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'TRADE UNION RIGHTS' DAY

Three Centres Call For September 2

The three Central Trade Union Organisations, AITUC, HMS and UTUC, have called upon the workers and trade unions to jointly observe "Trade Union Rights Day" on September 2, 1960.

The call for observance of the Day was given in two statements, one jointly by AITUC and UTUC and other by HMS.

Following is the text of the statement issued by K. G. Sriwastava and Jatin Chakravarty of AITUC and UTUC:

The workers and trade unions in our country view with serious concern the mounting attacks by the Government employers on the trade union and democratic rights of the working people. These disturbing trends have become more pronounced and have reached a peak in the all-out attack launched by the Government vis-a-vis the strike by Central Government employees.

A perfectly legal strike, declared in strict conformity with the requirements of industrial legislation, was declared illegal arbitrarily by Government. The heinous Essential Services Maintenance Ordinance was promulgated for this purpose, arming the Government with draconian powers.

Over 16,000 employees were arrested and detained with a view to crush the strike. There were indiscriminate lathi-charges and in police firings ordered on striking workers at Dohad, seven lost their lives and many were injured.

The vindictiveness which has been exhibited by Government in relation to the trade dispute raised by its employees and the strike that followed, has had no parallel in recent history. About 50,000 employees have been suspended from service, for their participation in strike and thousands of them have been summarily discharged, though the Supreme Court has laid down in a number of judgments that mere participation in an illegal strike should not be punished with dismissals. A large number of employees have been convicted by the Courts under the draconian

ordinance and many hundreds are facing prosecution under all kinds of framed-up charges.

The Central Government employees fought for the vindication of principles which vitally affect all sections of the trade union movement. These principles involved the sanctity of tripartite agreements on need-based minimum wages and linking dearness allowance to cost of living indices. Should the Government persist in the attitude displayed by it during the recent strike towards these agreements, the trade unions may also be compelled to revise their attitude towards the present tripartite machinery.

It was because of this that the workers throughout the country, by their General Strike on July 14, expressed their solidarity with the Central Government employees.

The recent pronouncements of the Government in the matter of the trade union rights of its employees have gone one step ahead in its anti-labour policies. The recognition of trade unions which have the support of the majority of the workers is being withdrawn. Measures are also being contemplated to bring statutory legislation to deprive Government employees of their basic trade union rights of organisation and action.

These attacks on the trade union and democratic rights of the working people have to be unitedly resisted by the entire working class and the trade union movement. We therefore appeal to workers and trade unions, irrespective

of affiliation, to observe FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 1960, as "TRADE UNION RIGHTS DAY" throughout the country.

Joint processions and meetings should be organised that day and resolutions condemning attack on trade union rights and preparation for their defence should be passed and sent to the Union Labour Ministry and the Prime Minister.

We are glad to announce that this is agreed to by all the three Central trade union organisations, viz., the AITUC, HMS and UTUC.

HIND MAZDOOR SABHA STATEMENT

DEVEN SEN, MLA, President, Hind Mazdoor Sabha, has issued the following statement to the Press:

At no period in the history of India was such a determined assault made by the Government on the trade union rights of the working class.

More than 15,000 Central Government employees were arrested, and about 50,000 of them have either been suspended and dismissed. Strikers have been arrested, beaten, their quarters broken into and the children and the womenfolk terrorised and thrown out into the streets. Recognition has been withdrawn from unions having the largest representative character. To crown all, a legislation is sought to be introduced banning strikes of Central Government employees.

Nowhere, in any democratic country of the world, does

such a state of affairs exist. At this juncture, in the trade union movement, we cannot sit idle and remain indifferent. We must resist the sinister move of the Government unitedly and with determination.

On behalf of the Hind Mazdoor Sabha, I therefore appeal to the working class in India to observe 2nd September 1960 as "Trade Union Rights Day" throughout the country.

I am glad to announce that both the AITUC and the UTUC have agreed to this proposal.

On that day meetings and demonstrations should be held jointly throughout the length and breadth of the country, resolutions adopted condemning the Government's new offensive and copies sent to the Labour Minister and the Prime Minister, New Delhi.



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MYSTERY OF THE MISSING PLANE

I HAVE a tragic tale to reveal — Indian deaths due to an accident in the air. More, the news is being withheld from the relations of the deceased, despite the clear provisions of the law, despite the claims of elementary decency. Worse, the reasons for the silence seems to be to give the guilty time to cover up the tracks and work up plausible excuses.

On July 11, the States-

man, Calcutta, published the news of one Indian aircraft missing on its way to Bombay from Bahrain. The general strike came and all news about the missing aircraft got crowded out. But the relations of the deceased could not rest.

They contacted PTI Calcutta, the civil aviation authorities at Dum Dum, and the bosses of the aircraft concerned but drew blank.

At last they went to the leaders of the Aircraft Employees Trade Union with the hope that they at least would help.

The Trade Union leaders could not bring the dead back to life but they dug out the facts. Here they are:—

—The aircraft involved in the accident is V. T.—DGS of the Kalinga Airlines.

It crashed into the Arabian Sea on July 10 while on way to Bombay from Bahrain.

—During this fatal flight there were 14 persons on board including three of the crew, whose names are known but for obvious reasons I am not giving them right here.

—The reason for the accident was that the engine caught fire.

The law demands that soon after such a crash the names of the passengers and the crew should be given wide publicity so that the relatives and friends of the victims get duly informed. In this case the news is being kept back even

from the parents of the crew. The first and foremost question that arises is why are the officials of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation, New Delhi, keeping back the news from the relatives of the deceased and the press of the country?

The Kalinga Airways goes wherever there is trouble and easy money to make, over the Nefa to drop food and not only food. It is influential enough to get Army assignments to help them with air drops on our borders.

The key-men of the Kalinga are foreign adventurers whose notoriety and black deeds have been reported by the Union leaders of the Civil Aviation Employees to the proper authorities but nothing is ever done. They have some very powerful links inside the top bureaucracy and so they manage to keep going, playing with Indian lives, piling up big money, and doing the dirty jobs assigned to them by their real masters, the alien enemies of India. Government must be made to act, this time at least.

NEXT WEEK
To mark the 13th Anniversary of Independence New Age will carry special articles on the Third Five-Year Plan.



A section of the huge protest demonstration in Calcutta on July 29. Photo: Sambhu Banerjee.

P. M.'s ASSURANCES MUST BE HONoured

The Secretariat of the Tamilnad Provincial Council of the Communist Party of India meeting in Madras on July 26, adopted a resolution on the current language controversy. The following is the text of the resolution:

IN 1958-59 a bitter controversy was raging in the country over the question of the Union language. Prime Minister Nehru made a speech on September 4, 1959 in the course of the debate in Parliament on the report of the Parliamentary Committee on Official Language, which was welcomed throughout the country and by all sections of the people as a speech with a right approach. In that speech, the Prime Minister gave two categorical assurances viz:

1. That after 1965, when Hindi becomes the official language of the Indian Union under Article 363 of the Constitution, English would continue as an additional language and this position would not be changed without the consent of the non-Hindi speaking people; and

2. That in regard to the Union Services, steps would be taken to see that disadvantages would not accrue to the non-Hindi speaking people and that Hindi would not be made a qualification for such services.

After this speech and debate, the President of India made his Order on the Report of the Parliamentary Committee on Official Language.

The President's Order directs action for evolving terminology in the field of science and technology in all the Indian languages, using the terms in international use with the minimum change and to coordinate the work in this field.

The President has directed that in the local offices of the Central Government, the Central Government should keep in view the need for providing facilities to the local public by making available to them forms and departmental literature for their use in the regional language in as a large a measure as possible.

In regard to categories of posts in local offices of the Central Government of which the incumbents are not ordinarily liable to transfer outside the region, the President's order accepts in principle the suggestion that the staff structure should be reviewed and decentralised on a regional basis and the recruitment methods and qualifications have to be reviewed suitably.

The Order has directed that arrangements should be made for translation of Parliamentary legislation into Hindi as well as into regional languages.

In respect of the language of the High Courts, the Order directs the undertaking in due course of legislation to provide for the use optionally of Hindi and other official languages of States for purposes of judgements, decrees and orders.

These directives are in the right direction and are therefore welcome.

However, it is regrettable that the Order, while it makes a casual reference to the important speech of the Prime Minister of September 4, 1959 as 'indicating broadly the approach of the Government to the official language question', does not mention specifically the two assurances given by the Prime Minister and express the President's determination to carry them out.

Similarly, while the Order summarises the recommendations of the Parliamentary Committee that "after 1965, when Hindi becomes the official language of the Union, English should continue as the subsidiary language", there is no specific directive that legislation should be

replaces English as the medium of instruction in the University courses.

The fact that English is available as a medium of the examinations for recruitment to all-India services will be of no use to the non-Hindi speaking students who have undergone their University courses with their regional language as the medium of instruction. For, they will be able to effectively take part in any examination only in the language in which they have undergone their University courses and not in either Hindi or English.

For example, the Madras Government have already passed a G. O. directing that Tamil should be the medium of instruction and examination in all arts subjects of the B. A. degree course from the year 1963. What serious disadvantages these graduates will have to face if they have to answer their papers either in English or Hindi and not in Tamil can be easily imagined. As such this directive will be a handicap and work to the serious disadvantage of not only the Tamil but also of the non-Hindi speaking people.

It is pertinent to recall that the resolutions of the

Secretariat of the Tamilnad Council of the CPI is convinced that united mobilisation by all parties of Tamilnad as well as the support by the State Government will compel acceptance of these demands, particularly in view of the assurances by the Prime Minister.

The Secretariat feels that the movement proposed to be launched by the DMK against the President's order, by taking up a general stand against the Hindi language itself, will only disrupt the unity that is possible of achievement on the specific issue of modification of the President's order in accordance with the Prime Minister's assurances, and hence we feel that such a movement is not in the interest of the Tamil people. We hope that the DMK will give due consideration to this aspect of the question.

The Secretariat is firmly of opinion that this question of State language need not have aroused bitter controversy but for the policy pursued by the Government since independence, for it failed to take effective steps to realise the aspirations of the people for enshrining their own region-

as early as March 1939, the conference of Indian Universities resolved that "the medium of instruction at different stages of education up to and inclusive of the degree course should, as far as circumstances permit, be the mother-tongue of the students".

After independence, in 1948, a committee of the Vice-Chancellors of the Indian Universities, had recommended that Universities should, within a period of five years from 1948, adopt the language of the State, Province or region as the medium of instruction and examination and that after the period of five years from 1948 English should cease to be the medium of instruction and examination.

The University Education Commission in 1949, had viewed this problem in the only correct perspective and stated:

"Both from the point of view of education and of general welfare of a democratic community, it is essential that their study should be through the instrumentality of their regional language. Education in the regional language will not only be necessary for their Provincial activities, it will enable them to enrich their literature and develop their culture. Educated naturally in the regional language, they ought to achieve higher standards of learning and of thought, and should be able to give a powerful stimulus to research and extension of the boundaries of knowledge. Equipped with the requisite knowledge of the federal language, the Provincial students will have no difficulty in joining institutions of an all-India character, and the Provincial scholars in understanding to teach them".

Had these categorical and unambiguous recommendations been implemented and English ceased to be the medium of instruction in the University by 1953, Tamil and other regional languages would have in fact become the language of administration in all spheres in the States. People would have then seen that, in these conditions, nothing could suppress Tamil. The whole question of the language of the Union and inter-State communication would have been viewed as a question of practical need in a multi-lingual country and all the bitter controversies would never have arisen.

Unfortunately not only were these recommendations of the highest educational authorities which fully corresponded with democratic opinion, not implemented, but twelve years after independence a bitter controversy has once again arisen over the question of replacement of English by the regional language as the media of instruction at the University level—a controversy that was supposed to have been settled long ago.

There is even bitter opposition from reactionary vested interests in the educational institutions even to the tardy and halting steps that Gov-

Even before independence,

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C. P.'s Tamilnad Secretariat Statement On Language Issue

undertaken for this purpose under clause (3) of Article 363.

The Secretariat of the Tamilnad Council of the CPI, however, feels that in the conditions prevailing in the country, such legislation will have to be undertaken.

What is, however, most disquieting is the directive in regard to the medium of examinations for recruitment to All-India services and the higher Central Services. The President's order directs that action may be taken for the introduction of Hindi as an alternative medium of such examinations after some time. The order further states categorically that "the introduction of various regional languages as alternative media is likely to lead to serious difficulties" and on this ground it does not agree even to the appointment of an expert committee to examine the feasibility of the introduction of regional languages as alternative media.

This directive throws overboard the specific assurance given by the Prime Minister that steps would be taken to see that non-Hindi speaking people do not suffer any disadvantage in the matter of Union Public Services.

While it is true that no disadvantage would immediately devolve on the non-Hindi speaking candidates this position will change to the disadvantage of these candidates after the regional language

Congress Working Committee and of the Central Committee of the CPI as also the All-Parties Committee constituted by the Madras Government have all recommended that the regional languages should be available as a medium of examinations for recruitment to the All-India services.

The Secretariat of the Tamilnad Council of the CPI, therefore, demands the amendment of the President's order to provide for the regional languages as alternative media for examinations for recruitment to all-India services.

DMK Movement Disruptive

The Secretariat further demands that the Central Government must declare their intention to bring in legislation in Parliament under Clause (3) of Article 363, providing for the continued use of English after 1965, for the purposes of the Union. This is necessary to set at rest any doubt due to the absence of a positive directive to this effect in the President's order.

As already stated, the demands are in complete accord with the recommendations of the All-Parties Committee of Madras as well as of the Government of Madras. In view of this, and also because these demands correspond with the interest of the entire non-Hindi speaking people, the

languages as the language of administration in their States. In Madras, for example, despite the declaration by the State Government and legislature that Tamil is the State language, English continues for all practical purposes as the State language, barring speeches in the legislature.

In this background, with the memory of suppression of their languages by the alien rulers, apprehensions that their regional languages may be suppressed by Hindi as it was previously suppressed by English, continues to lurk in the minds of the non-Hindi speaking peoples.

The Secretariat of the Tamilnad Council of the CPI is firmly convinced that no radical improvement in the direction of replacing English as the language of administration can be brought about so long as English remains as the medium of instruction in the University courses. The fact that Tamil is already the medium of instruction up to the High School course does not alter the position. This, only has created difficulties for the students in the University courses who are suddenly forced to learn their subjects in an alien language. This is so because, in the ultimate analysis, the language of administration, of the courts and legislature is inseparably connected with the medium of instruction and examination in the University courses.