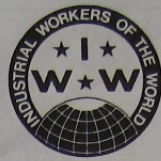


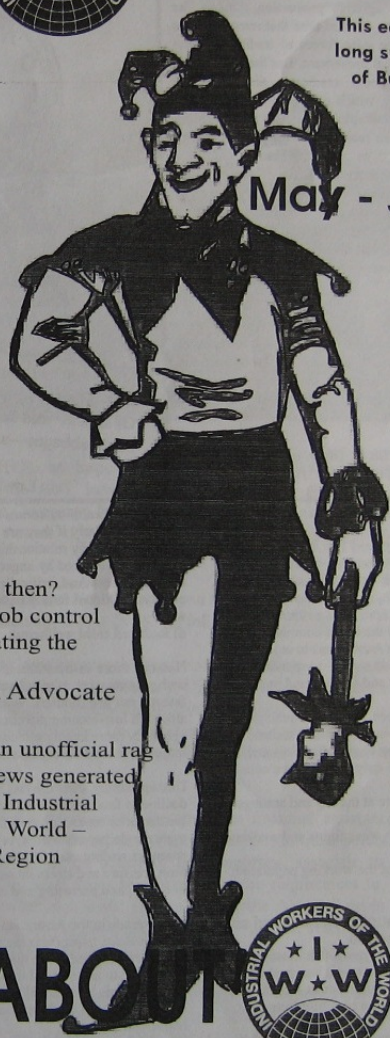
**GENERAL STRIKE**



# ABOUT TIME

This edition dedicated to the long suffering working class of Burma...may they rise again soon

May - June 2008



What's this then?  
Spiralling into job control  
and incorporating the

One Big Union Advocate

ABOUT TIME is an unofficial rag  
of discussion and news generated  
from within the Industrial  
Workers of the World -  
Australian Region

**TIME ABOUT**



**GENERAL STRIKE**

The victory of the bourgeoisie is the victory of a profoundly historical time, because it is the time corresponding to an economic production that continuously transforms society from top to bottom. So long as agrarian production remains the predominant form of labor, the cyclical time that remains at the base of society reinforces the joint forces of tradition, which tend to hold back any historical movement. But the irreversible time of the bourgeois economy eradicates those vestiges throughout the world. History, which until then had seemed to involve only the actions of individual members of the ruling class, and which had thus been recorded as a mere chronology of events, is now understood as a general movement — a relentless movement that crushes any individuals in its path. By discovering its basis in political economy, history becomes aware of what had previously been unconscious; but this basis remains unconscious because it cannot be brought to light. This blind prehistory, this new fate that no one controls, is the only thing that the commodity economy has democratized.

The irreversible time of production is first of all the measure of commodities. The time officially recognized throughout the world as the general time of society actually only reflects the specialized interests that constitute it, and this is merely one particular type of time.

*The Society of the Spectacle* (New translation of Guy Debord's book by Ken Knabb February 2002)

## It's ABOUT bloody TIME



"The time has come," the Walrus said,  
"To talk of many things:  
Of shoes—and ships—and sealing-wax—  
And cabbages—and kings—

Lewis Carroll

### An Unexpected Tragedy Executive Summary Executive Summary

#### A Nation Dominated By Work

Thirty years ago, the average Australian worker spent less than forty hours a week at work – the vast majority of this time was in steady employment, working on weekdays between the hours of 8am and 6pm. This pattern of working life was shared across the broad community, providing opportunity for most Australians to enjoy consistent patterns of life outside work – to spend time on a predictable basis with family and friends, and in other community-related pursuits.

The past three decades have been a time of unambiguous economic prosperity for our country. But this success has come at a price. Working patterns have altered to such an extent that Australia is now the only high-income country in the world that combines:

- \* average working hours that are at the top end amongst high-income nations
- \* a strong tendency for work on weeknights and weekends, and
- \* a relatively large proportion of the working population employed on a casual basis.

#### The Harsh Reality: Relational Breakdown and Dysfunction

A significant body of evidence suggests that those people who work long and unsocial hours spend less quality time with their families and friends and that most Australian families are suffering time pressure resulting from their work.

An emerging body of international research shows that these long and atypical working patterns are associated with dysfunctional family environments, including:

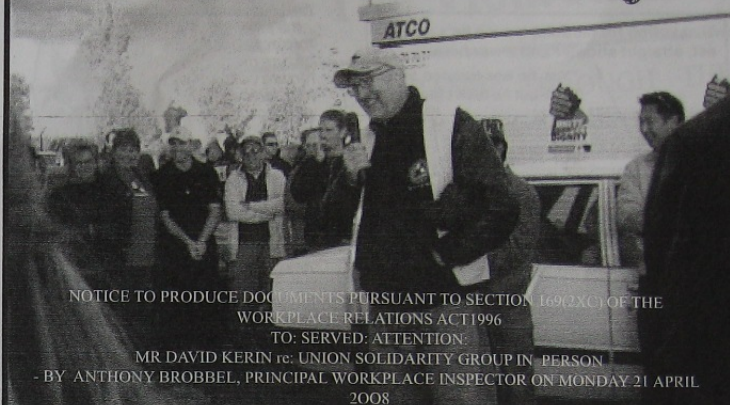
- a) Negative health outcomes for those working these times, particularly if they are parents
- b) Strained family relationships
- c) Parenting marked by anger, inconsistency and ineffectiveness And, critically, both long/atypical hours and dysfunctional family environments are associated with:
- d) Reduced child wellbeing.

Notably, these associations are evident when either or both parents work atypical schedules, so the timing of fathers' not just mothers' work matters to children. And although low-income members of Australian society are generally more keenly affected by these changes, the impact is shared across all strata in our community.

Unsurprisingly, over the last 30 years in Australia, the decline in family relational health has led to an increased incidence of separation and divorce. And there are now more single parents than ever before. With only a single parent providing care for one or more children, increased time pressure and stress increase the probability of adult ill health, and parenting and child difficulties.

Other trends in the Australian workplace, and society more broadly, exacerbate the relational health problems described here and leave the workforce increasingly vulnerable to an eventual downturn in the economy. These trends include a sustained reduction in job stability, intensification of work responsibilities and increased household debt.  
[http://www.relationshipsforum.org.au/report/index.html#unexpected\\_tragedy](http://www.relationshipsforum.org.au/report/index.html#unexpected_tragedy)

# Don't put this man in jail!



NOTICE TO PRODUCE DOCUMENTS PURSUANT TO SECTION 169(2)(C) OF THE  
WORKPLACE RELATIONS ACT 1996

TO: SERVED: ATTENTION:

MR DAVID KERIN re: UNION SOLIDARITY GROUP IN PERSON

- BY ANTHONY BROBBEL, PRINCIPAL WORKPLACE INSPECTOR ON MONDAY 21 APRIL  
2008

### MR DAVID KERIN

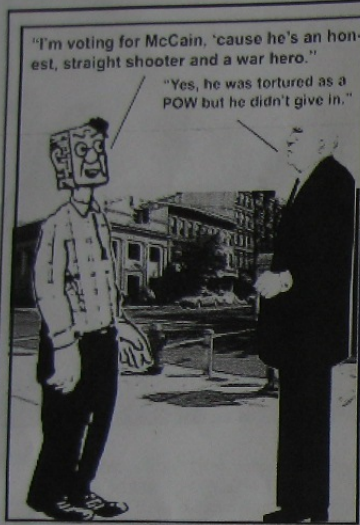
I, CHRISTINE GALLAGHER, an Inspector appointed under section 167(2) of the WORKPLACE RELATIONS ACT 1996 (the Act), have reasonable cause to believe DAVID KERIN of UNION SOLIDARITY GROUP (the Company) has custody of, or access to, documents relevant to determining whether Part 9 - Industrial Action of the Workplace Relations Act 1996 (the Act) is being or has been observed.

Pursuant to section 169(2)(c) of the Act, I require you to produce to me at Level 6, 414 Latrobe Street Melbourne, by 5.00pm on Thursday 8 May 2008, the following documents:

1. All documents recording any communication, contact, dealing or otherwise between any member, sponsor, volunteer or other person(s) affiliated with Union Solidarity, and any employee of, associate to, or representative of, the Australian Manufacturing Workers' Union (AMWU), in particular, those AMWU members currently employed by Hawker De Havilland Aerospace Pty Ltd (the Company), which records or relates to any industrial action, either proposed, planned, discussed or taken at the Port Melbourne site of the Company;

2. All documents recording any payments, donations or financial assistance, howsoever described, received by Union Solidarity, or any member, sponsor, volunteer, or other person(s) affiliated with Union Solidarity, which was made by, or on behalf of any employee, associate to or representative of the AMWU. A contravention, without reasonable excuse, of the requirement to produce the documents identified in this notice is an offence under section 819 of the Act. Failure to comply with this notice could result in your being liable to imprisonment for up to 6 months. Telephone: 1300 724 200 I nternet: <http://www.wg.gov.au> ABN 71 1 417 514 77

Should you require further information or wish to discuss this notice, please contact me on (03) 9954 2549, fax (02) 6276 7009 or email me at [Christine.gallagher@wo.qov.au](mailto:Christine.gallagher@wo.qov.au). Senior Workplace Inspector Complex Case Investigations WORKPLACE OMBUDSMAN

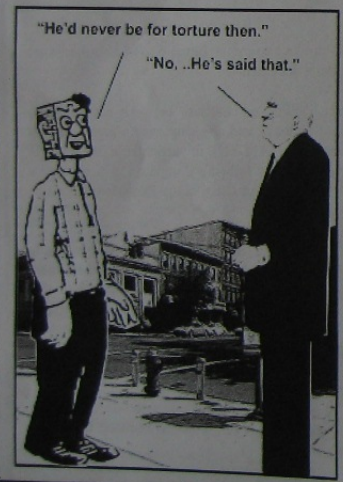


"I'm voting for McCain, 'cause he's an honest, straight shooter and a war hero."

"Yes, he was tortured as a POW but he didn't give in."

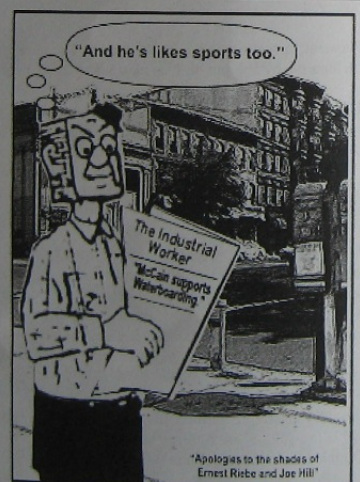
Torture is like a B-52 carpet bombing  
...the ever approaching BOOMS  
Torture's for causing terror  
Torture destroys social networks  
Torture will get you your witches  
your terts  
your Trotskyites  
your infidels  
your anarchists  
and the others  
Torture will get you names  
Torture will prove that evil exists  
Torture will destroy the opposition  
Torture's not for gaining intelligence  
Torture's for instilling fear  
Kneecap  
hammer  
Fingernail  
pointy stick  
Head  
bucket of water  
Torture defuses  
the ticking time bomb  
making us all safe  
and warm  
under cover of the night

Mike Ballard



"He'd never be for torture then."

"No. ..He's said that."



"And he's likes sports too."

"Apologias to the shades of Ernest Riebe and Joe Hill"



# The Viola Rants

LIKE SAND THROUGH THE  
HOUR-GLASS  
THESE ARE THE DAZE OF OUR  
LIVES

Sunday April 27th - 300+ Boeing workers vote to return to work after 3 weeks wildcat.

Boeing, one of the largest Corporations in the world, makes passenger and military planes around the planet. Boeing took over the privatised Hawker deHavilland site at Fishermen's Bend. The Managers want more \$ every year so tried to bust the union & sack organisers. Half the large worksite has been sold off to developers recently and next plans are to cut the workforce in half.

But the wage slaves were no easily divided and ruled or fooled by spin from the Corporation and struck together despite legal threats.

Union Solidarity joined in community assembly and helped out.

Other unions took turns like in the MUA struggle ten years ago to be there for a day & night every week and assist with food etc.

The Workplace Ombudsman's Office aka the "W.O.O. woo" industrial police tried to harass activists for their solidarity. - see [www.unionsolidarity.org](http://www.unionsolidarity.org)

Friday April 25th - About 50 cyclists on Friday 25th April, ANZAC Day, were treated to a special history tour on Remembering war and protesting for peace. While perhaps 30,000 people attended the dawn ANZAC day dawn service at the Shrine of Remembrance War Memorial in Melbourne, an alternative to the jingoism and nationalistic patriotism was presented at the Melbourne Critical Mass ride undertaken shortly after dusk.

At each site visited a short talk was given on its significance and history as part of remembering war and protesting for Peace in Melbourne. Melbourne has a rich culture and history of anti-conscription, anti-war and peace protest, which the ride attempted to highlight.

See <http://www.melbournecyclist.com/profiles/blog/show?id=1684380%3ABlogPost%3A10144>

Monday April 28th - Workers memorial day is held to "remember the dead and fight for the living". Unionists and community activists joined families of those who died at work outside the Victorian Trades Hall for a minutes silence

at 11am. See [www.widsa.com.au](http://www.widsa.com.au) and put it in your diary for next year if you missed out this time.

Wednesday April 30th - DIRECT ACTION GETS THE GOODS

500+ taxi-drivers occupied the city intersection of Flinders & Swanston Street for 22 hours. They "just" collectively left their taxis & sat down.

Soon they're joined by other low paid "unorganised" wage slaves in their uprising following the stabbing and near death of a fellow worker. Many are international students from India who earn \$8 an hour working 12 hour shifts.



Half their demands were met, safety screens are installed for drivers who want them, pre-payment of fares to become mandatory at night, police to take seriously reports of bashings and robberies & the Government agreed to waive parking fines incurred by the protesting wage slaves.

**POLITICIAN'S MIRROR MAZE.** "we'll look into it" (Shouldn't take us more than 200 years or so) In 2006 a shorter time protest was called off by politicians promises. Disruption of the International airport at Tullamarine was ended before the Big Bosses lost \$ alas.

Capo owners and politicians do not pick up pissed racists at 2am; they hire those desperate enough to sell their time and energy for 12 hours of aggravation as wage slaves for that.

For two grinding years the pleas and complaints through the proper channels were ignored. Finally there has been an uprising

**A PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP** - The State Government will pay 50% of the cost of introducing safety screens, with the balance to be paid by taxi operators.

Capitalist racket means privatisation of profits and public tax payers incur any losses.

For years the industry has been divided and ruled by investors in the \$500,000 licenses to run the 3,800 taxis. Past Liberal and present Labor Governments have served the rich, the owners not their wage slaves. The Transport Workers Union and Taxi-Drivers Association compete in demarcation disputes.

**IN UNITY IS STRENGTH** - A cooperative of drivers so they can work 8 hour shifts or less and enjoy better conditions could be funded with superannuation \$ from transport workers.

An industrial union combining chauffeurs & taxi-drivers, bicycle and motor bike couriers, truckies, bus, train & tram drivers, airport & shipping would be able to take on the employers and bring industrial democracy at last.

%%\$%%\$%%\$%%\$%%\$%%\$%%

Thursday May 1st - Various meetings & celebrations occur in Melbourne including special radio broadcasting by community radio 3CR

see [www.3cr.org.au](http://www.3cr.org.au)

While in **INDONESIA** - Manpower and Transmigration minister Erman Suparno called on the country's workers to peacefully celebrate World Labor Day, which falls on May 1. "Everybody can celebrate, either by holding a thanksgiving ceremony or by having music concerts, but don't make any anarchistic actions," The minister said he hoped the celebrations would not disrupt the people's daily activities. "Don't let the event become a spook to the people, terrifying them and preventing them from doing their daily activities with typical demonstrations and anarchistic action... Jakarta police chief Adang Firman told reporters after monitoring the capital from a helicopter that 10,000 security personnel had been deployed to control the rallies and another 50,000 were on standby.

All May Day rallies were banned in Surabaya, the country's second largest city, because the workers' holiday coincided with a religious holiday, police said. "Rallies are not allowed during a public holiday. Let's respect Jesus Ascension day," Surabaya police chief Anang Iskandar told state news agency Antara. "If there are rallies, we'll break them up."

Despite all that wage slaves came out across Indonesia anyway...eg 40,000 in Jakarta carried banners reading "Lower Food Prices Now" and "More Pay for Workers and Farmers," many of the demonstrators said they were alarmed at soaring inflation and the prospect of sharply higher fuel bills.

## Defend Dave Kerin!

### Solidarity with Union Solidarity

Online: Please go the following link: - <http://www.unionsolidarity.org/irnews/2008/05/defend-dave-kerin.html>

Indicate your public support for Dave Kerin and Union Solidarity. At alater date U.S. will publish the names (but not phone numbers) to show the Workplace Ombudsman how much support Dave Kerin has within the movement.

When they threaten jail for picketing, it's a rich man's country yet!

Viola rant (continued)

**YOUTH WAGES = EXPLOITATION** - The Myths and facts about youth wages

Many bosses try to justify paying young people poverty wages. Below are some of the myths they use backed up by some real facts about the situation.

**Boss's myth:** Young people need more supervision and training than older workers. That's why you get paid less.

**Worker's fact:** Many young workers have had previous work experience. Some have even worked as supervisors or managers. While all workers need some initial on the job training it is rubbish that young people are harder to train than adults. Often they are much easier to train.

If young people needed more training than older workers why is it that bosses often write young workers off the roster once they have turned 18 or reach the full adult age? This is only because it costs them more. They are not interested in having workers with experience only workers with small pay packets. The practice of writing people off the roster is of course illegal, and it's discrimination on the basis of age. An employer cannot sack you for being too old. But unfortunately they lie a lot.

**Boss's myth:** Young workers don't deserve the adult wage.

**Worker's fact:** The fact is employers expect young people to perform the same duties and work just as hard as everybody else so it's only fair for young workers to expect the employers to pay them a decent wage. The concept of equal pay for equal work should apply to all.

**Boss's myth:** Young people are lazy.

**Worker's fact:** Across the country 16 and 17 year olds are employed as supervisors and duty managers. Often they have to supervise people twice their age. The pace of work in fast food and retail is also much faster than in industries

**THE HOWARD ALBUM:** - Here we are at the CIA discussion room in Pakistan... Mamdouh Habib is being told of his legal rights and the wonderful guarantees that Australian citizenship bestow upon him. Is he worthy???

To the lower left Brendan Nelson tells him tales of Simpson and his Donkey... This would have cracked him open - no doubts - but we got a call from the wimps at the Pentagon saying we could not do anything that might result in death or in permanent damage to an essential organ.

Janette says that Simpson was a **DANGEROUS RED** with **PACIFIST** sympathies. For goodness sakes I wish military intelligence would check these things out properly before handing stories over to the hearts and minds boys in propaganda.

dominated by older workers. Most of the time young workers are juggling work and study commitments. This must be a rare definition of the word laziness that we have not come across before.

**Boss's myth:** Young people don't have to support families. Therefore you don't need full pay.

**Worker's fact:** Most young people do support themselves in some form and often contribute to their household income. Young workers don't get half price rent, food or petrol. If we get charged full price for the cost of living it is only fair that we get full pay. Because of youth wages many young people are forced to live in poverty even though they have jobs.

**Boss's myth:** Abolishing youth rates would increase youth unemployment

**Worker's fact:** The argument that employers will be less likely to employ young people if they have to pay them more is rubbish. There is absolutely no evidence to support this. When unemployment is at such low levels and with a chronic skills shortage where they are going to find these people to fill the jobs? Also most fast food and retail outlets want to attract young customers that is why they employ young workers.

**Fight to abolish youth rates** - Youth rates hurt all workers because the lowest wage in a labour market determines all other wages. This means that adults are more likely to be forced into accepting lower wages if they know that the boss could employ a young worker for less. Low adult wages mean more young people working on low youth wages to support their families. The long-term end result is lower wages for all workers. For students and young workers this means working extremely long hours just to make ends meet.

Age discrimination is just like all other forms of discrimination including sexism and racism. If we stick together we win. A win for young workers, is a win for all workers!



*Viola rant-yel more*

**FUELLING HUNGER** - Some 16 months after tens of thousands of Mexicans took to the streets to protest a four-fold increase in the price of tortillas (flat maize bread that is the country's staple food), politicians and international agencies have woken up to the enormity of the global food crisis.

The IMF now speaks of 100 million potential new victims of starvation.

World Bank chief Zoellick has raised the spectre of mass starvation to call for a "New Deal" for agriculture - administered by the IMF and World Bank. The New Deal, however, looks suspiciously like the old.

**FEED THE WORLD? EAT THE RICH!** - "There can be no peace so long as hunger and want are found among millions of the working people and the few, who make up the employing class, have all the good things of life..." Preamble to the IWW Constitution 1905.

Well here we are in 2008 and we still "stand outcast & starving amidst the wonders we have made".

"One hundred million people more than last year do not have enough to eat as the global food crisis grows by day, threatening the very fabric of societies and fuelled by the legacy of decades of damaging policies at the world level. Action on climate change, perhaps the greatest test of human history, is feeble compared to the magnitude of the challenge."

Here in Australia the Australian Labor Party aka Another Liberal Party cannot fight its way out of plastic bag!

**SMALLER CAGES SHORTER CHAINS** - Cage sizes decrease and are stacked higher for chicks. Other animals are also being squeezed indoors, & this overcrowding means disease-prone so more antibiotics etc are put into bulk feed and thus through the food chain us all. A miserable drudgery for the animals and wage slaves who maintain all this alike.

Each pound of beef takes about seven pounds of grain to produce, which means land that could be used to grow food for humans is being diverted to growing animal feed. (soya bean cash crops clear the Amazon forest for beef)

2008 - The year the food riots began - As the West seeks to tackle the risk of global warming, a drive towards greener fuels is compounding the world's food problems. It is estimated that one in four bushels of corn from this year's U.S. corn crop will be diverted to make fuel. (Examples? - palm oil is at record prices because of demand to use it for biofuel, causing pain for low income families in Indonesia and Malaysia, or the U.S. corn-fed ethanol industry...) Governments in Haiti, Egypt have had food price rise focussed riots.

The United Nations & other food aid programmes have to pay more to feed refugees.

In 2007 according to the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization's world food index, dairy prices rose nearly 80 percent and grain 42 percent.

Corporations like Monsanto & Bayer push more of their

fertilizers, herbicides & pesticides and higher-yielding crops - some of them genetically modified so farmers have to buy seeds every year -- to boost profits.

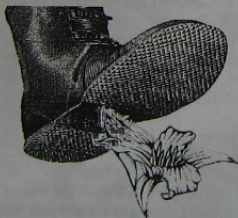
Monsanto since 1901 in Saint Louis (Missouri), is a dangerous recidivist. Manufacturing chemical products like dioxin, the hyper-concentrated poison contained in the Agent Orange American airplanes dispersed over forests to destroy vegetation during the Vietnam War. Its consequences are still being felt today, with the births of deformed children and after-effects on many Vietnamese and other countries war veterans. They also push a hormone injected into milk cows to increase their yield that invariably transforms them into Frankenstein animals.

Egypt, Argentina, Kazakhstan, Vietnam, India, and China, have imposed restrictions to limit grain exports and keep more of their food at home.

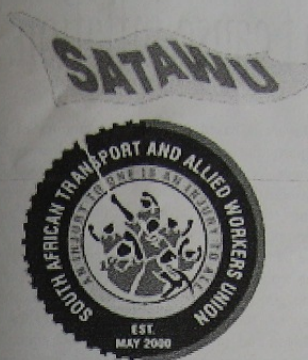
**STARVING AMIDST PLENTY** - Food price rip off protests & some riots have begun as starvation makes wage slavery even more miserable.

**YET** there is a **DISTRIBUTION** problem not a shortage. The rich eat very well indeed, the Military & Police who protect the rackets of the rich need their energy for repression and the masses must pay more & from he guilty rich crumbs are thrown to the destitute so their will be wage-slaves  
The Capitalists motto: "your hunger is my profit"

## CLASS SOCIETY?



# You know it sucks!



## All power to the South African Dockers.

Everybody knew just what sort of "defence" the Chinese weapons would use to inflame the population if they ever reached Zimbabwe. All the politicians ummed and ahed and generally wrung their hands. Thabo Mbeki told journalists that South Africa would not, could not, possibly, interfere in a legitimate transaction between Zimbabwe and China. So in the end it was up to the workers.

The 300,000-strong South African Transport and Allied Workers Union (Satawu) said it would be "grossly irresponsible" to touch the cargo of ammunition, grenades and mortar rounds on board the Chinese ship An Yue Jiang anchored outside the port.

A Satawu spokesman Randall Howard said: "Our members employed at Durban container terminal will not unload this cargo, neither will any of our members in the truck-driving sector move this cargo by road. South Africa cannot be seen to be facilitating the flow of weapons into Zimbabwe at a time where there is a political dispute and a volatile situation between Zanu-PF and the MDC."

The London-based International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) and the Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) said yesterday they were mobilising unions in China and Africa, including those in Angola, to take a firm stand and to stop the ship from offloading its cargo of weapons. The ITF, which consists of more than 650 unions, representing 4.5-million workers in 148 countries, is believed to have been instrumental in Mozambique's refusal allow the ship to dock in Maputo after ITF affiliate the South African Transport and Allied Workers Union (Satawu) asked it to intervene.

It is some sixty after the revolution in China that brought

the Communist Party to power theoretically in the interests of the workers and poor peasants; nearly thirty years after Mugabe came to power in Zimbabwe and solidified his regime with the help of troops from the fifty year old "revolutionary" Cuba; fourteen years since multi-racial elections were first held in South Africa. Still with all this political change and revolution the workers remain where they have always been. We are on the bottom still forced to use direct action to protect the basic human rights of our colleagues. IT is where we always were and where we always will be. A change of politicians is the joy of fools. We can develop our economic power and solidarity on the job, however, by following (for example) the excellent example of the Durban dock workers and making an injury to one an injury to all. (It's on the Satawu badge) If we do that then we could push through some real change. At least in South Africa workers have shown that they are not passive victims of a neo-liberal spectacular commodity economy sitting on their fundamentals at the end of history. (Read: A flock of bloody sheep.)

And now AUSTRALIA has supported calls for a global ban on arms sales to Zimbabwe. Foreign Minister Stephen Smith is appalled. "The continued delay demonstrates the Mugabe government's utter contempt for democratic principles and processes," Mr Smith whimpered. "I strongly support international efforts that prevent the Mugabe regime from being further equipped to commit further human rights violations against the already long suffering Zimbabwe people."

Which is interesting because under current law and "Labor" Party policy if Australian workers took the same actions as the South African dock workers it would be illegal. Zimbabwe is not the only place on the planet that needs an extension of human rights. To bring us up to the level of certain parts of Africa.

Sources:

IUF - Uniting Food, Farm and Hotel Workers World-Wide, "South African Dockers Succeed in Thwarting Chinese Arms Ship Bound for Zimbabwe" [http://www.iuf.org/cgi-bin/dbman/db.cgi?db=default&uid=default&ID=4999&view\\_records=1&ww=1&em=1](http://www.iuf.org/cgi-bin/dbman/db.cgi?db=default&uid=default&ID=4999&view_records=1&ww=1&em=1)

Support for Zimbabwe arms embargo Melbourne Herald Sun, Australia - 29 Apr 2008 <http://www.news.com.au/heraldsun/story/0,21985,23622711-5005961,00.html>

Chantelle Benjamin, Business Day (Johannesburg) 22 April 2008 - <http://allafrica.com/stories/200804220109.html>

Ian Evans, Saturday, 19 April 2008, Independent, "Chinese troops are on the streets of Zimbabwean city, witnesses say" - <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/africa/chinese-troops-are-on-the-streets-of-zimbabwean-city-witnesses-say-811796.html>

# Why rises in wages don't cause inflation....

Price rises are not always the result of inflation. Supply and demand for a product of labour or a natural resource can drive prices up and down around their value. The inflation of prices has to do with the supply of the commodity we all know as money. Money is what we use to exchange commodities in our society. Money is used to circulate these commodities, including the one commodity workers must sell in order to make a living—their labour power.

Inflation happens when more money is pumped into the markets of the nation by the Reserve Bank than is necessary to circulate and reflect the value of the goods and services produced by the working class. The Reserve Bank allows the commercial banks to borrow the money which the government has had printed, for a certain interest rate. The commercial banks, in turn, lend this money out to borrowers who promise to pay them back at a higher rate of interest on the speculation that their assets will grow in value. Sometimes though, the growth in the price of an asset reflects only decreased supply of that asset and, an increased demand rather than its growth in real, newly created value by workers. This increased price is thus empty of value and in turn is reflected in an increase in the money supply over that which is necessary to reflect values being created by workers and the need to grease the wheels of circulating these values.

Value is created by workers using natural resources and the means of production to produce actual goods and services. The increasing productivity of workers through their use of technologically improved means of production, actually contributes to the lowering of the prices of all goods and services because of the fact that it takes workers less time to create them. The capitalists are able to capture greater market share by selling their commodities at lower prices. So, you can actually have a rise in wages and a lowering of prices through greater productivity, output per worker per hour. On the other hand, the wages workers get for selling their time and skills to

employers is based on market economics of what the particular skills a worker has learned e.g. engineer, brick layer, teacher. These qualitative skills constitute the value of labour. The price of labour fluctuates around this basic value, depending on supply and demand for those skills in the labour market and the degree of organisation of the workers. Wages can never exceed the value of the goods and services which workers create, otherwise there would be no profit for the employer and profit from selling the goods and services workers produce and capitalists own, at their market price is what the wages system is all about. Thus, while an increase in wages will lower the rate of profit of the employer; it will not result in more money being created by the Treasury via the Reserve bank. In other words, the employing class uses the money it gets from selling the goods and services the workers have already produced, to hire workers for wages in order to have more goods and services produced.

So, why is there more money in the financial system than that needed to reflect and allow the circulation of values being created through the productivity of the working class? One big source of the excessive supply of money in the financial system is in the speculative nature of the current housing market. To be sure, other speculative non value increasing, debt oriented borrowing is also at work. However, just this one historical fact should serve as an example: the average house price has more than doubled since 1996. Has the value of the average house doubled? In most cases, the answer is no. For the most part, qualitative improvements to average houses—things added by labour—have not been the reason for the doubling of housing prices. Rather, the increase in housing prices has been due to the increased demand for housing, due to population increases in Australia, combined with a relative slow growth and even stagnation in supply of housing. Meanwhile, borrowed money has been pouring into real estate speculators' hands and has largely been used to purchase \*old\* properties rather than building new ones, new values. And where does such

speculative money come from? It's created by the Reserve Bank and lent to the commercial banks and ends up in the hands of real estate speculators. To be sure, other speculative non value increasing, debt oriented borrowing is also at work.

The basic fact is that wages don't drive inflation. At best, workers try to keep up with inflation by attempting to get wage rises after the prices of other commodities like food, housing, health and transport rise due to excessive money printing by the Treasury. At worst, inflation is a way to cut wages for the working class. The historical proof is in the \*real\* capitalist pudding. While nominal wages have increased, \*real wages\* adjusted for inflation have stayed relatively stable. For example, in Australia from 1982-1996 real average weekly ordinary time earnings in 1996 dollars rose from \$667 in 1982 to \$698 in 1985 and fell to \$656 in 1990 while rising again to \$706 in 1996. In the USA, the same pattern occurs. As measured in 1982 U.S. dollars workers were making \$302 a week in 1962 and \$277 in 2004.

On the other hand, output per worker or productivity in both countries increased exponentially over the same time period. The \*average\* increase in productivity of workers in Australia has been 1.7% per year. This figure is not subject to inflation, thus every decade workers real productivity of goods and services increases by at least 17%. However, real wages have been kept relatively stable in Australia and in the U.S.A. they have actually decreased from \$302.52 to \$277.57 per week. Thus, increasing productivity, which means using less labour-time to produce the same value/commodity, without even increasing the real wages of workers has actually led to a generalised lowering of the value and price commodities and an increase the rate of profit for the employing class. At the same time, inflation of the money supply has taken place.

Inflation has led many in the public to think that workers are making too much money as wages which haven't been adjusted for inflation have increased over the years in Australia e.g. 40% from 1982-1996. The reality of real wages tells quite a different story. Even if real wages increase, the fact of ever increasing productivity show will show up in the economy as a lowering of value and if supply and demand remain equal, a

generalized decrease in the price of commodities.

To sum up: real wages amount to a fraction of the total wealth which the working class is creating and increasing productivity of the working class actually contributes to lowering the price of the commodities it produces. The cause of inflation is the government's printing of more paper money and debt than the workers can cover in producing new values.

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"It is sometimes said it would illogical for labour to resist a reduction of money-wages but not to resist a reduction of real wages (...) experience shows that this is how labour in fact behaves"

- John Maynard Keynes,  
The General Theory of Employment, Interest, and Money

Poem  
SEDITION  
By Tony van der Meer

Sedition.  
Shhh. . . . , be careful what you say and tell no one what you think.  
Criticize our government an' you'll end up in the clink.  
'cause freedom is just a trademark brand, blind justice but a lie.  
Do not be bold, do as you're told, shut up consume and die!

## Preamble to the IWW Constitution

The working class and the employing class have nothing in common. There can be no peace so long as hunger and want are found among millions of the working people and the few, who make up the employing class, have all the good things of life.

Between these two classes a struggle must go on until the workers of the world organise as a class, take possession of the means of production, abolish the wage system, and live in harmony with the Earth.

We find that the centring of the management of industries into fewer and fewer hands makes the trade unions unable to cope with the ever growing power of the employing class. The trade unions foster a state of affairs which allows one set of workers to be pitted against another set of workers in the same industry, thereby helping defeat one another in wage wars. Moreover, the trade unions aid the employing class to mislead the workers into the belief that the working class have interests in common with their employers.

These conditions can be changed and the interest of the working class upheld only by an organisation formed in such a way that all its members in any one industry, or in all industries if necessary, cease work whenever a strike or lockout is on in any department thereof, thus making an injury to one an injury to all.

Instead of the conservative motto, "A fair day's wage for a fair day's work," we must inscribe on our banner the revolutionary watchword, "Abolition of the wage system."

It is the historic mission of the working class to do away with capitalism. The army of production must be organised, not only for everyday struggle with capitalists, but also to carry on production when capitalism shall have been overthrown. By organising industrially we are forming the structure of the new society within the shell of the old.

Visit the:

Australian Region IWW website - <http://iww.org.au/>  
International website - <http://www.iww.org/>  
The Brits - <http://www.iww.org.uk/>  
The Germans - <http://www.wobblies.de/>

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IWW Melbourne General Members Branch,  
Post Office Box 145, Morelands, Victoria  
3058 - Delegate telephone 0448 712 420 -  
Meet last Saturday of the month at 834a High  
Street Thornbury (Next meeting May 31st  
2008)

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IWW Perth grouping - email to  
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IWW Bunbury - email to  
patch.blah@gmail.com

Join me up

I .....

affirming that I am a worker and not an  
employer or a cop, wish to join and/or get  
more information about the IWW.

Contact details .....

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(cut out and send to AusROC or nearest  
branch)