JOHN HANNINGTON instruments maker, shop stewards convenor, A.E.F., founding member of Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist), speaking at a conference of the London Revolutionary Socialist Students Federation.

TO begin at the beginning, there is no such thing as worker/student alliance. It is the oldest, cleverest, most cunning; ruthless utteration as a hollow slogan similar in origin and objective to that of the other great non-starter 'unity'. Both sound very positive and constructive, both canard do in fact be taken seriously. But, set that aside, these half-baked theories are put into practice they lead the working class not forward but backwards and leave it confused.

We need as students and as workers to understand the meaning of these false slogans/policies, their origins and those responsible for them — those people and their political parties who have made a life-long study and practice of misinforming and misleading the British working class, i.e. Social Democracy is the form of the Labour Party, and that all Red-centred parties are the form of the Communist Party of Great Britain.

The working class now are standing on the threshold of the greatest potential for real advance. They do not have the international experience, and they have proven in countless instances that the workers have the understanding class that they are not lacking in courage.

What is lacking and what has never existed is a really new, Trotskyist-Marxist-Leninist leadership. History has proven that no working class has ever won its freedom without such a leadership.

On the other side, I'm sure we would all agree with the principle of 'Ruling Class' democracies. If we are to win the working class, for improved grants, against social injustice, capitalism and imperialism, be part or separate from the struggles of the working class.

Just because the possibilities exist for real advance it would be absolute folly for any worker or student to believe that this is not going to be the most concentrated of all attacks on the working class that this country has ever witnessed. These attacks are being carried out by the crisis parties of social liberalism, the social democratic Labour Party.

Time is running short if we are to fulfil this task, and our determination has to be as strong as this one today where we are going, then the Ruling Class will decide for us.

What are the tasks which we, the student workers, have to undertake? First, let us replace the false slogan of defenceless in the face of the class enemy.

The worker's reply to such an approach would be similar to that of the employers: 'Get Stuffed.'

The meeting does not think, based on what I have said, that I am against intelligentsias, but rather that I'm very much in favour of worker intelligences.

I say this because I and many others are convinced that one of the greatest single mistakes has been generations of workers that is that they tend to leave the political thinking and theorising to those who are better equipped. It is this that has led the British working class into the political jungle of social democracy. It is also this that has blunted the workers' struggle and given rise to revisionism in Britain.

The very word 'alliance' strikes me as something which is of only a temporary nature.

Can the student struggles, whether for a democratic college or student union, or for improved grants, against social injustice, capitalism and imperialism, be apart or separate from the struggles of the working class?

This moment in history we are witnessing most concentrated attacks against workers wherever they labour by the reactionary triple alliance of Conservative Government, the employers and the General Council of the T.U.C.

I'm sure, that the workers don't travel alone, that the worker/student alliance is growing, but it has a spontaneous nature, there is no political basis, any fundamental objective; it is in short a brave and necessary struggle, but it remains nevertheless a defensive struggle.

What workers and students all know need to understand is that no real lasting freedom or democratic rights can be achieved, unless political power is seized by the working class. As a means of the dictatorship of the proletariat.

In closing I would like to stress the urgent task that we all, workers and students alike - the development of the Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist).

We are all agreed, I'm sure, that the workers must not pay the price, and that we will prove to be the all-decisive factor in the coming struggles.

Our main point today is that the Workers Student/Worker alliance is firmly based on experienced working class comrades, who have learned the hard way on the blind folly politics of revisionism.

We are indeed fortunate to have such able colleagues in our party's chairmen, Comrade Reg Birch, and others, whose long experience in fighting against social democracy, capitalism and revisionism have given our party a firm ideological base on which to build.

Of course our party has its critics, but whilst they talk endlessly of the need for a Marxist-Leninist party in Britain, we have done it! Action speaks louder than words.

If we politically conscious people fall in our task the working class will never forgive us; it is they who will pay the price for our failure.

You as students have much to contribute to a Marxist-Leninist party. You have qualities which are of vital importance in the historic task. You are much younger, will always hold a very special place in our party, for it is the youth that is least involved, who is the first to be corrupted by capitalism. There are special abilities which will prove to be invaluable in the development of our party theory and practice. May I then, on behalf of the Central Committee of our party, wish you well in your coming struggles.