that the Planning Commission's wrong assessment that for every crore of rupees spent, ten engineering jobs would be created in some sectors of the economy has added fuel to the fire. In spite of this, one cannot agree with the protagonists of selective education. If for the existence of 60,000 un-

employed engineers admission to engineering and technological institutions is to be controlled then for crores of other educated unemployed persons, who now roam the streets of our country in search of jobs, the doors of schools, colleges and universities are to be closed for good. Closure of educational institutions or moratorium on entry into colleges and universities is no solution of the unemployment problem, as the root cause of unemployment is not spread of higher education, it must be realised.

The root cause of unemployment lies in the present capitalist socio-political-economic system in our country. World capitalism today is ridden with serious crises. Due to loss of the relative stability of market, which world capitalist economy used to enjoy, in spite of its general crisis, till the second world war the capitalist crisis has further deepened and the tendency of decay and stagnation has become more pronounced. As a result, crisis has become more frequent, more prolonged affecting more and more branches of industries; it has made the bourgeoisie incapable of utilising fully the installed capacities of the existing industries, notwithstanding the artificial stimulation given by the state to the national economy through increased production of arms and military hardwares and is compelling many capitalists to close down mills and factories. All this is contributing to the unwillingness on the part of

bourgeoisie to take any further risk of new investment of capital for industrial development. This lack of social urge for investment of capital is acting as a brake on further industrialisation.

In the midst of this serious crisis of world capitalism the present capitalist economy of our country presents no better picture. Even the little industrial development, which India has up till now succeeded in achieving, has already landed the capitalist national economy into a serious crisis of market, leading to closure of innumerable industrial establishments, huge non-utilisation of the existing installed capacities of industries, particularly of the machine-building and engineering industries, *en masse* retrenchment and lay-off of workers, etc., all acting as a serious brake on the mechanisation and modernisation of our agriculture (only way of removing the backwardness of the economy) and the opening up of the door of uninterrupted industrial revolution.

In fact, the tasks of mechanising and modernising our agriculture and opening the door of uninterrupted industrial revolution is, in the prevailing situation of our country, inseparably linked up with the tasks of overthrowing the national bourgeoisie from state power, destroying the present capitalist relations of production, which are seriously working as a brake on mechanising and modernising our agriculture and the opening up of the door of uninterrupted industrial revolution and proceeding along the path of socialist reconstruction of the country. Thus, unemployment problem like so many other fundamental problems confronting the lives of our people, will find correct and permanent solution only when the present exploiting capitalist system will be replaced through revolution by a socialist system free from all sorts of exploitation of man by

man. Those who are really serious of ending the curse of unemployment must join and strengthen the struggle for accelerating the preparations for anti-capitalist socialist revolution in our country. This does not preclude, rather it presupposes, massive movements for realising democratic demands like stoppage of closure and lock-out of mills and factories, moratorium on retrenchment and lay-off, introduction of unemployment insurance scheme, payment of unemployment doles, the opening of closed mills and factories, the setting up of new establishments, etc. etc. though they are just palliatives. The crash programme involving Rs. 50 crores of the Central Government to provide some temporary employment to some persons is only a palliative which will not touch even the fringe of the unemployment problem. The caution, that should be sounded, is that the movements must have a correct revolutionary working class leadership, otherwise they will stink in to economism and right opportunism or suffer from left adventurism as so many democratic mass movements had suffered in the past from these two vices.

It should, however, be realised that history has proved beyond doubt that the big left parties like the C. P. M. and the C. P. I. are not real communist parties. They are petty-bourgeois parties masquerading falsely as communists. It is the S. U. C. I. that is the only real revolutionary working class party in our country. It alone can provide the correct leadership to the masses. The people in general, the unemployed in particular, must therefore, organise themselves under its lofty banner and carry on along with the forces organised under other left and democratic parties massive movements against the Congress and its governments, main enemy of the people, for the realisation of their democratic demands mentioned above.

LAKHS JOIN MAIDAN RALLY ON SUC DAY

(By a Staff reporter)

On the occasion of 23rd foundation day anniversary of S. U. C. I. a mammoth meeting was organised at the Saheed Minar Maidan on the last 24th April. People of all walks of life attended the meeting to listen to the speech of Com. Shibdas Ghosh, the leader and teacher of our Party and one of the greatest Marxist thinkers of this age. Peasant cadres and supporters from different places, industrial workers and white collared employees converged to the maidan. As a matter of fact it was a day of processions, big and small, of workers and peasants, of students and intellectuals, of men and women. It was a day of firm resolve and a new beginning to rededicate ourselves to the cause of Indian liberation struggle.

The inclement weather which caused damage to the huge dais, well decorated with the portraits of the great international Communist leaders like Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin, could not however daunt the people who, all converged into a vast sea of humanity at the foot of Saheed Minar, to observe this auspicious occasion.

Leaders of the Party, representing different States of India, like, West Bengal, Bihar, Orissa, Haryana, Kerala, Assam, Uttar Pradesh & Delhi, headed by Com. Shibdas Ghosh attended the meeting. The meeting started with the International presented by Pathikrit and the Democratic Youth Organisation (D. Y. O.). The meeting was presided over by Com. Subodh Banerjee. After a brief inaugural speech by Com. Nihar Mukherjee, Secretary, West Bengal State Committee, Com. Shibdas Ghosh, General Secretary of our Party and a profound Marxist thinker addressed the gathering.

Com. Ghosh pinpointed his discussion on two vital

issues confronting our life at the present time, namely, the Bangladesh freedom struggle and the post election situation in India.

The national liberation in Bangladesh bears a tremendous significance so far as the Indian politics is concerned. While elaborately dealing with the question, how a modern nation develops and the specific historical conditions which led to the emergence of Pakistan as a nation, Com. Ghosh said that in the shaping out of Pakistan nationalism it was confronted with two obstacles. The first, was the attitude of the West Pakistan ruling clique to look upon East Bengal as a colony—exploiting the people there economically, politically, socially and culturally like the imperialists and the second, is the absence of any geographical contiguity between the two wings of Pakistan. As a result of the two factors, Pakistan nationalism failed to develop as one integrated nationalism. Historically a new nation has emerged in Bangladesh born out of a secular democratic outlook and fighting against

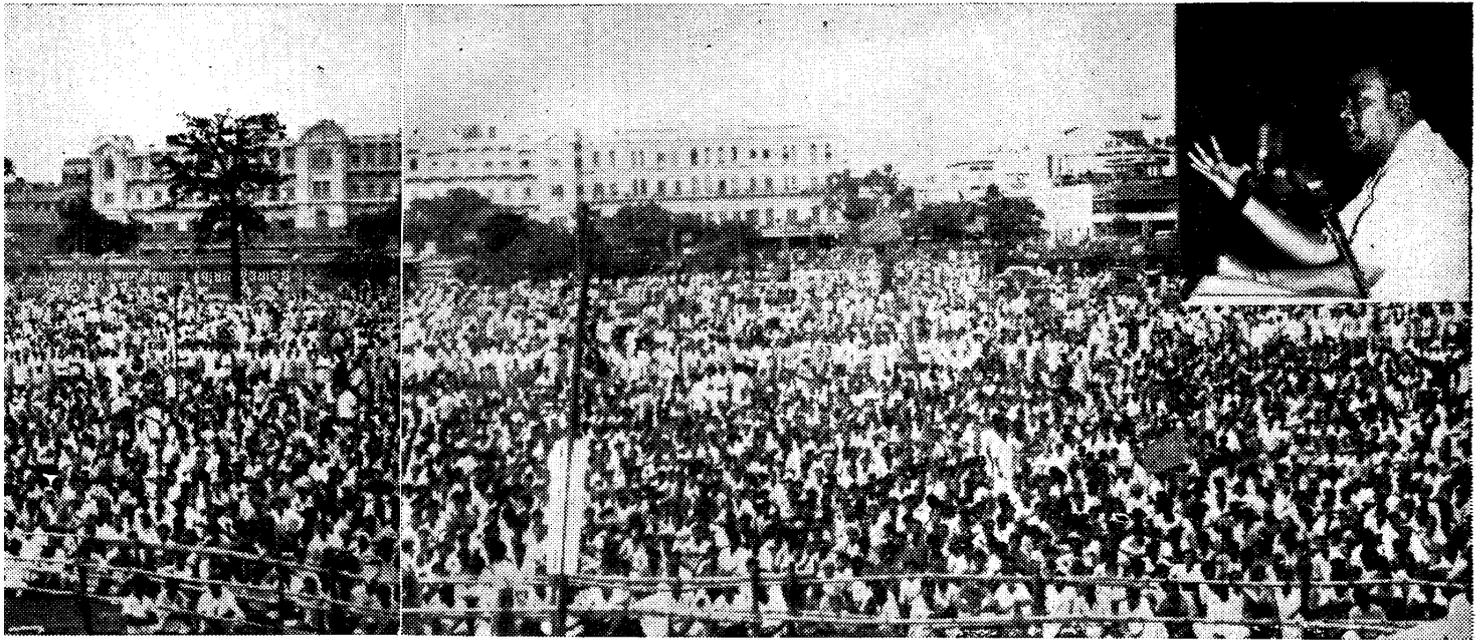


General Secretary Comrade Shibdas Ghosh (inset r

the autocratic rulers of West Pakistan. Com. Ghosh cautioned that one should not harbour any illusion that the present freedom struggle in Bangladesh was drawing inspiration from Indian nationalism or resulting from a close cultural and psychological affinity with West Bengal. Rather it was an expression of Pakistan nationalism canalised in a different form. So in rendering our support to this struggle, we should not suffer from any such misconception that out of this struggle in Bangladesh, we would again be united and become one nation. Such an attitude on our part might cause tremendous harm to this struggle and strengthen the hands of the military rulers of West Pakistan. It is only at a very distant future when working class states would be established in both these countries and the societies would advance towards higher stage of socialism, then only there is a possibility that the national form of these two states would cease to exist and we would again become united in this historical process, he added.

While dealing with the question of leadership of the struggle, Com. Ghosh said that it was a question to be decided

be the people there struggling for complete freedom. "If the broad masses of the people there choose the moderate leadership to guide this struggle, then our attitude should be not to oppose and condemn this leadership, just because it is moderate leadership, as it will frustrate the struggle. So long it is a freedom struggle, even if a feudal lord leads it, every freedom loving person cannot but support this struggle." Com. Ghosh pointed out that the leadership of the struggle could not be achieved by the revolutionaries through squabbles and in-fighting. Only those who could effectively organise and consolidate the armed freedom struggle most consistently and dedicatedly and could successfully adapt to all the processes of the armed struggle would ultimately emerge as the leader of the struggle. "What is of primary importance now is to develop powerful militant units, train and develop the liberation fighters into a regular army and to organise militia of the fighting people through the creation of innumerable guerilla units spread throughout the country." Com. Ghosh specifically emphasised that the freedom fighters of Bangladesh should



b) addressing the massive rally at Saheed Minar Maidan on the occasion of 23rd anniversary of the SUCI

raise this common slogan that there could be no settlement even an inch below complete national independence of Bangladesh. If any leader or any section of the freedom fighters started talking about any compromise below this point and at the cost of full freedom, then, whoever they may be, they should be gradually isolated from the struggle. In East Bengal it was necessary to form an all party national front combining all those who want full freedom. And what was most important was to keep this unity of the national front as the apple of an eye and not to allow any dispute regarding the leadership of the struggle to come to the forefront and disturb this unity,—most vitally needed for the success of the struggle he said. In this connection Com. Ghosh also criticised the willy nilly attitude of the India Government in giving recognition to the Government of Bangladesh and extending effective support in all forms including supply of military hardwares to the freedom fighters.

Com. Ghosh then elaborately discussed on the post-poll situation in India, the role of various political parties, specially of the Congress (R),

the C. P. I. and the C. P. I (M) and the tasks of left and democratic parties. He gave a brilliant exposition of the factors which were responsible for the sweeping victory of the Congress (R) throughout the country and the C. P. I. (M)'s gaining in strength and emerging as the largest single Party in West Bengal. The victory of the Congress (R) was not a victory of democracy, he said. The tremendous confusions which have been created amongst the masses about the Congress (R), thanks to the role of the big left parties like the C. P. I. and the C.P.I. (M), in the sphere of left movement and the success of Indira Congress in creating confusions even amongst the ranks of the left parties are the root cause for this major victory of the Congress (R). He said that not only in other states, but even in West Bengal, the results of the polls definitely had gone more in favour of the Congress (R), than in favour of the C. P. I. (M). He said, the inhuman torture of police was being daily perpetrated on the peasantry and other sections of the toiling peoples in West Bengal. Although the C.P.I.(M) is claiming that it had vastly increased its

strength and had become the largest party, still there was no sign of any surging mass movement in the state. It was simply because that the U. F., the instrument of united mass struggle, which was developed in West Bengal had been disrupted and was now no longer existing due to the left sectarian disruptive politics of the C. P. I. (M). Com. Ghosh concluded his speech by saying that our Party, due to its relative organisational weakness, could not pull together all the left and democratic parties, through persuasion and even by giving concessions to them. It is the C. P. I. (M), a big and powerful organisation, which should have made a sincere move to dispel the apprehensions of other left parties regarding its left sectarian and aggressive politics

aiming at violently liquidating the workers and supporters of other left and democratic parties and build up a left and democratic front. "If such a left democratic front does not take shape, then the coming onslaught of fascism on the legitimate democratic mass movements and Sm. Indira Gandhi's dictatorial rule can not be forestalled and ultimately, in the wake of fascism, the ruin of us all cannot be prevented."

After that Com. Subodh Banerjee moved the main resolution expressing deep concern at the sweeping victory of the Congress (R) in the last mid-term poll and a resolution on Bangla Desh, hailing the heroic struggle of the freedom fighters there and both these resolutions were adopted unanimously.



The dias decorated with pictures of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin and 23 Flags atop

Repeal P.D. Act

(Continued from page 1)

enable them to gag the voice of the opposition, carry on mounting attacks on the leaders, workers and supporters of anti-Congress left and democratic parties and ruthlessly suppress the legitimate democratic mass movements. Powers of preventive detention without trial of the citizens and foreigners in the hands of an anti-people Government with fascistic tendencies, like the Congress (R) Government at the Centre, are the greatest threats to the fundamental democratic rights and liberties of our people.

It is not a fact that the Government has no power to deal effectively with foreign spies and anti-socials. The government has enough powers to take suitable steps to safeguard internal security. None of the black Acts introduced by the foreign imperialist rulers of our country has been withdrawn. In addition to them the Central Government and the state Governments have, in the post-independence period, passed innumerable lawless laws. After the P. D. Act had lapsed in December, 1969 almost every state has had its own laws for preventive detention without trial. The P. V. A Act of West Bengal is an example of such state laws. And if the Indira Government still wants to arm itself with the Maintenance of Internal Security Ordinance, it is because it wants to go the whole hog in sharpening the gnawing claws of the police in ruthlessly curtailing the democratic rights of the people and suppressing their just movements more fiercely than before.

During her election campaign for the last mid-term election Sm. Gandhi waxed eloquent on the necessity of amending the Constitution of our country for ensuring social justice to our people. She expressed her determination to banish poverty and usher in an

era of prosperity for the masses. The politically unconscious masses of the people misled by her radical cloak (thanks to the C. P. I. and the C. P. M. which are no less responsible for helping Sm. Gandhi and her Congress in gaining a progressive image in mass mind) have voted her to power. Her Government now commands two-third majority in the Lok Sabha. She is in a position to amend the Constitution and bring in any piece of legislation in whatever way she desires. Placed in such an invulnerable position, she has not utilised her position in ameliorating the unbearable sufferings and lessening the grinding poverty of our people nor in expanding democracy and securing more democratic rights to them. It is no accident that she and her Government, without showing the slightest intention of fulfilling the promises she made to the people during the election campaign, have, on the contrary, availed themselves of superior strength in the Lok Sabha and come out with an ugly weapon for naked repression of the people.

Those, who harbour illusion about Sm. Gandhi and the Congress (R) as progressive, must take appropriate lessons from this anti-people move of the Indira Government and rectify their wrong notion. Like the Congress (O), the Congress(R) also is a bourgeois party, main enemy of the Indian people. The only difference between the two is that while the Congress (O) is a party of the conservative section of the Indian bourgeoisie defending the individual interests of the Indian monopolists, the Congress (R) is a party of the so-called radical section of the bourgeoisie and stands for the aggregate interests of Indian monopoly capitalism. It must also be borne in mind that

fascism requires for its growth and development in a country a radical cloak without which it is impossible for it to conceal its real colour, deceive the masses and enlist popular support behind it. Social-Democratic programmes provide that radical cloak. Sm. Gandhi's radical cloak serves the same purpose. The Congress (R) has in it more of the potential danger of fascism in our country compared to the Congress (O). The promulgation of the preventive detention Ordinance is a manifesta-

tion of fascistic tendency in the Congress(R). Surely, this is not going to be the last manifestation. Now that Sm. Gandhi's Government is secure in position, many more draconian black laws are sure to follow it. In the interest of safeguarding the fundamental democratic rights of the people the increasing threats to the democratic mass movements must be combated. Forge broad democratic unity and resist the hated black law for preventive detention—this is the call of the day.

SUC members walk out of WB Legislative Assembly

CALCUTTA, MAY 5,—The members of the Socialist Unity Centre of India in the West Bengal Legislative Assembly today staged a walk out from the House. Before the walk out Comrade Subodh Banerjee made the following statement. It may be noted that while the CPM staged the walk out on the ground of alleged partisan attitude of the Governor in the formation of the present Ministry in the state, the SUCI walked out on the definite charge of police oppression on the people and political parties.

“During the last President's Rule West Bengal suffered from an orgy of police violence unprecedented in the history of our country surpassing in magnitude and brutality even the police oppression of the days of British imperialist rule here. It was during this period that draconic PVA Act and Public Security Act were brought into being, hundreds of political workers, trade union leaders and peasant organisers detained without trial in jails, thousands of false cases against the people instituted, the CRP, armed police forces of our states, BSF and the Army deployed to oppress common men and a section of the State Police behaved as worst criminals, taking law into their own hands, severely assaulting and murdering persons under police custody, killing more than one hundred and fifty citizens, looting standing crops and properties of poor peasants at the behest of notorious jote-

dars and even molesting and raping women. The police violence was so nakedly sadistic and consequent public resentment so loud that even the State Congress (R) and its student wing could not but pay lip service to the demand of withdrawal of the CRP and stoppage of police atrocities. Not only did the police indulge in these criminal acts but also a section of it in collusion with a particular party (meaning the CPM—Editor, P.E.) shielded the real offenders and carried on mounting attacks on the workers of small parties, thereby throwing to the winds administrative neutrality and behaving in a partisan way. As a protest against all this, for which the Governor not only as the Constitutional Head but also as the administrative Head during the President's Rule is responsible, the members of the SUCI in the West Bengal Legislative Assembly will walk out of the House at the time of Governor's Address”

CPI workers join SUC

(By a Staff reporter)

On 18th March last, Com. Anarul Huq and Com. Alauddin, the respective ex-secretaries of Goalpara Local Committee and Mahendragunj Local Committee of the C. P. I. in Assam have left the C. P. I. and joined the Socialist Unity Centre of India along with almost all the members of the committees.

In a statement they have expressed their conviction that the activities of the C. P. I. clearly indicate that it is nothing but a petty bourgeois parliamentary party, spreading parliamentary illusion over the toiling masses and is unable to bring about socialism in our country. The ideology, the programme and the various political stand of S. U. C. I. on many important national and international issues and activities have unmistakably revealed to them that it is the S. U. C. I. which is the only correct Marxist-Leninist revolutionary working class party in our country. Although S. U. C. I. is organisationally weak in Assam, it is all the

more necessary that this Party under the wise leadership of Com. Shibdas Ghosh, the General Secretary of the Party, should be strengthened and developed into a mighty organisation by propagating its views before the broad section of the toiling masses in Assam and actively bringing them into its fold, for, herein lies the prospect of organising the anti-capitalist socialist revolution in our country and overthrowing the bourgeoisie from power, and thereby with the establishment and consolidation of the dictatorship of the proletariat bringing about socialism thus emancipating the toiling masses of our country from all sorts of exploitation.

PRESS CLIPPINGS

We publish here two letters published in an English daily in our country. They will throw some light on how Sm. Indira Gandhi is implementing her Goribi Hatao plan.

"I am a worker of the Rourkela Steel Plant. Our Company is going to build a swimming pool at the cost of Rs 10 lakhs or so when about 14,000 workers of the plant have not been provided with living quarters. Which is more urgent, a swimming pool or quarters for workers? Is this socialism?" S. Banerjee, Rourkela.

Second letter. "Each Air India jumbo jet, with its ground equipment, costs Rs. 22.50 crores. There are to be three classes—economy, first and the Princes' class. The last is not, of course, meant for the Princes... but for the modern princes of our democracy, ruling Congress Ministers who

visit foreign lands under the garb of official tours. *** Three more air giants are yet to arrive to take the total expenses to Rs. 90 crores which of course, we have borrowed from foreign banks and will repay in hard currency. This Rs 90-crore project is in sharp contrast with the Rs. 50-crore "crash programme" for creating employment. God knows whether these Rs. 50 crores will be spent, or just misappropriated. But one thing is certain: while the jumbos fly across the sky half-empty, the crowds outside the employment exchanges will swell with millions of frustrated unemployed people." K. V. Raman, Hyderabad.

Civic Elections In Delhi

(By a Staff Reporter)

New Delhi : The electors went to polls on May 2 last to elect their representatives in the Municipal Corporation of Delhi. Both the Congress (R) and the Jan Sangh contested in all the seats.

The Jan Sangh has gained absolute majority. As against 51 seats it had in the last Corporation, this time the Party has secured 54 of the total 100 seats. Coming as it does so soon after the last mid-term elections for the Lok Sabha, when the Congress (R) won all the seven seats, the former Congress (R) President, Shri Jagjivan Ram, expressed the hope that his party would capture at least 80 seats. But it has won only 41 seats—three less than it had in the outgoing Corporation. The C. P. I. which contested 11 seats has won one seat; so has the Congress (O). Three independent candidates, one of whom was backed by the Republican Party of India, have been victorious.

The voting results once again establish that the Jan Sangh's influence over the electors in Delhi still continues. The big left parties, to be precise, the C.P.I. and the C.P.M. have

practically no hold over the people even though these parties have hosts of top leaders permanently residing and regular offices located in palatial buildings in this part of the country. In fact, left democratic movement in Delhi is very weak.

In the prevailing situation the only correct way is to forge a left democratic unity of the different left and democratic parties functioning in Delhi, irrespective of whether they are big or small, and conduct united democratic movements on the basis of democratic demands of the citizens against the Jan Sangh-controlled Municipal authorities and the Congress (R) Government. The Provisional Delhi State Committee of the S. U. C. I. has, in a statement, urged upon all other left and democratic parties functioning in Delhi to come forward and build up this left democratic unity.

Deputation To Union Steel Minister

(By a Staff reporter)

Com. B. Jena, Secretary, Rourkela Worker's Union, led by S. U. C. met the Union Iron and Steel Minister along with other delegates on 6. 5. '71 at Rourkela House and submitted a memorandum containing some important and immediate demands of the workers engaged under Hindusthan Steel Limited, Rourkela Steel Plant.

Demands listed are provision of quarters to all H. S. L. Workers and employees of Rourkela Steel Plant, abolition of contract system of labour, abolition of C. C. R., provision of cycle allowance to all employees, promotion on seniority basis, paid holiday on May Day, facility of I.O.D. (Injury on Duty) as granted to workers in other Central Government establishments etc. The memorandum specifically points out that while 14,000 H. S. L. employees have not been provided with any quarters or given any quarter allowance, a dire necessity for them, the management, on the other hand, is

spending lavishly on swimming pool and on other heads. The memorandum also states that while the Congress (R) leaders are loudly proclaiming about their objective of establishing socialism through democratic means their activities are just opposite to this end, thus citing an instance of introduction of C. C. R. (Confidential Character Report) which is curtailing the hard-earned democratic rights of the workers and employees. It urges upon the Steel Minister to give an immediate thought to these demands and take effective steps for removing the long standing grievances of the workers of Rourkela Steel Plant.

Lately Realised !

In the Central Committee resolution of the CPM as published in Peoples Democracy dated 18th April, 1971 it has been stated inter alia :—"In view of this experience gained by all parties of the democratic opposition, the Central Committee appeals to all of them to turn a new leaf and help the restoration of the unity of democratic opposition forces, which, with ups and downs, on various occasions, all these parties, pursued from 1952 to 1969."

This resolution has particularly urged upon C. P. I. to revise its present policy of supporting Congress (R) and help the formation of an anti-Congress Government in Kerala and West Bengal. The spirit of the resolution reads that C. P. M. also considers C. P. I. to be a democratic force and as such urges for "the restoration of the unity of democratic opposition forces" including C. P. I.

The necessity of the restoration of the unity of democratic forces cannot undoubtedly be questioned and S.U.C.I. has been consistently striving for the same. It is our considered view that the task of Indian revolution cannot be accomplished, bypassing the present democratic phase of mass movement in our country and no real revolutionary party can forget that masses of the people are still under the influences of various bourgeois and petty bourgeois parties with non-working class world outlook. Even a major section of the working class is still under the influence of these parties. Hence, revolution is impossible unless the broad masses of the people are freed from the influences of these parties and organised under the leadership of a real working class party. But under the present circumstances this can only be done by organising the broad masses under a broad democratic front of parties that still have positive role to play in the democratic movement and conducting united mass movement against the common enemy and at the

same time carrying out relentless ideological struggle within the Front without disturbing the unity of the Front against the common enemy. By carrying out ideological struggle within the Front, all other bourgeois, petty bourgeois social democratic parties and pseudo-left parties are to be exposed and isolated from the masses and the hegemony, both ideological and organisational, of a really revolutionary party is to be established. It is at that very juncture the role of united democratic Front will be exhausted. But for Indian revolution that stage is far away and hence, United Front of all left and democratic forces is the only call of the hour.

R. K. B.

But do the C. P. M. leaders realise that it is due to their left opportunistic disruptive policy that the United Front came to an end? If they realise their mistakes, have the leaders of C. P. M. made any attempt to rectify them? Does the political behaviour of its leadership justify that they are 'turning a new leaf' and making every serious attempt to restore the unity of democratic forces?

If they were really serious about democratic unity, CPM should have seized the opportunity provided by S.U.C.I. in mooted the idea of U. L. F.-U. L. D. F. coalition which would have been the best form of Government under the post election situation in West Bengal. Even a formal proposal to U. L. D. F. for such a coalition was not put forward by C. P. M. C. P. M., instead took recourse to horse trading

and sent emissary even to Muslim League for coming back to power. Do the leaders of C. P. M. realise that such unprincipled moves only encourage defection, the much hated practice in bourgeois parliamentary politics? Do these leader realise that their frantic attempt for a C. P. M.-led Government made parties like C. P. I. and F. B. panicky as they apprehended that C. P. M. would pursue the same aggressive design to annihilate the cadres of other parties? Although the decision of C. P. I. and F. B. to support Congress (R) is regrettable, yet the main responsibility of pushing them on to the lap of Congress(R) lies with C.P.M.

If the Central Committee resolution is not a mere paper document, how could the leaders of C P M break the U. F. of the Calcutta Corporation? Why did the U. F. of the Calcutta Corporation break down?

It is undoubtedly true that C. P. I. and F.B. supported Congress (R) to form Government in West Bengal and we also do not hold any brief for the revisionist line of C. P. I.; but the charge that C. P. I. painted Congress (R) as progressive and supported it should not be the reason for breaking the U. F. of the Calcutta Corporation since C. P. M. also cannot be absolved of the responsibility in projecting Congress (R) as progressive as stated in its Politbureau resolution published in Peoples Democracy dated 15th February, 1970. So long the C. P. I. is considered to be a force in democratic movement, as has been admitted in the Central Committee resolution of the C. P. M. will it not be a correct policy to arrest them in a democratic front? Will the leaders of the C.P.M. admit that the C. P. I. and the F. B. were pushed towards Congress (R) by their wrong politics? Judging the political behaviour of the C. P. M., will it be wrong to

conclude that the C.C. resolution of the C. P. M. is just a paper document to pacify the rank and file of the C. P. M., who were restive due to such a debacle of their party in all the States excepting West Bengal?

By the way, how the leaders of C. P. M. are going to reconcile the Central Committee resolution urging for the restoration of the unity of democratic forces with the stand of Promode babu in which he declared that the role of U. F. had exhausted and advocated for a class-based Front? Since, in a class divided society, every Front is a class Front, the term class-based Front is nonsense; but what Promode babu probably meant was Proletarian United Front. The term class-based Front could have no other meaning. But even so this was against the political line of peoples democratic revolution. Promode babu preached that all other compromising parties had been exposed and isolated and people had been politically and organisationally united under the leadership of C. P. M. and thus the subjective and objective condition for seizure of power was ripe. But curiously in the recent Central Committee resolution of C.P. I. (M) the call for the restoration of the unity of the democratic opposition forces was again given. Then what would now be the fate of Promode babu's class-based Front?

Under the present situation when the left and democratic movement suffered serious set back and Congress (R); which represents the aggregate interest of the Indian monopoly capitalism, has been returned to power with such an overwhelming majority, the restoration of a broad based democratic Front is the only guarantee to safe-guard the interest of the toiling masses from the oncoming fascist onslaught. As a big left party in West Bengal and Kerala, C. P. M. must strive for unity of democratic forces after rectifying its mistakes and in this connection no false sense of vanity should stand in the way. C. P. I. and F. B. should also revise their policy of supporting the Congress (R). But it must be remembered that it was solely due to the left opportunistic disruptive policy of the C.P.M that the right opportunistic forces could avail the scope to break up the U. F. Therefore we appeal to the C. P. M. to rectify their past mistakes and make all out attempt for the unity of the democratic forces without any further delay for the cause of left and democratic movement in this country.