A STATEMENT by the West Ham North Branch of the C.P.G.B. — sent to the East London Area Committee, the London District Committee, and the Executive Committee of the C.P.G.B., and to all Branch members.

For some months now a campaign has been waged by the ‘higher committees’ and certain branch members, for the removal of the Branch Committee.

This campaign has NOT been conducted as a branch campaign. The branch has not been kept informed or consulted; all our members have been misleading. The branch has not even been told the nature of the campaign. It has been conducted by the London District Committee, and the Executive Committee, without even informing the branch as a whole.

Events have reached the present stage, precisely because the normal process of Inner Party Democracy has been violated by the new bureaucratic, Area and District Committees, whose swollen-headed and self-complacent members, which they claim to be in the interest of the Branch cannot be complacent, and do all in their power to silence the criticisms and stop their Resolutions and legitimate complaints from reaching the Party comrades.

In the present dispute this committee has called a secret private meeting with Higher Officials, although it has consistently demanded that all such decisions should be left to the branch, in accordance with the principles of Communist organisation.

In a Communist, a Marxist Party, the policy of compromise has been good at all levels from the lowest branch member to the General Secretary. All actions of the Party should be subject to the Action of the Basic Unit. The basic unit is the Area to the District to the E.C. and from the E.C. to the branch to the General Secretary.

The present membership of the C.P.G.B. never think differently. For them Democratic Centralism means direction from the top to the bottom. Direction from below is now unheard of.

How can we Marxists tolerate such a situation? Our answer is the branch play its full part in Party affairs.

The slow drift away from Democratic Procedure has been evident for some time now, and this has lost the Party members faith in the branch.

Comrade Gollan and Co., must bear a large measure of responsibility, for this drift, which has been repudiated by traditional policy of compromise in all fields. For example, the D.W., in pandering to the (bourgeois) sentiment of the time, said itstc
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