

## CLASS WAR

A CORRESPONDENT

Andhra is much in the news all over the country. Not for its achievements in foodgrains production or for its involvement in river waters dispute but for the harijan killing spree of the landlords during the past two months.

It all started in October last when the landlords in Gummalaxmipuram in the Parvatipuram area of Srikakulam district shot dead two tribals for having dared to join a movement asking for implementation of the 1917 regulation enacted by the British rulers, prohibiting alienation of tribal lands by plainmen. It was not the communists who took law and order into their own hands, but the landlords. But strangely enough, the Government sent five platoons of special police to put down the tribals who were victims of landlord brutality.

This was indeed a signal for the landlord class in the whole State to go on a attack-and-kill spree. No price need be paid for killing a poor man, provided the killer is a landlord and a supporter of the Government.

The most prominent incident that took place between the attack on tribals and the harijan boy incident in February was the thirty-six-hour-long raid on Takulapalli village in Khammam district by the followers of a Minister from that district. The goondas went in lorries to the hamlet of Lambadis (tribals), surrounded the village, looted every house and carried the booty in lorries after setting fire to the house, raping at least half-a-dozen women and beating up literally everyone, including a sixty-year-old man. Some people were reluctantly arrested, and then one doesn't know what happened to them.

The facts of the Kanchakacherla incident in which a harijan boy was tied to a pole and an attempt made to burn him alive by a group of people led by a fifty-year-old woman (owning 50 acres of virginia tobacco land) are too well-known to be repeated here. The only significant aspect of this incident is that the State Government's police were sleeping over the incident until the issue was raised in Parliament and then only the culprits were arrested.

As Parliament was discussing this matter, another group of landlords rounded up a group of tribals in Kammavaripalem village in the same Krishna district, confined them for two days without food and water, alleging that they had come to the village to commit theft. These tribals have been coming to the village every year for years together in that season for agricultural operations.

Within a week of this incident, an agricultural labourer was hacked and speared to death in Inapur village in the same district. This was followed by the murder of an agricultural labourer in a village in Warangal district, another in Khammam district and yet another in Manikonda village in Krishna district again.

Without exception, in all these cases, it was the landlord that killed a poor man.

It is a clear case of class war declared by the landed gentry on the landless.

It is to cover up this that a harijan twist is being given and attempts are being made to sidetrack the attention of the public from the real cause. Simultaneous attempts are being made to split the trade union movement on scheduled caste non-scheduled caste basis.

The Left Communist leader, Mr Nagi Reddy, said on the floor of the Assembly that his party was not fighting shy of owning up its responsibility for the struggle of the tribal people in Srikakulam district. He told the Government that his party could not be expected to sit tight when the Government itself, by its policies, was unfolding a situation for his.

**REPORTS AND COMMENTS**

**3**

**party to jump into the fray and lead the people against  
injustice.**

***May 4, 1968***