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## Communist Federation of Britain (ML)

### Letter from Workers Broadsheet & Editor's reply

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# Letters

Dear Comrades,

We would like to congratulate you on the leading article in the February "Struggle" - "Kick or be kicked" - for your informative analysis of the present economic situation of capitalism. Then in the final paragraph you change over from analysis, not to attack but to defence.

"Our job is clearly to defend our interests by continuing to increase wages.... If the explosion is to end with workers in control, we must also make certain that they polarise to the left. We must also make certain that WE KNOW (our emphasis) exactly what to do when they arrive. We will only be successful if in every wage struggle we continually SHOW (our emphasis) how only Socialism under workers' power can resolve the present crisis".

It is not only you - or we - we have to know "exactly what to do" when that expected crisis "arrives" - it is also the many thousands, even millions, of militant workers who will have to do the job of revolution if it is to be done at all - not just a handful of Marxists. Our job as Marxists is to explain to these tens of thousands what is to be done, and to do it now, before it is too late. To do this we have to SHOW not just to say that we can bring about people's power.

We agree with our Coventry correspondent's judgment that it was mobilising the Confed that made January 12th in Coventry much better than December 8th had been, because the appeal was much wider. Of course, we should ALWAYS unite all who can be united against the main enemy, in this case the Tory Government. But the negative aspect of the Coventry strategy is also shown in the same correspondent's report of the "criminal anti-climax" (his words) of the platform speeches. So in Coventry and everywhere else we have to move on from January 12th and from February 21st. It is no good building our hopes on E.Cs. of "left" trade unions, who are liable to let the struggle down as the E.C. of the A.U.E.W. did on February 4th, and as Jack Jones is doing in the contrast between his "radical" speech last year at Blackpool, and his present "reasonable" attitude towards negotiations between T.U.C., C.B.I. and Carr.

In 1926, the C.P.G.B. and the Minority Movement it was leading made the basic error of calling on the traitors in the T.U.C. leadership to take all power. Never again should socialists make such a mistake. "All power to the Soviets" - NOT to the Communists, and certainly not to the compromising "democrats" who were than in the majority in both Government and Soviets - was correct in 1917 in Russia. Today in Britain "all power to our elected shop stewards" could become the needed slogan, if we socialists do our job correctly.

