



WHY GO MODERN

FORWARD WITH LABOUR:

A SINGAPORE NATIONAL TRADES UNION CONGRESS PUBLICATION

IN NOVEMBER 1969 the Singapore National Trades Union Congress held a special SEMINAR on MODERNIZATION OF THE LABOUR MOVEMENT.

Delegates from all the N.T.U.C.'s affiliate unions concluded that the Republic's labour movement must modernize or perish. The N.T.U.C. immediately set up special committees to implement the SEMINAR'S recommendations for modernization.

FORWARD WITH LABOUR is a series of N.T.U.C. pamphlets to summarise the need to modernize and the main recommendations of the SEMINAR.

WHY GO MODERN? is the first in the series.

■ WHY GO MODERN?

THE answer is simple: Singapore workers and their trade unions must modernize or perish as an organised force.

■ WHAT IS THIS 'MODERNIZATION' TALK?

IT MEANS that your trade union, through the National Trades Union Congress, has decided to build up its own financial and human resources.

IT MEANS that your trade union, together with the N.T.U.C., wants to be an effective representative of labour.

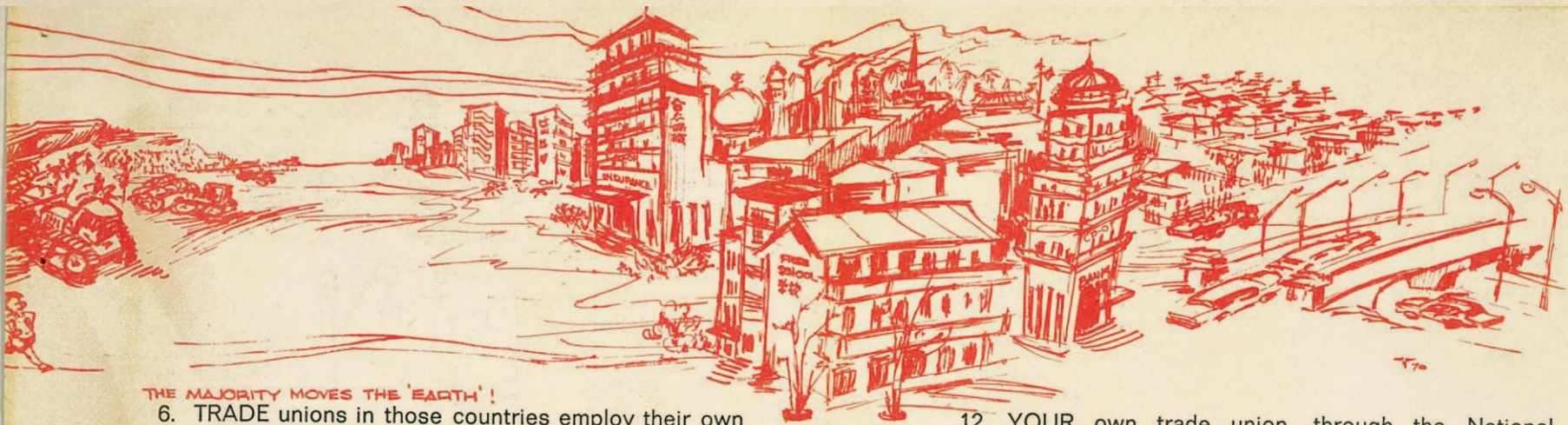
IT MEANS that your trade union, through the N.T.U.C., wants to help set the pace in national development.

IN OTHER WORDS, "Modernization" means that Singapore's labour wants to lead, not just to follow.



■ BUT CAN WE LEAD? you might ask. OF COURSE! DON'T YOU KNOW THAT:

1. THE democratic world's biggest, best organised and most effective trade unions are in West Germany, Sweden and Israel.
2. ONE of the largest banks in West Germany is run by the D.G.B., the German Federation of Trade Unions.
3. SOME of the biggest co-operative insurance, housing and welfare schemes in the world are run by Swedish trade unions.
4. THE Histadrut, Israel's national trade union organisation, partly owns a worldwide shipping company; runs housing, industrial, rural and consumer co-operatives and financial and credit institutions such as banks; helped set up Israel's international airline; and now spearheads the country's search for and development of petroleum resources.
5. IT is the financial independence generated by such enterprises which has made trade unions in West Germany, Sweden and Israel such strong and effective labour organisations.



THE MAJORITY MOVES THE 'EARTH'!

6. **TRADE** unions in those countries employ their own economists, lawyers and accountants to represent their members in industrial relations.
7. **THEIR** success in running their own enterprises strengthens their hand at employer-employee negotiations and their voice in policy-making tripartite councils of government, management and labour.
8. **AS** a result workers in West Germany, Sweden and Israel are among the best paid and best trained in the world.
9. **AND** they are not just workers. They are — through trade unions and their co-operative and other enterprises — investors and co-owners of some of the most successful business organisations in their countries.
10. **THEY** own banks, insurance companies, housing and other landed property, retail stores, wholesale and transportation enterprises, factories and farms.
11. **THEY** know it makes sense to put their money in their own banks, to buy and sell through their own companies. It is more practical because they earn more and spend less; at the same time they build up their trade unions. There is no need to go to government or anywhere else for dole or assistance.

12. **YOUR** own trade union, through the National Trades Union Congress, has an **ACTION PROGRAMME** to do the same —

**TO BRING THE SINGAPORE WORKER
AND HIS TRADE UNION TO THE SAME
LEVEL OF EFFECTIVENESS.**

■ **DID YOU KNOW THAT:**

A **RECENT** article on Singapore in a British business magazine said that;

- a) The Singapore Government introduced the Employment Act because it believes that the Republic must modernize to survive; and
- b) The Government believed at the time that management was a better modernizing agent than labour, hence the management bias in some of the Employment Act's provisions.

■ **NOW YOU KNOW THAT:**

THE National Trades Union Congress and your own trade union has an **ACTION PROGRAMME** to make Singapore's labour as effective a "modernizing agent" as anybody else. So

GO THE MODERN WAY!

- GO THE MODERN WAY
- FORWARD TO OUR FUTURE
- FORWARD WITH LABOUR
- MAJULAH SINGAPURA!

AFTER YOU HAVE READ THIS PLEASE
PASS IT ON TO YOUR FRIENDS.



GONE ARE THE DAYS!

