

The Battler

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

THE BATTLER NUMBER 30 FEBRUARY 2 1977 10CENTS

FRASER'S CHILDREN

**NO
JOBS,
NO
DOLE,
NO
FUTURE**

NOW THAT the school holidays are over, a lot of kids will be going back to school to repeat years that they have already passed because there are no jobs for them.

A lot more kids who left school hoping to find work last November will receive their first dole cheque this week after having gone into back to live for the last three months.

A lot of those kids will not get jobs at all throughout the whole year. Not because they don't want jobs, but because the jobs don't exist.

They do not exist because employers are not taking on apprentices, because employers are not taking on staff of any kind.

The jobs do not exist because the Fraser government deliberately chose to increase unemployment as a means of controlling inflation. They devalued and lost control of inflation anyway.

Last year, the Commonwealth Employment Service found jobs for only a quarter of school leavers, and for working class kids the situation is grimmer still.

In Mt Druitt (NSW), only 15% got jobs through CES. Not surprisingly, when there are 121 school leavers for each job in that part of town.

And, as if the situation isn't bad enough, the Government is cooking the unemployment figures.

First they denied school leavers the dole until February. That alone should have cut the figures of registered unemployed.

Tony Street had the nerve to suggest that only the "dole bludgers" would fail to register just because they couldn't get benefits.

These kids are desperate for jobs. When the manager of CES in Newcastle placed ads calling for school leavers to register, 700 turned up in one day.

Paul Baker of the Youth Service in Sydney says: "We don't dare put up specific school leaver vacancies on our bulletin boards. If we did, there would be 300 people rushing into our office."

But with no jobs going, and no dole, why should they come in and wait for hours to register? So naturally, the figures for registered unemployed are going to be low.

But Fraser was not satisfied with that. Letters were sent to CES offices. They encouraged local officials to find means —



WHILE THOUSANDS of kids start life without jobs, while thousands of men and women are without jobs they held for years, industry claims it cannot afford to give them jobs.

The bosses scream that because of high wages they don't have the money to invest. The poor dears are living in poverty. Well, not quite.

Some people have a lot of money to invest. In luxuries and speculation.

The Golden Gate building in Surfers Paradise is probably the most expensive block of home units in Australia.

The 35-storey building has 177 units and is topped by four inventory penthouses with asking prices of around \$380,000.

The penthouses have six metre ceilings, floor to ceiling windows, bars, swimming pool, saunas and veres as far north as Brisbane. (see above)

Thirty five of the units were sold at an average price of \$70,000 within three days of Golden Gate opening for inspection.

On opening day a Melbourne housewife flew to the Gold Coast, bought a unit and flew back to Melbourne.

About half the buyers paid deposits in cash and many units were sold to investors.

The press used to say a lot of bludgers living on the Gold Coast. Well, they were right. There are bludgers on the Gold Coast. They are not living on the dole. They are living on our backs.

BY PHIL GRIFFITHS

now are mentioned — to achieve "rock bottom" figures. That isn't hard to do.

Offices are understaffed, queues are long. A little curt treatment at the counter, a reminder that they can't get the dole — it shouldn't be hard to keep their names off the rolls.

And presto! The government can claim that unemployment is low.

That's what Fraser's children are up against. A Government so ruthless it is prepared to wreck their lives. So unkind and unfeeling that it tries to pretend it isn't happening.

Fraser's children will not easily forget what the Millionaire from Nansen did to them in 1977.

And when they get the chance to exact their revenge, they will make damn sure that he never gets to do it again.



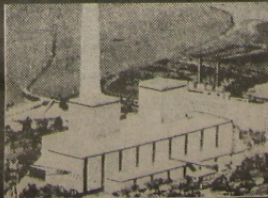
Leslie Jackson (left) and Susan McEwan are two school-leavers from Collingwood, (Vic) who are being denied the dole. They've sued the Social Security Department — in a test case which will affect thousands of other unemployed school-leavers. But the Supreme Court has postponed their case till March. Meanwhile, presumably, school-leavers like Leslie and Susan can starve.

NEWPORT INQUIRY PICKET

Tuesday February 8, 10 a.m.
Demonstration 5 p.m.

171 Flinders St. Melbourne

See Story Pages 6 & 7



AT THIS STAGE, none really knows the specific cause of the Granville rail disaster, but in a lot of ways it doesn't really matter.

What does matter, is that something like the Granville disaster was inevitable and has been inevitable for many years.

More horrifying is the fact that no matter what the inquiry finds, another tragedy like Granville could easily happen soon on the NSW railways.

Or, for that matter, on the railways in Victoria, or Queensland.

Even since the end of the Second World War, State Transport Departments under all

parlours have been reflecting what was one of the best railway systems in the world.

Railway expenditure, renewal of track and rolling stock and staffing levels have been consistently neglected and often deliberately run down.

The bridge that fell killing 82 people had been hit twice previously by trains becoming derailed at the same place.

It is impossible to tell whether the bridge had already been considerably weakened by the two earlier accidents.

The locomotive pulling the train had itself been involved in a previous derailment.

For years, the railway unions have been a lone voice of the wilderness, warning of the

"NO MATTER HOW good the rolling stock, a railway cannot function properly with poorly maintained track. Today, railway travellers in NSW are literally taking their lives into their hands by travelling in this way. Because of the large reduction in the number of men employed on track maintenance, there have been a lot of major derailments."

Mick Owen, secretary South Coast A.R.U., writing in The Battler, April 1976.

"It is now just a matter of time before we have a major disaster which in number of people will be ..."

Peter Cox, then Shadow Minister for Transport, March 1976.

run-down in the state railway systems and the danger to passenger safety.

The NSW Labor government was even elected on a platform of rescuing the state rail system.

The papers have been full of

pleas not to allow the railways to be privatised, but it is now clear that the privatisation was a mistake.

Business knows it. Cabinet knows it. The papers know it, and most citizens who read the Liberal back-benchers know it.

When Fraser left the dollar and tried to manage it, they set busily about reversing the devaluation but by November they were eventually stopped by the Labor government and the dollar has remained steady for the past few weeks.

The government that stepped in and pegged the dollar has a record of fiscal irresponsibility and maintenance funds for government of all political persuasions, they have been down by the people who are protesting such outrage.

We hope that there is another Fraser disaster in the risk is always there when government plays to the hypes.

LABOR'S PRICE CONTROL FRAUD

The NSW Prices Commission recently set up by the Wran Labor government is a fraud.

It will do next to nothing to keep prices down or to control the massive profits of retailers like Colson and Woolworths.

Even Sid Einfeld, the Minister for Consumer Affairs, admitted that "the Commission's job was not primarily to fix prices but to investigate and monitor prices so that overcharging consumers by retailers in other words, the Commission

might crack down on a few blatant rip-offs, but it will let the big stores go on making millions.

To see how useless the Commission is, just look at the three Commissioners appointed by Einfeld.

First, we have Gordon Trickett, former managing director of the Penrith Wright group chain and a member of the Council of the Retail Traders Association. He made clear his position quite bluntly: "the Commission would help many

companies to put their cases before the public."

Not that the idea of an organisation to control prices is in itself a bad one. A price controller can, in principle, be a good thing if it is constantly raising its own pay packages.

ENFORCE

But to achieve that you need a committee controlled by trade unionists together with representatives from women's and community groups.

This committee could then turn to the industrial muscle movement to enforce their policies.

A committee composed of workers who are not involved in raising prices. In the process, of course, it would infuriate the

houses of a lot of important companies. And that's why you can bet that Sid Einfeld never even considered setting up such a committee.

Instead, the NSW Labor Government prefers to make a bet on the job of keeping prices down.

As chairman of the Commission, there's Sydney's notorious Magistrate Robert Evans on the bench making the law work in the houses forever.

Finally, as a token woman's representative, there's Cathy Davidson from the Women's Electoral Lobby, a university graduate with three children.

Neither she, nor Evans come from the income bracket badly hit by rising prices.

Fraser's Money Policy: WHEN IN DOUBT, AI, THE COCKIES

BY TOM O'LINCOLN

IT IS NOW crystal clear that the devaluation was a mistake.

Business knows it. Cabinet knows it. The papers know it, and most citizens who read the Liberal back-benchers know it.

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wanted the dollar revealed up again because money has been pouring into the country at a frantic rate since December.

If it comes in faster than it can be absorbed, it will fast inflation.

It is not enough to stop this inflow, but Fraser decided the proper thing to do had gone far enough. So how will the government solve this problem?

COMPLEX

Fraser's answer is a complex set of government controls on investment and an introduction of quarterly company tax increases.

This amounts to a further normal government policy.

Fraser's decision, however, was to do something that was not done since 1975 and dismissed them as a possible tactic so little as seven weeks ago.

Now he's grasping for straws, in the end, he's prepared to try anything. Clearly, the Fraser government has abandoned all

pretence of having an economic policy.

The last time Fraser suspended company tax payments, the additional money was used to invest, but to speculate, and that's exactly what happened because of the devaluation.

Now manufacturing industry has already been hit and Fraser means when he said "Life won't be as easy". Some business men are going to have trouble paying the taxman and

the control on capital imports and investment are going to further restrict the country's ability to borrow.

His reverse circuit was aimed at those who actually export goods, but everyone will be in a struggle to get out of the country.

The government has one more option: a credit squeeze. Credit has already been tightened somewhat, but everyone will be in a struggle to get out of the country.

Months for Lysh to put on the screws for real.

WHAT WE THINK

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Black Rock arrests

TOWARDS the end of November, police began harassing gay people who were meeting at a secluded area of Melbourne's Black Rock beach.

The cops went around pointing gay flags, following people and acting friendly, waiting for someone to say something incriminating.

They would then arrest their unsuspecting victims. They were even arresting people they thought they knew were gay, even if they didn't have a shred of evidence.

The crime committed by the cops at Black Rock beach is that they got trapped and covered by police into saying they were out to meet other gays. The police admitted as much to the "Age".

Then, overnight, the police changed their minds - or had their minds changed for them. Chief Secretary Dickie went "were going to deny the police thing". They would do that sort of thing. Then so did the Black Rock inspectors who spoke to the "Age".

The issue that the daily press had taken up goes beyond the police laying gays on - although that had happened - into the trap, the police will permit and force witness statements of "homosexual intent" out of them.

They need this to get a conviction for the "offence" of "loitering for homosexual purposes".

Laywers who've been to the trials and have represented gays have pointed out the suspicious similarities in the written statements.

They have also realised signing statements which have been gruelled over several hours, jotted down and threatened with detention at Pentridge and publicity in the newspapers. Many have eventually broken down and signed a statement under duress.

ACCESS

Society Five and Gay Information have got access to lawyers who want to take on a case and throw it out of court. If you know anyone coming up for trial as a result of the Black Rock purge, put them in touch with us. We may be able to help.

As public sympathy went against the police, sections of the Melbourne media tried to make out that the police action against gays and children had been protected from "perverts".

The "Herald" and "Sun" trumped up interviews with local residents who concluded off about the "disgraceful way they carry on over there. They even thought nothing publicly offensive should be said in their news stories. They get reactionary backs like Douglas Willie to say that gays are sick and had better shut up if they wanted to be

Black Gays Fight Back

gives the police wide political bashing powers. It can be seen against lesbians too - but not against gays.

A meeting will be held Society Five, 279 Leake St, on February 16 at 8.30 p.m. to discuss the situation.

The idea of this night is to get them arrested at a public position.

Other plans are for a raising Gay Dance, and a parade to coincide with the opening of the Autumn Season of parliament.

You can support our campaign by offering your own or sending money - or both! - to the Homosexual Law Reform Coalition, P.O. Box 1801, Melbourne, or phone 661-4555 after 6 p.m.

The Black Rock campaign is now phasing into a broader campaign for the repeal of the anti-homosexual laws - and especially Section 18 of the Summary Offences Act, which gives the police wide political bashing powers. It can be seen against lesbians too - but not against gays.

There has been denunciation publicly through Gay Six's weekly radio programme on 3CR, training of bars, dances, and Black Rock beach. Information gives of their rights and the Coalition's campaign to get rid of the laws that make the persecution possible.

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"Sailing the seas depends upon the Helmsman"

TO THE RAPTUREOUS applause of 1600 young Christians, Malcolm Fraser delivered yet another of his helpful talks on 'self help' and 'individual initiative' in Canberra last week.

Following one of the few standard phrases Fraser is likely to get these days, the Prime Minister captured his audience with some sayings such as:

"If you do not sail your own ship, all people had a dull world if you were."

And we thought that just what Fraser had in mind all along - just shows how wrong you can be.

But the gist of his speech was that it was up to the individual to solve the problems of unemployment, economic recession, inflation etc.

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ABWE: The talks are over

"IF WE WERE TO GIVE way now it would not be to majority rule. It would be to a Marxist indoctrinated minority."

Thus Ian Smith rejected the compromise suggested by Britain at the Geneva talks on Zimbabwe (Rhodesia).

What he really meant, and every white settler in Rhodesia knew it, was that his government wants "representatives" of the black majority that they can control.

The British proposals include representatives of ZANU (Zimbabwe African National Union) which has popular support and guerrilla fighters and Smith could not control them.

There are basically three sides to the Zimbabwe dispute. The Zimbabwe people, international capital and the Rhodesian settlers.

After the defeat of imperialists in the Portuguese African colonies, it was accepted by Smith and the majority of the settlers that some form of black majority rule is inevitable.

The argument and the fighting is over what form of black rule.

taken

The settlers want a token black government which will allow the majority of land and wealth to stay in white hands, with the blacks content to remain as a cheap labour force for the whites.

This has never been an acceptable option for the black majority and it's doubtful if Smith could create any puppet government that would accept it.

That is why the only formula for black rule that is prepared to consider is one that includes a two year transition period in which whites maintain control of internal security.

During this period, his forces could murder most of the militant black political leadership.

International capital represented by the US and British governments, specifically Henry Kissinger last year and now Helmut Schmidt this year, have particular interest in maintaining the terms that the settlers stole from the Zimbabweans tribes.

They would like to maintain control of Zimbabwe's economic assets (minerals, tobacco), if they could get a compliant black government, like Kenya's or Kenya, they would be very pleased.

control

But if it comes to the crunch, they are prepared to lose even that in purchase of their main objective, which is the maintenance of economic control of South Africa.

South Africa is the world's main source of diamonds and gold, and if the war in Zimbabwe escalates as it has been doing, then South Africa will be drawn in to it war in Angola.

What imperialism desperately wants to avoid is a war that involves South Africa and leads to the overthrow of the white minority government there.

The South African government see the same threat. Particularly after the Soweto riots last year which involved the black working class, the only force capable of overthrowing the apartheid regime.

That's why Vander, against all ideological beliefs, is prepared to support some form of minority rule in Zimbabwe.

Anything, so long as he is not drawn into a war in Zimbabwe which could weaken his own control in South Africa.

But the talks in Geneva were bound to fail because they gave us their privileged position and they will not do this.

The only reason that the Smith regime participated in the Geneva talks was to buy time and buy arms.

The Zimbabwean liberation movements had no faith in the talks either. They will accept nothing less than majority rule and with the support of their people they know they must inevitably win in armed struggle.

They participated in the talks at the request of the neighbouring black states, most of whom do not wish to be drawn into a war in which South Africa would be involved because most of them have economic links with South Africa.

Zimbabwe Freedom Fighters

Robert Mugabe (Secretary General of ZANU) summed up his organization's position on the Geneva talks as follows:

"They (the Presidents of the neighbouring black states) worked out to give us black majority rule. We tried to do this, but they did not want to do this. We are here to demonstrate the correctness of our position."

"Thus we will go home and continue the use of liberation until final victory!"

The talks are over. The war is inevitable.

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Fretlin scores major victories

THE FRETILIN FORCES in East Timor have just scored a major military victory over the occupying Indonesian armies.

In a major battle on the Lous River, near the West Timor border, Fretlin forced back a large Indonesian contingent.

The Indonesians were making another attempt to establish a direct link from West Timor to Dili. Once again, they were pushed back by a massive Fretlin army, estimated to be over 1500.

In a month-long battle, the Indonesians lost 320 soldiers and were forced back across the flooded river.

Fretlin forces are reported to be six killed and three wounded.

The battle of the Lous River is paralleled by the battles around Raiaco last year. Raiaco is a town on the treacherous road west of the capital, Dili.

The remaining Indonesian forces are reported to be fleeing on for a long struggle. Indonesian troops in Timor and the major road crossing from the north to the south of the island.

But the rest of the territory is in Fretlin's hands.

Timor is becoming South Vietnam. Despite the low population, despite the massive military effort, the Timorese are not being worn - in fact they're winning the war.

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LATE LAST YEAR, AMVU leader John Halfpenny spoke to a group of advertising executives.

Naturally he criticised them, but he finished up with an appeal for advertisers to help him to unite in defence of manufacturing industry.

Now AMVU organiser Jim Baird has explained what Halfpenny had in mind. He has called for the metal unions to become an unpaid advertising agency for Australian employers.

In mid-January he unveiled the "Buy Australian" campaign of the Metal Trades Federation.

THE FRASER government has NOT succeeded in destroying the Newcastle State Dockyards.

Out of a peak force of 2,000 there are now only 250 workers left.

Last Wednesday, 60 painters and dockers were laid off. The week before, about 340 workers, including boilermakers, ironworkers and staff were retrenched.

More sackings are likely in March when the Flinders Range, one of two ships still under construction in the dockyards, is due for completion.

When the other ship, the Setwyn Range, is finished, the only workers still with a job will be those doing ship repairs.

While most of the blame for the sackings lies with the Fraser government, the NSW Labor government has done little to stop the rundown of the dockyards.

And it is the Wran government which is actually carrying out the sackings.

All the NSW Labor government has done is to defer the retrenchments for a couple of months while they negotiated with Fraser.

Even the redundancy money the State government is paying out is paltry. Four weeks pay plus two weeks for every year worked up to ten years.

Workers who have worked the dockyards for 35 years are only getting \$4000 in redundancy pay.

Because they are classed as casual labour, the painters and carpenters sacked this month didn't get a cent in redundancy money.


who were marching in support of Chiang Ching and against Teng. A few short months ago they were marching for Teng and against Chiang.

Because China lacks any form of workers democracy, no people to express any new political or social ideas, the continuing political oppression, except through occasional and unauthorised strikes.

But there is no doubt that a dualised socialist economy is unable to resolve its economic problems and a new leadership cycle accompanied by a new wave of repression and sabotage.

Liu Shao Chi was unable to do this. With Mao's death we see the departure of a generation of the last red Maoist leadership. But there is no doubt that a dualised socialist economy is unable to solve China's problems, either.

DON'T BUY "BUY AUSTRALIAN"



The unions, he said, would be taking out ads in the papers with the slogan, "Buy Australian - the job you save may be your own!" and "Buy Australian and Save Jobs!"

This is real rubbish. It amounts to saying that our problems are caused by nasty foreigners instead of the employers. The truth is that the decision to lay off workers is an employer's decision, not a foreigner's decision.

A "Buy Australian" campaign, if it ever got off the ground, would lead to more unemployment overseas. And although it would raise profits in Australia, there would be no guarantee that we would be "rewarded" with more jobs.

But this idea is more than rubbish. It is public after two years of recession. After two years without a serious ward campaign in the metal industry, the AMVU leaders can think of nothing else to do.

Always helpful, Baird added that "employers could help rationalise their position by following his union's line and amalgamating."

The tens of thousands of unemployed workers in Australia will not be amused.

MORE SACKINGS AT THE SHIPYARDS ... and the workers need more support

THE CHRISTMAS-NEW YEAR Holiday usually sees a break from political and industrial activity. And that includes fund raising.

At the Batter, we have been fortunate that some of our strongest supporters remembered us over Christmas and helped tide us over the New Year.

We'd like to thank:

MC 560	TH 55
NC 510	JS 513
JV 525	RP 510
TF 510	BB 5100

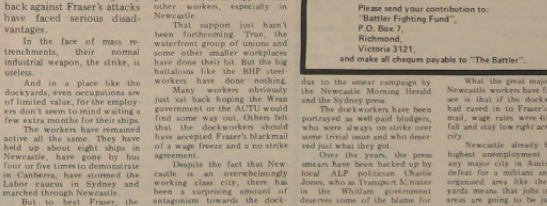
Total \$253 Goldfields Cokeworkers \$20

Please send your contribution to: "Battler Fighting Fund", P.O. Box 7, Richmond, Victoria 3121, and make all cheques payable to "The Battler".

What the great majority of Newcastle workers have failed to see is that if the dockworkers had caved in to Fraser's blackmail, wage rates were likely to fall and stay low right across the country.

Newcastle already has the highest unemployment rate of any major city in Australia. A defeat for a militant and well-organised area like the dockyards means that jobs in other areas are going to be just that much harder to defend.

STATE DOCKYARD



DOCK WORKERS fighting back against Fraser's attacks have faced serious disadvantages.

In the face of mass retrenchments, their normal industrial weapon, the strike, is useless.

And in a place like the dockyards, even occupations are of limited value, for the employers don't seem to mind waiting a few extra months for their ships.

The workers have remained active all the same. They have held up about eight ships at Newcastle, have gone by bus four or five times to demonstrate in Canberra, have stormed the Labor caucus in Sydney and marched through Newcastle.


But to beat Fraser, the dockworkers desperately need to get wide industrial support from other workers, especially in Newcastle.

That support just hasn't been forthcoming. True, the waterfront group of unions and some other smaller workforces have done their bit. But the big battalions like the BHP steelworkers have done nothing.

Many workers obviously just sat back hoping the Wran government or the ACTU would find some way out. Others felt that the dockworkers should have accepted Fraser's blackmail of a wage freeze and no strike agreement.

Despite the fact that Newcastle is an overwhelmingly working class city, there has been a surprising amount of antagonism towards the dockworkers. This has been partly

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CHINA RECONSTRICTS

THE CHINESE leadership is continuing its campaign against Mao and the Cultural Revolution.

From attacks on the "gang of four" they have now moved to open attacks on the Cultural Revolution - a campaign the Chinese people were told at the time had been personally launched and led by Mao Tse Tung himself.

At the same time there appears to be an attempt to build a personality cult around Chou En-Lai, stressing aspects of his politics that were opposed to the "gang of four" and by implication, Mao himself.

The most recent policy reversals relate to Teng Hsiao-Ping and the Teng An Men Square incident.

Teng, who has made more comeback than Meika, was purged both during the Cultural Revolution and again last year. Now his reinstatement seems inevitable.

During the last campaign, his statement, "What does it matter what colour a cat is so long as it catches mice?" was quoted as an example of his indifference to Marxist dogma.

It appears the new regime will be far more concerned with results than political line.

A year ago we pointed out that the demonstration in support of Chou En-Lai in Tien An Men Square in Peking appeared to be a spontaneous gesture against the then Chinese leadership.

At the time local Maoists warned us that the demonstrators were an outburst by reactionaries probably manipulated by China's enemies.

Now the Chinese leadership seems to be saying that the demonstrators were spontaneous gesture against the gang of four, the then Chinese

who were marching in support of Chiang Ching and against Teng. A few short months ago they were marching for Teng and against Chiang.

Because China lacks any form of workers democracy, no people to express any new political or social ideas, the continuing political oppression, except through occasional and unauthorised strikes.

But there is no doubt that a dualised socialist economy is unable to resolve its economic problems and a new leadership cycle accompanied by a new wave of repression and sabotage.

Liu Shao Chi was unable to do this. With Mao's death we see the departure of a generation of the last red Maoist leadership. But there is no doubt that a dualised socialist economy is unable to solve China's problems, either.

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The FBI, the CIA and the death of Karen Silkwood

BY TESS LEACK

THE FOX REPORT on uranium mining warns ominously of the dangers of uranium and nuclear products such as plutonium getting into the wrong hands.

They tell us it can't happen. But it does happen, and Karen Silkwood was a biochemist who found out that Karen Silkwood worked as a laboratory analyst for Kerr-McGee, the largest uranium supplier in the US. While working in their plutonium plant she became aware of the plutonium hazards and alerted the Kerr-McGee management. In 1974, she was elected to the local citizens committee of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers International Union (OCAW). She reported to OCAW that the Kerr-McGee plant was sloppy, dishonest and unsafe, and undertook to gather files and other evidence to support her allegations.

The company found out what she was doing and on several occasions she was confronted with plutonium. This wasn't all that unusual for Kerr-McGee workers, but whether it was accident or intentional is the first of the unanswered questions.

By November 13, 1974, she had collected her evidence and set out to meet a New York Times journalist and union officials. She never got there. Her car was run off the road and she was found dead in the trunk. By late June OCAW officials got there, the documents were gone.

FOUL PLAY

The union hired an accident specialist to check for foul play. He found ample evidence that either car had forced her off the road.

Would Kerr-McGee have murdered her just to prevent exposure that their plant was hazardous? The union and others who later came into the investigation thought not.

Why else did those documents matter? The story and the coverage are hard to believe.

Larry Olson was the FBI agent investigating Karen Silkwood's death. He discovered high concentrations of plutonium in Silkwood's fat.

ARSENAL

The fact that larval now has 13 atomic bombs in its arsenal makes it SOS where the missing plutonium was documents in Silkwood's possession and how they may at least be Kerr-McGee side of the deal.

And now the CIA is covering the cover-up in the name of "national security." Of course, SOS can't prove any of this.

But Kerr-McGee was transferred and effectively dismantled. However, he continued following the case up with a report Jacques Srouji, who was also an OCAW member.

Three hundred miners died. Karen Silkwood died. Her parents and sisters harassed. Jacques Srouji attacked by her paper and threatened by the FBI. Other reporters harassed. And they tell us that uranium mining is safe.



City residents rally opposite the Newport site.

WESCAN

"We resolve to continue the fight against the Newport Powerstation irrespective of the outcome of the Inquiry"

THE WESTERN Suburbs Campaign Against Newport (WESCAN) was launched in mid-December by a public meeting of fifty western suburbs residents.

From the word "Go" the emphasis was on action. We started with a very militant and noisy rally on the steps of Trades Hall on the night of the Newport sell-out.

Following the rally at Trades Hall, we got to work organising a resident's protest rally at the Newport site. People from the public meeting had put down their names to join, and an open organising committee was set up which met every week.

Our third tactic for publicity was a series of seven leaflets handed out to western suburbs before the rally. These were most effective when we had a megaphone and petitions for the rally to sign, because then we could actually talk to them about the power station issue.

The rally itself was held on the steps of Trades Hall, and after another ten minutes on the steps, we moved upstairs to the second floor of the Trades Hall where the delegates were still moving into the meeting.

We started speaking to them through a megaphone as they went past. We urged them to hold the line and not sell out on Newport.



WESCAN supporters lobby Trades Hall delegates.

THE RESIDENTS HAVE THEIR SAY

TED and Lillian Stubbs have been living in River St, Newport, since 1925. They have lived in the area since 1914 and are now retired.

They are veterans of the fight against the existing Newport Power Station and are now fighting the new monster planned for 100 years from their doorstep.

TED explained: "A lot of our time is spent down the Street and Westminster with the swans. It's really beautiful down there. And it hasn't been proved that the warm water from the power station which will be chlorinated won't affect this wildlife."

LILLIAN: "When we first moved here we could walk right down to the river to where the punt went across from the power station which we get no sun till about 11 o'clock on a winter's day. It stinks the whole lot."

TED: "People don't realise the station itself will be as high as the chimney stacks on the old one and the chimney will be 600 feet high. Now we've got a small view of the city and the Dandenongs and the ships going on the river, that will be completely shut out."

In the early 50's residents began to organise to protest against the then newly built power station which stands here today.

TED: "We were trying to get rid of the site and the noise from the river and the noise from the power station. It was two or three years before we got the noise case in at the Strand Hotel. The picture was in the Sun, and you couldn't see yourself think with the noise, they had the claim going at all hours of the night. Sometimes the safety valve would blow. That's another thing with this new monster, there's no guarantee that there won't be any noise."

"We had a meeting on the same venue as last Saturday's meeting and then we had a paper case on the Williams Town Hall. I just went along to see how I could help and ended up in the Chair. We took up a petition and got about 10,000 signatures which were presented to the Minister for electrical undertakings."

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Kennedy, I think, and it was said in Parliament. "We were eventually told that the station was going to be phased out, but what they didn't tell us was that there was going to be a bigger monster right on the job."

"Even if the SEC was determined to use natural gas to produce electric power, it could make this equipment quickly, cheaply and away from the metropolitan area."

"I don't want any more fighting. I want to enjoy the few years we've got left."

Claude Di Barista works as a butcher at Gilbertson's and lives in the Northcote area. He says: "Neither do his mates."

Another Newport resident asked to remain anonymous because he didn't want to be known for the last four years.

"I don't like it very much because of the pollution," he told us. We asked him about the proposed Newport Power Station to be sited to the west, and he says: "Neither do his mates."

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WHY WE'RE BOYCOTTING THE NEWPORT INQUIRY

IF YOU'RE SO OPPOSED to Newport, why aren't you putting in a submission to the Newport Inquiry?

That's a question a lot of people are going to be asking members of WESCAN over the next few weeks. So the Battler asked WESCAN member Dave Nadeo to answer it now.

"First of all, you have to understand one independent body of the Inquiry. It's not a committee, it's a body of people who are going to be asked to make a recommendation to the Minister for electrical undertakings."

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Cop This, Rupert!

RUPERT MURDOCH may own half of the USA, but his printing works aren't overruled.

Just as management at News Ltd. is sharp rap on the knuckles.

On Saturday January 15, the photographers came some suspicious looking order. It had not come from the operators, and they suspected there were staff working in a closed room upstairs.

They stopped work and demanded to inspect the room. After some time they were allowed in, and found the suspicious confirmed: infrared and other were found in the room. Obviously some staff had been down there.

On Monday morning, the unions decided to sue management. After a long delay, the reply was: "We doubt that it happened, but it won't happen again."

ANGRY

Angry unions were called a full meeting for the next day, and the meeting voted to stop work until they got an apology and a firm commitment that it wouldn't happen again.

Management replied: "First you go back to work, then we'll talk." The workers calmly remained on strike for two hours, and management caved in and apologized.

Still dissatisfied, the PVIU Chapel went to court, demand-

ing payment for time lost on Saturday night. The court said this was unjustified, but recommended that News Ltd. pay the money anyway, just to show what nice guys they were.

And so it goes. A Murdoch victory, but a satisfying one for men who work for Murdoch.

BUILDERS WIN SAFE CRANES

THE ACT BRANCH of the BLF has beaten the mobile crane companies in a recent dispute. For years, the crane companies have operated their cranes without adequate training.

Mobile cranes would arrive on building jobs without a licensed dogman to sling and direct loads or licensed fitters to assemble the cranes. This was a real safety hazard on jobs.

The BLF has now taken a stand. No cranes would operate in the ACT without a complete crew, including a licensed dogman, who was a dogman.

The new move, however, is giving the unions the right to have a say in the way the cranes are used.

Acting ACT secretary, Ian O'Driscoll, said: "It's a day of our hearts' desire, but the battle is not over."

"I Demand a Fair Trial"

Our daily confronts the Minister for Education

'THE CHARGES are all bullshit and they know it.'

"I'm disturbed at the lengths I had to go to to get a hearing at the Conference."

Dan Reidy was commenting on the treatment he got from the annual conference of the NSW Teachers' Federation last December. Several charges have been laid against him by the Education Department, but it has refused to give him a fair hearing.

The Federation is not exactly supporting him either. The Conference censured him for not obeying the directive of the Executive to go along with the Department's arrangements for hearing his case. The Department had refused to let him have a transcript of the hearing, or to make a recording.

Reidy, understandably, refused to acknowledge that he was guilty of a fair hearing. He has been considering legal action against the Federation so as to make them let him but his case to the Annual Conference. Eventually the Executive gave him a few minutes, but then gagged the debate.

"The Conference made a decision that was not based on all the facts," Reidy said. He was disturbed at the intrigue against him, especially by some members of the Communist Party, who even distributed a leaflet attacking him to the Conference.

Reidy owns a copy of the Education Act.

The charges still stand against Dan. During the school holidays, he demonstrated his anger by writing a letter to the Minister for Education, Mr. Peter Bevan.

He says he will not be deterred to fight to the end. He says he will not be deterred to fight to the end. He says he will not be deterred to fight to the end.

HARANGUED

After having been harangued by the General Secretary, the Executive and the Conference (Organization) of the Federation, his fellow teachers unanimously opposed his resignation.

His own school, the James Hume Agricultural High School, is extremely behind him.

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TEACHER GOES FOR THE KIDNAPERS

Teachers face the sack ...

FEWER JOBS and longer hours are the prospects for Victoria's government school teachers this year.

There'll be fewer jobs because the Hanger government has cut teacher recruitment and employment numbers back to the level of 1975.

Assistant Education Minister Scanlan wants to make hours longer by 3 hours a week, and his holidays shorter by 2 weeks a year.

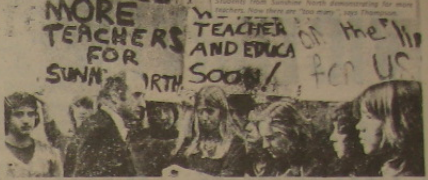
ILLUSION

Why? There's no good reason, because most of these so-called teachers work with school kids and school teachers who, after school hours or during school holidays simply aren't there.

The real reason for this is to try to flush some of these so-called teachers out of the schools to further the government's illusion of "warping teachers".

They also want to see the specialist teachers to test the end of the wedge, succeed, and the principal was in a position to sack on teacher he didn't like.

By the government's "thin end of the wedge" success, they'll try forcing Public Service conditions on all teachers.



Will the Unions Fight Back?

WILL VICTORIA'S three teacher unions fight back?

At a combined union meeting called by the VTU over 500 specialist teachers over-whelmingly demanded militant action to resist the moves to Public Service hours.

They voted to set up rank and file committees to do the ground work for a fight back early this year.

This is the sort of approach that all teachers should be looking to in a demand for more teachers.

These are some of the things...

non-confidence motion in the proposal, and voted for a motion to demand that the VTA Executive had to offer to secondary teachers was "ask your principal not to declare anyone in excess, and if he refuses, work out some criteria for him to decide who goes first."

But among the rank and file, there have been far more promising signs.

One high school has already decided on strike action for 1977 if the "in excess" criteria leaves them short-staffed this year.

At Halmag High, there were to be seven teachers out of 60 on strike for a fight back early this year.

These are some of the things...

As a parent, teacher, kid, or all around (union, media, parent and PVIU), school Council etc. to expose staff and building shortages and demand full employment for Halmag workers and teachers.

If you're a teacher, get your union branch to consider the following action plan: to complete rejection of Thompson's "stress" teachers' line.

to open combined teacher union action committee to fight the excess teachers and Public Service conditions.

to set up rank and file committees to do the ground work for a fight back early this year.

These are some of the things...

DON'T BE FOOLED LIKE US

from David Shaw, AWU delegate

THE BIG BLUE at Dillingham-Panons' Canberra site is over. The rolling strikes have ended in return for a productivity deal.

Our mass meeting voted to accept an offer of a \$33 bonus for each fortnight without any stoppages.

The \$33 is a lot of money, well outside the indexation guidelines, and we grabbed at it pretty eagerly.

Now we see we made a mistake. The bonus was using the \$33 as a bribe to keep us at work while they nibble away at our conditions on the spot.

Here are some examples: Docking: Foremen docking bikes six months of bonus for coming out of the shed 30 seconds after the siren.

Demarcation: Fitters being forced to do boilermakers' work. Staff working on the tools.

Safety: Handrails missing, rubbish lying in the walkways, cranes not properly maintained.

Sacking: The bosses are trying to stretch Mokes out of us.

While all this goes on, the company is making bumper profits from increased production on site.

THE DAN REIDY STORY

DAN REIDY'S TROUBLES BEGAN at Carlingford High School in 1975.

A parent complained about some posters Dan Reidy had displayed in his home room to help his pupils. This same parent had lodged complaints about other teachers at the school too.

Dan Reidy was not so lucky. The new Principal tackled the parent against his fellow colleague - even though the posters had been used for two years without a complaint from anyone. Dan Reidy was forced to remove the posters.

Although Dan Reidy has been a teacher for over 20 years and although his subject matter stated, in front of witnesses, that he was quite satisfied with Dan Reidy's work, the new Principal - who had been at the school for less than six months - reported that Dan Reidy was an unsatisfactory teacher.

The Principal gave no reason for doing this, nor did the Education Department request any.

Each and every classroom teacher in the State can be declared unsatisfactory by his or her school Principal - without any reason being given or requested by the Department of Education.

Libs Fume at Power Strikers

THESE GOING to be another power strike in Victoria.

Each and every classroom teacher in the State can be declared unsatisfactory by his or her school Principal - without any reason being given or requested by the Department of Education.

But according to SEC Chairman Charles Trethowan, that's "unreasonable and provocative."

He wants the matter decided by Arbitration - and he's not going to talk to anyone until he gets his way.

So MOA staff workers in Melbourne put a ban on work substitutions - and a meeting in the Latrobe Valley decided to join them in an all-out 24 hour strike on February 3.

That prompted an outbreak

RACKET

The whole "in excess" myth is laid to rest by the number of teachers. Here's how it works.

Only one teacher per class - no team teaching. So three classrooms in one hour means the other three are declared "in excess" and sacked due to a classroom shortage.

Halmag workers demonstrated at the Housing Commission head office.

What is really an under-supply of three classrooms is actually three teachers. Thompson has established this sort of situation over the State and then sank the boats.

And while the government is telling teachers that "in excess" because of a shortage of classrooms, the government is trying to get rid of one third of the workers at Halmag.

It'll be starting back work and if they don't stand down we'll all be out immediately.

.... because these men get the axe

THE VICTORIAN government has announced that 190 workers are going to be sacked from the government housing factory at Halmag in Melbourne.

The factory, which can build a house in 8 days and 20 men work on the site.

That's tough luck for the 18,000 people waiting for housing in Victoria, and the teachers who are being declared "in excess" and sacked due to a classroom shortage.

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VICTORY!

Dillingham smashed after four months

IT TOOK four months, but the Qantas workers have given the bosses a hiding.

Dillingham, the contractors for the new Qantas building in Sydney, have conceded defeat on every major point.

In mid-January, Justice Ludlake of the Arbitration Commission had finally recommended the reinstatement of the two victimised dogmen who were at the centre of the dispute.

The company immediately threw another spanner in the works.

They would agree to return to work on agreed conditions pending a review of wages in the Arbitration Court. This would mean a wage cut of \$20 a week at least, by cutting into over-

award payments.

Then, to show they were nice folks, they would drop their wages offensive - if the unions gave away ten points (mostly over conditions) that have also been in dispute.

A mass meeting on January 24 overwhelmingly rejected these terms.

The workers then packed the courtroom at the next day's hearing to hear Judge Ludlake lecture them. The seriousness of extending the strike any longer was so great, he said that "it beggars description".

But he still went on to describe it as "appalling", "shocking" and very upsetting.

And he hinted at the reason he was appalled. The workers' refusal on direct action, he said, "completely ignores my existence".

The workers present in Court voted to picket the site

and call another mass meeting. Their determination was obvious.

Two days later, Justice Ludlake and Dillingham caved in. The demand for a wage cut would be dropped.

Dillingham still had one card to play. They wanted everyone back at work in 24 hours with no guarantee of work after that date for anyone who hadn't turned up by that time.

It was a ridiculous demand considering how many of the strikers had found temporary jobs and the difficulties of informing all the workers.

The union reps took a firm position and the company rapidly retreated, finally allowing seven days for the return to work.

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REPORT BY TOM O'LINCOLN

ABOVE - Qantas workers meet in the Arbitration Court.

RIGHT - On the picket line at the Qantas site.

PHOTOGRAPH BY JOHN INQUIRY



SEVEN SAVED "We're not done yet, Fairfax!" AT A.I.S.

WORKERS in the Shipping Section of Australian Iron and Steel, Port Kembla, have won a drawn out battle to prevent the transfer of seven men.

AIS wanted to close the Number 2 jetty at Inner Harbour and transfer some of the "excess" men from the shipping section to lower paid jobs in the steel works.

The 160 FIA stewards refused to stop this. They blackbanned a new crane and struck for about a week before Christmas.

On Thursday December 23, they returned to work, but on Christmas Eve the company provoked another dispute by stand-

ing down three men who had refused to work the black-banned crane.

The rest of the shipping section then walked out with the three crane drivers.

Thousands of leaflets were produced to explain their case to steelworkers and they obtained the backing of the other waters' front unions.

On Wednesday January 12, when their case was being heard by Justice Watson in Port Kembla Court, the WWP came out on strike in support.

After a series of conferences and a total of about five weeks on strike, BHP were eventually forced to keep the seven workers in the shipping section.

DISAPPOINTED, BUT STILL militant and determined. That is the mood among printing workers at Fairfax in Sydney.

After the disappointing end to their eight week strike, most militants were expecting trouble when they went back to work just before Christmas. But they found the management anything but confident.

"We spent months in what we had hoped," says Chapel Father Don Page, "but the Company gained nothing at all."

"They spent millions to break us, but our organisation is

as strong as ever. The blokes wouldn't want another long strike, of course, but they are not reluctant to knock off."

The unions were tested almost immediately after the return to work. A stereotype was sacked, but quick action won his reinstatement. Since then, there have been any number of stoppages.

"We have all the clippings from during the strike. They've recognised the CUC in their newspapers!"

So despite setbacks the fight for job security is far from over. Any attempt at redundancies will probably meet a new explosion at Fairfax.

DISASTER LOOMS FOR BOTANY BAY

THE WRAN GOVERNMENT has condemned the Botany Bay region (NSW) to environmental disaster.

The decision to proceed with most of the Botany Bay project amounts to a betrayal of election promises made to the environmental movement and the working people of Sydney.

Before the state elections, the ALP policy document promised not to proceed with the development of Botany Bay until there had been "total environmental enquiry into the whole proposal".

But the enquiry has turned out to be a farce.

The report of the enquiry itself admits that "no studies were made of the noise levels that would be caused".

"No studies were made of no pollution that would be caused."

social impact on residents "no study attempted an appreciation of the total impact of the proposals linked together."

Much has been made of the fact that the proposed coal loader may be located somewhere else. But even without the coal loader, the development will have disastrous consequences.

Some 3,200 additional trucks will roar through the South Sydney region daily and

there will be a vast increase in car traffic as well.

It may be impossible to swim in the Bay because of pollution. There will be constant

visit by super-tankers, increasing the danger of oil spills and explosions.

Residents in suburbs of Beecroft who own their homes are finding it impossible to sell. For them there can be no escape from the growing noise and air pollution.

And air pollution is getting worse. In a dozen high school students doing sport had their lungs developed breathing apparatus.

Geoff Lacey of the Botany Bay Coordinating and Action Committee says, "The pollution looks pretty grim but we don't really know how bad it is."

It's essential that action be stepped up immediately to prevent the noise and air pollution from residents, business and all community organisations.

Our union committees must fight this issue on every day. To get involved, contact The Total Environmental Campaign 27 4714.

The Battler

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

THE SHEIK OF NAREEN

SOME people enter politics for ideals.

Some like Bob Menzies are there for the ego-trip. The majority of politicians are there for the power.

Malcolm Fraser, rather than Richard Nixon, is there for what he can get out of it.

Millionaire or not, Malcolm's in it for the money.

Apart from paying himself huge superphosphate bounties out of our taxes, Fraser has found himself other ways of making the government that he himself leads.

When Commonwealth can't level to Fraser's property at Nareen, they have to buy petrol on his property at full commercial rates from a company called Nareen Co-operative.

This is Fraser's company.

It's not a large sum of money involved, but there is an important principle at stake for Fraser.

The principle that Government funds exist to transfer money from workers and the needy to graziers and speculators.

Stuff Partial Indexation

WE WANT THE LOT!

THE SIX PERCENT RISE in the Consumer Price Index is money that has already been stolen out of our wage packets.

So is the other 2% catch-up that the ACTU is claiming.

It is ours by right. It is money that we had before the bosses ripped it out of our hands with price rises, to pad their profits.

It's money that we had before Fraser stole it with a Medbank levy to enrich

his doctor mates.

If we are not given the full 8%, we are coping a wage cut.

But in practice, we need a bloody sight more than the 8%.

We need an extra couple percent to make up for the extra tax slug.

And we need an extra 10% to make up for the value our wages have lost under indexation.

Fraser is claiming that if we get the full 8%, then

unemployment will go up. But unemployment will go up anyway, because mass unemployment is deliberate policy of the Fraser Government.

PROFITS

If they want high unemployment, even if wages are cut because we can't preserve their profits without it.

We need the wage rise

and we can get it. If the Courts don't give it to us, then we will fight for it, through each individual factory and office. Union by union, shop by shop if necessary.

And if our union leaders won't lead the fight, then we will have to organise at the rank and file level and win it ourselves.

But we will get the pay rise.

Because we cannot afford to live if we don't.



Metalworkers march on Arbitration Court yesterday demanding the full ACTU claim of 8%.

Get yours on time!

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Between Three Reasons Why Newport Will Be Built: The "Neutral" Commissioners



1971-2: First Chairman, Victorian Environmental Protection Authority to 1970 and 1972-6: Senior Officer, California Fish and Game Dept
 1976: Returned as Chairman, EPA, after his successor, Gilpin and Little resigned in disgust at EPA being made an arm of the Liberal created Ministry of Conservation.
 Approved by Ronald Reagan, Bolte and Hamer.
 Frequent speaker on "conservation" at Businessmen's lunches. No record of ever talking to union and resident meetings.
 What Has EPA Ever Done?
 Answer: Two Green Lights.

THE TIMES

THERE is a prominent Liberal politician who goes white when he meets members of the Australian diplomatic service who served in West Germany during the late sixties. They know a secret about him which he desperately does not want to get out. His wife and was of great sentimental value.

The next day when he realized how and where he had lost it, he had half the embassy staff out searching for the prostitute. When they found her she refused to return the ring until the embassy promised to let her up in a luxury flat with six months paid rent.

And who was the politician? Let's just say that the prostitute didn't win but she didn't lose. Wood Wool?

AM-UNION LEGISLATION THE GLOVES COME OFF

W.A. LABOR DOUBLED

And while we are talking about politicians, Bob Hawke has finally found a seat in Perth. Once a long time ago, he had been sitting in for his son Simon, a member of the Stormans and Packers, but a suitable deal has now been arranged.

When Industrial Advocate Bob Jolly moves to contest the Victorian State seat of Dandenong (aka: Labor) Simon Chen will succeed him. This ensures Simon's political future as the last two Industrial Advocate safe seats. The one before that was Hawke himself.

THE ONLY SURPRISING thing about the W.A. state elections is not that Labor got beaten but that Sir Charles Court's Liberals managed to gain a few extra seats.

But with unemployment and inflation bad all over Australia no state government can feel safe nowadays.

Specially in the case of a Liberal government, Fraser's even unpopular with the bosses now.

So the first trick for State Liberals to turn is pretend that they have nothing to do with Fraser.

Court managed this by attacking Fraser's Federalism policy, always a popular move in anti-centralist W.A. Belke-Freese and Knox up in Queensland are also getting a bit of mileage by attacking Fraser's economic policy and over the Torres Strait issue.

But the Liberals have also got to beat Labor. Usually they decide to trample the industrial

next plane to Tokyo and said how sorry he was that all the iron-ore workers were laid boys. Jamieson and his mates in Perth nodded in silent agreement with Hawke. Not a word about the huge profits of the multinational mining companies.

The Financial Review aptly christened Hawke an "industrial firmament". While the Pilbara workers got hit with the Green, W.A. Labor choked on the smoke.

WHINGE

The Japanese steel bosses had a big whinge to Lynch, Nixon and Fracook about the terrible troublesmaker in W.A.'s Pilbara iron mines back in January.

So Hawke put his tail between his legs, jumped on the

is prepared to let the I.R.A. do their dirty work for him.

What is an "unfair policy"?

- * striking against a cost decision
- * picketing "that in any way involves violence or intimidation (the cops and the police will do the intimidation)"
- * "primary or secondary boycott" (including bans on overtime, job or delivery)
- * actions to get a closed shop
- * fines on union members and officials
- * fines on union members and re-registration
- * damage actions against unions by "innocent parties" (companies) "for loss suffered as a result of an unfair industrial practice"

But the Libs are attacking on a second front. An area association Business and Consumer Minister John Howard was included in the Trade Practices Act made.

CONDUCT

"An employer shall as engage in conduct for the purpose of hindering or preventing the supply of goods or services by the employer of a corporation (if the hindering or preventing of those goods or services is avoid, or would be likely to have a substantial adverse effect on the business of the corporation).

What all that legal leprosy means is that bans on delivery in support of a strike are illegal. But this also means that any "essential industries" like electricity, oil or rail workers could be declared illegal.

The penalties? Take a few examples:

BAN

An overtime ban in support of the 45 hour week by Labor Valley power workers could cost a \$250,000 on any union official or participant in the strike or a payment of damages to all companies affected.

The same for picketers who have a ban for six days for obstructing a strike last year. And for striking picketers who obstructed the postmen's delivery.

Charles McDonald, secretary of the Canberra T.C., said that if the I.R.B. and the U.M.W. strike, the industrial relations law will be challenged.

The trade union movement might as well pack up, it's almost impossible through the ACTU to get any industrial relations law which will completely destroy any legislation of this sort.

A good start might be to "company boycott" of every company. Court, government, department and police associated with these fascist actions they want to cut off our labor legislation, we can turn off our labor

Former Vice-Chancellor Monash University.
 Approved by Bolte and Hamer. Has repeatedly and publicly stated his belief in the existence of "communist plots." Thus enjoyed Bolte's "full confidence."
 1974: Smashed attempt by Municipal Officers Association (MOA) to form branch at Monash University by doing a deal with the D.L.P. on Clerk's Union.
 During his career as Vice-Chancellor, over 100 students were arrested or disciplined for political action on campus.
 1949-50: Commissioner, S.C.C. during this period, present Newport Power Station expanded to be biggest then operating in Victoria.
 1949 Victoria Yearbook: [Old] Newport "now carries a substantial proportion of the base load in addition to fulfilling its originally planned role of a peak load station only."
 The original intention of the new Newport Power Station is to carry peak-load only. Will that also change?

WAGE INDEXATION is a dead duck. The 6 per cent cost-of-living rise made sure of that.

If the arbitration commission gets anything resembling 6 per cent, it will be a miracle. But if it doesn't, the pressure within the unions will probably force even Bob Hawke to pull out of wage indexation.

The truth is quite different. We predicted this rise in the CPI several months ago. We now predict, just as confidently, that there will be a similar rate in three months time. The "official, one-only" cause for that one only will be the effects of devaluation. No doubt Lynch will ask us to ignore that one too.

For the unions, the moment



Why We Really Need A \$30 Rise

HOW MUCH MONEY did you have to spend two years ago?

In March 1975 the average monthly reward wage was \$103 a week. If you were an unmarried worker on that wage then you lost \$18 in tax. So you had \$85 to spend on things like food, rent and clothing.

With the indexation decision, the average minimum wage is now \$135. The tax paid on that is \$28. So you have \$107 to spend.

But now that the December CPI figures are out, we know that prices in December were 30 per cent higher than in early 1975.

So if everything had gone up by the same amount single workers would need an extra \$27 a week.

If you were on \$105 a week in March 1975 and had a dependent husband or wife and two kids to look after, you might have been able to get all your tax back in June. So you could budget for nearly the full \$108.

MARRIED

The tax paid now by most workers on \$135 who have no dependents is \$19-22, leaving them \$113 and \$116 to spend.

Married workers need between \$30 and \$33 more to keep up with last December's average prices.

Because the devaluations everyone can add another 5% to

1953-64: Director Vic Gas and Fuel Corporation.
 1956-68: Executive Director, Amert Transur Industries.
 1968-70: Joint Manager, Gas and Fuel.
 1970-Present: Chairman, Gas and Fuel.
 Approved for last 20 years by Reg Ansett, Bolte and Hamer. Has dabbled with SEC when building his own empire. On the record as saying in 1975,

... where environmental constraints are not predominant, the use of gas for crude heat is essential. However, as a temporary means of balancing load on a supply system or to correct for seasonal variations in demand the use of natural gas as a source of crude heat may be justified."

What will be Victoria's biggest consumer of gas for crude heat in the 1980's?
 Answer: Proposed Newport Power Station.

THE GAME'S OVER

INDEXATION

of truth is approaching. For two years they have put up with wage indexation. They did this even though the figures showed beyond any doubt that the workers were losing money out of their pockets.

Figures released earlier this year show that in the 12 months ending last September, inflation was 13.9 per cent. Wages rose only by 12.2 per cent.

UNIONS

The unions' "responsible co-operation" with the government has cost us a large chunk of money, money which has gone right into the employers' pockets. The unions put up with it.

Now Fraser and Lynch want

to walk us on another two or three years, and will undoubtedly try to do again in the following quarter. And the signs are that after that, there will be a third rise of about 5 or 6 per cent.

It is a cruel trick that any union which relies on wage indexation is now going to fall even further behind price increases in the next few months. And right now opportunities are a breakthrough on the wages front are greater than they have been for some time. Devaluation has meant that some companies have more orders, and production is going up. This business recovery is small and will not last long, as it is dependent on the dollar.

Quite conversely, a retirement in the Financial Review has listed three major companies which will be vulnerable to industrial action. ICI has reported a 15 per cent rise in sales, which the columnist says indicates a still higher rise in profits. APN is expected to operate at higher output levels, and has been well improved for ACTU. There will be many other companies which will do well out of devaluation. Now is the time to put on the screws.

The right wing of the ACTU will be making a bid, despite what is to the coming weeks. They will argue for wage indexation not last year.

But, crews under attack, there is only one way indexation will be "used" that is if we launch an industrial offensive on the board. Nobody will be taking another \$30 off our wages and the courts back and give us a 15 per cent rise out of their face.

We could do that. If the unions leadership would do it. But if we can do that, then we can achieve far more. We could be bargaining away.

Industrialism is a dead duck. It is up to the trade unions to make sure that any additional income comes from the ranks of the houses and the Liberal Party, and not the Australian workers.

Melbourne unions rally outside Arbitration Commission

I want to join the International Socialists

NAME: _____ ADDRESS: _____ PHONE: _____

THE BATTLE 2 MARCH 1977 PAGE 3

METAL TRADES UNIONS MUST MOVE NOW

THE FIRST MEETING of Melbourne job delegates and shop stewards in the metal trades for 1977 got under way on Tuesday March 4 at a Trades Hall meeting.

Since this was the first day of the Arbitration hearing on the 6% CPI rise, most of the discussion revolved around the case and the meeting was on this question.

The meeting concluded with a resolution demanding the full 6% with 2% flow on.

The delegation reacted angrily to Fraser's last minute offer of "possible" tax returns if the unions promised "restraint". As if there hasn't been too much "restraint" already. For some inappreciable reason there was no report on the 71 Log of Claims. They decided on \$23 weeks ago

by Dave Nadel

by Kevin Bin, AMWU steward, Repco Universals

but have not yet communicated this to Victorian members.

Most of the 350 delegates marched to the Arbitration Commission to have a look at the learned judges carefully weighing up the pros and cons of the case, and fiddling with paper clips.

FULL

The last (and only) time there was a decent demo outside the court was for the 6.4% indexation rise a year ago, and we got the full rise.

This shows how the judges arrive at their carefully consid-

ered verdict.

The AMWSU State Conference last weekend discussed wages policy, and decided to open up the metal trades campaign with a big push to get the 8% rise.

When the Commission tells us to "cop it sweet" next month this will be the basis of getting movement going on the show floor.

It is clear that in the adverse economic and political conditions we can't wait for a boom to restore wages and relations; there's no time coming!

The failure of the '75-6 general campaign demonstrated the need for well-organized united action at the regional, state and national level.

Without the strongest unity we will not be able to win anything, but will be picked off one by one.

Don't think politics is our shit, then read this...

THERE IS a story about three blind men who went to see an elephant.

One grasping its tail, declared the elephant to be a kind of hair.

Another, feeling its leg, it said it was like a tree trunk. The third touched an ear, and said that this was a big fan. But none of them understood the elephant, even though they were well informed on part of it. It must be careful not to make the same mistake ourselves.

A lot of men and women who lead fights against the boss at work use shop floor struggles as something separate from politics.

As one militant told me "I don't like 'ums', they just get in the way."

But I can't agree with him. Political ideas, analysis and action are vitally important to shopfloor leaders. Of course, they can dispense with the bible-bashing dogmatism of some groups. But the "um" that counts, Marxism, is a means to understanding the system we're fighting as a whole.

Our enemies are well-aware of the need to do that. The employers have political parties, and agents in every part of society, social welfare, education, public relations, legal system. They have the mass media which routinely distorts their political viewpoint.

You can say that again

by
TOM O'LINCOLN

Our false friends, the union and Labor Party bureaucrats, also have a political approach. They control the ALP, they have connections in various parts of the community.

Both the bosses and the bureaucrats have well-worked out political and social organization to make sure every citizen is indoctrinated with the ideas of capitalism on the one

hand and reformism on the other. Every shop steward knows how often workmates turn up in the morning with some reactionary idea they got from the media.

To defend ourselves, not to speak of winning, the class struggle, we too need politics and political organization. We need a newspaper to fight the capitalist lies. We need an analysis of society. Not a lot



FAIRFAX WORKERS (Labor) AND THEIR NEWSPAPER

"Our argument for politics is about making this kind of organization and analysis permanent."

of long-winded jargon, but a sensible explanation of how the system works. We need a political party based on militant workers, to provide an alternative to the sell-outs of Labor.

Poisoned
Let's look at a recent example. In the eight week battle at Fairfax, the bosses had a lot of trump cards. They had the papers and the TV stations which poisoned public opinion.

They had the active support of the Fraser government and the NSW Liberal Party.

The bureaucrats wanted to let the strike run as quickly as possible, so they wanted. They had the Labor government, which was guaranteed to let back the police smash the picket. They had the NSW Labor Council, which would retaliate itself hose than to anything.

Both British and Israel expressed delight. As the Financial Times commented: "Israel's presence in the early emergency

of the Conservative British government's decision to sell arms to South Africa. On January 25 1971, a military coup overthrew Obote and brought Amin to power. There is little doubt that Amin's British friends gave him the word to move against Obote. Less than a week earlier, 700 British troops had landed in neighbouring Kenya, to intervene if the coup looked like failing.

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AMIN! CONDEMNED BY THE PEOPLE WHO MAKE WHI WE ARE

THE AUSTRALIAN PRESS has had a field day since the death of Archbishop Luyam in Uganda on February 17.

The circumstances of his death have been doubted but he was in fact murdered by representatives of Idi Amin's repressive regime. If not by Amin himself!

Two facts have been ignored by the *Press General*: Amin is a creation of those who now howl the loudest British and Israel. And since they installed him as a dictator he has mounted a systematic campaign of repression and violence against Ugandans, opposed to his regime. Luyam is one of thousands who have been killed by Idi Amin.

In the last two years, the international press has sensationalized three incidents: the threatened execution of a white university lecturer (Dennis Hill); the raid on Entebbe airport by Israeli troops to "rescue" a plane full of white tourists; and now the death of a Church of England Bishop.

Meanwhile Ugandans suffer constantly as Amin puts into effect the policies made more than he learnt from his former British boss.

Like any mass government in the impoverished, underdeveloped, the Amin regime is engaged in a desperate attempt to retain popularity and deal with the staggering impact of a world economic crisis.

Uganda has failed to gain popular support in Uganda. But he has not forgotten a few things he learnt from those while British officers 20 years ago: he is using murder, imprisonment without trial and torture to maintain his rule.

There is a rumour in Britain that Amin may turn up at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Conference in London in June this year. If so, he will be great at Commonwealth Heads of Government Conference in London in June this year. If so, he will be great at Commonwealth Heads of Government Conference in London in June this year.

POLAND: LIVING ON BORROWED TIME

There is a STRANGE AIR of calm in Poland this year. Last year, in response to massive price rises, including a 60% rise in the price of food, riots and strikes broke out. The violent protests forced the government to back down, as it had backed down the previous time, six years ago.

Government circles seemed badly shaken a few months back, yet they seem relaxed. No more trouble is expected in the immediate future. But it is just the lull before the next storm.

The Polish government has bought itself peace for the short term only by mortgaging its future.

Around 1971, Poland went seriously into debt. It borrowed billions in order to buy fancy new technology for a programme of industrial expansion. The government counted on increased sales to the west to pay the bills.

But the west entered an economic crisis from which it has yet to emerge. Like any group of loans, the Polish government has had to pay the cost of the crisis onto the backs of the workers. They tried to balance the budget by making prices up.

The workers proved too strong. The price cuts had to be withdrawn. The government has since decided to keep prices down by paying foreign currencies. But the debts must eventually be paid. The government must sooner or later have to increase prices of consumer goods again. Since the debts are greater, the price rises will be greater.

The potential for mass resistance and even the fall of the Polish regime, is tremendous.

Poland is not the only country facing these dangers. To a large extent, the other Eastern European countries are facing a growing indebtedness to the capitalists. The debt owed by eastern European countries has more than tripled since 1973.

Western leaders are even beginning to wonder if Russia is a good credit risk. North Korea is so far in debt that its embassy staff have to smuggle cigarettes to make expenses.

And China, which bought perhaps 75-100 complete industrial plants from the west in the last 5 years is now selling large amounts of gold to pay its balance of payments. With the major industrial nations in debt, China too will probably wind up in debt.

But the prospects are deepening of the world economic crisis in the coming years. This will make it difficult hard for any of these bureaucratic regimes to see what they produce. If they find a result that they can't pay back their debts, the Polish experiment may be repeated in one country after another.



POLISH WORKERS ON THE MARCH



THE DEATH CAR OF ARCHBISHOP LUYAM

to celebrate the coup seemed a little on the conspicuous side. But Amin eventually turned against those who had put him in power. He found that the economic policies they had looked for were not what he needed. He is using murder, imprisonment without trial and torture to maintain his rule.

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MARCH 8 The Day Working Women Fight For Their Rights

ON MARCH 8, 1968, women garment workers in New York demonstrated against their low pay and sweat-shop conditions, and for the vote. The conditions of working women were terrible in those days: working up to 16 hours a day, paid much less than men and often taking their lives on the ropes.

A couple of years later, an international women's congress decided to make March 8 a special day for women.

Unlike Mother's Day, it would not emphasize women's place in the home. Instead it would concentrate on working women and their problems. Since then, every year there have been meetings and demonstrations on International Women's Day in many countries. In Australia too a march was held in Melbourne on March 8, 1938.

Married
In Australia today, women make up more than a third of the workforce. Most of these are young women waiting for husbands, but married women who have to work to support their family — to pay for their children's education or to buy a new refrigerator. These ideas may be new to many women here who are used to a man's wage.

Working women 99.6 hours per week. This includes 40 hours in a workplace and 59.6 hours of housework.

However, the distinction between the two kinds of work is not so clear. Most women are channelled into jobs which are either an extension of the kind of work they do in the home, or which exploit their so-called "feminine" qualities.

Traditionally, women have been the most conservative part of the workforce. It's not unusual for women to discourage their husbands from striking or even to be used as a scapegoat.

Personal
This has a lot to do with women's role in society at large. They are encouraged to see their problems in personal rather than social terms. So they are more likely to worry about immediate problems like when the next meal is coming from rather than take a long-range view which sees allies or foes in the industrial system.

But since the early 1970s, more and more women have lacked the idea that it's "unladylike" to try and do anything about wages and conditions. As one factory worker said:

organiser put it: "God Almighty made women, but the big business of thieves created leaders."

After the equal pay breakthrough of 1972 and the Labor government's moves to abolish job discrimination in the Public Service, the "gang of feminists" can't rely so easily on "ladylike" passiveness.

Common
Strikes have become far more common in occupations involving large numbers of women workers in the last few years.

Female teachers, tobacco workers, catering workers, shop assistants and nurses have decided that "women's work" should include fighting for equal pay and better working conditions.

Most of these fights have carried on with bigger help from union leaders, most of whom are still men with "more important things to do" like pressing before the Courts.

CIVILISED TORTURERS

The International Commission for Human Rights has issued a report that continues to appear in the newspapers. It is also the particular strength of workplace organisations. It is also the particular strength of workplace organisations.

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THE WAR THEY DON'T WANT

The Suharto government of East Timor is running into trouble back home in Indonesia.

Apparently, not to many soldiers are keen to go to Timor in the first place. So the government has resorted to sending soldiers from Java to East Timor and letting them know that they're within their rights.

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NEWCASTLE

Report PHIL GRIFFITHS



"I think I'm on the industrial scrapheap"

"I LOOKED up to where my token was supposed to be on the board and there was a white spot. "And I knew".

It was then Kirpatrick's last day at the dockyards. He had just returned from three weeks holiday. A week earlier, several hundred of his workmates had been retrenched.

"When I heard that, I knew in the back of my mind that I wouldn't have a job after the end of January." Don is luckier than many in his home and everything in it. It's a struggle to live on the dole, but it's easier when you're not paying rent to BUP. But now he figures that he has more or less ruined. There's little hope of getting a job, and with his family, his friends and his home here, he doesn't want to leave New-

castle.

He has applied for several jobs since being sacked. He has even gone for unskilled work since there are no jobs in his trade. But always the story is the same. "If you're a tradesman, they won't give you work outside your trade. As a learner wire-puller, but company policy was not to employ tradesmen on production work."

"He went for a job as a library assistant and was asked if he would leave if a job as a boiler-maker came up. He didn't get the job."

"In 43 years of age, and the only thing I can do is a boiler-maker. I don't think I can get a job. It's too late in life to be setting up and leaving the place you've been in all your life."

"I think I'm on the industrial scrapheap."

COLIN JONES accepted voluntary retrenchment from the dockyards last October.

Since then, he has been unemployed.

"A lot of blokes looked at it like I did. Got out early and get a job. But they got quite a shock."

He remembers the atmosphere as soon as the sackings became inevitable. "You just couldn't work under it. . . . Houses going around saying 'You'll be going'."

For the past five months, Colin has covered nearly all of Newcastle trying to find work.

"I tried for a labourer at Stewart Field's. They don't put you on as a labourer because you've got a trades certificate."

"They're good at putting down your name and every thing until you tell them that you're a tradesman from the dockyard."

"I seen tried for a job at a tyre service. My cousin worked there and even he couldn't get me a job before he left."

We asked Colin about conditions at the dockyard before he left.

"In the end, it was near impossible to go on strike. Things are getting so weak over there now that if you look sideways at the boss, you get sacked."

One reason the dockyard was less productive than it could have been was the run-down equipment they were forced to work with.

"Two cranes collapsed under their own weight in twelve months. They were too old. It was lucky there was no one working on them. One collapsed across a ship and did a lot of damage to shell plates."

"It collapsed between shifts. It came down when they were putting in new decks. If there'd been blokes working, a few would have gone with it."

"The second collapsed over a weekend, right across a road."

"I don't think they

should have been operating when they were pulled apart to repair. They were too far gone with rust."

"The first one was 80% new steel when they laid it. The second one still isn't fixed."

"The majority of the equipment there is 40 years old. Some of the presses are older than that."

"The Liberal government, they're the ones you've got to put the blame on. They never put any money in to modernise the place."

"There was one bloke for

"A bloke has gone interstate carting grain"

every the job if doing. One foreman over there doesn't even know how to use a welder. And he's in fabricating!"

In its campaign to win public support for closing the dockyard, the government portrayed it as plagued by demarcation disputes and strikes over trivial issues.

The truth was the opposite. "I was only involved in one demarcation dispute and that was on an apprentice issue."

HEADLINE

"There was a headline in the paper, 'Dockyard out again'. In fact, print, it said the whole district was out over Madbank."

"I think BUP had more strikes than the dockyard. A couple of blokes came back from camp. One of them had broken his ankle due to faulty equipment."

"The foreman said: 'Don't do that again, or you'll pick up your pay'."

They were abdicating a bloke with the sack for being on camp. So naturally we had the rest of the night off in protest.

Colin and Eileen Jones and their 100, Darren.

a city slowly dies

NEWCASTLE is a dying city.

It was once the centre of heavy industry in Australia, with the BUP steelworks, the Cecilco coalfields and a local shipbuilding industry.

But since the war, vast new fields have been opened up in Central Queensland, and BUP has spent its money in Wellington and Kwinana and new Malcolm Fraser has given the kiss of death to the NSW State Dockyards.

Fraser has finally allowed the Australian National Line to buy the two ships it needs in Japan. The dockyards were relying on winning those two orders for their survival.

But the conditions Fraser placed on giving the orders to the dockyards - a strike ban and no pay rises - were so intolerable that the 2,000 workers had no alternative but to fight.

The Shipbuilding Industry Committee of the ACTU under pressure from the ranks, adopted a campaign plan of bans on Agate shipping until the orders were returned to the dockyards. But this was mostly raised by the ACTU Executive last month.

In a couple of weeks, the last ship being built at the dockyards will go into the water for "final finish". Only a few repair jobs will remain.

HIGHEST

Newcastle already has one of the highest unemployment rates in Australia.

At the end of December last year, there were 12,554 people registered as unemployed in the Hunter Region, getting on for 9% of the workforce.

For every job vacancy, there were 37 people waiting to fill it.

The dockyards closure will mean the whole New-

castle area will be locked into a permanent state of mass unemployment.

According to a report by the Hunter Regional Council for Social Development, for every job lost at the dockyards, another 1.3 jobs will be lost in other industries.

This means that unemployment could rise another 3% as a direct result of the dockyards closure.

Most of those will be untrained and skilled labourers. There is no chance of them ever finding work again in Newcastle.

Chris Dodds from the Young Unemployed People's Centre explained the background to the crisis.

"Newcastle is a heavy industry town which feels the effects of the recession first. It has been estimated that we need 20,000 new jobs in the district by 1980 to avoid an employment crisis."

"Newcastle is going to be a problem long after the rest of the country if there is a recovery."



THE NEWCASTLE BRANCH of the AMWSU has organised a committee of unemployed members to fight for work and against further sackings in the area. They are appealing to employed members of the union to also contribute to supporting the campaign.

They have been addressing jobsite and lunchtime meetings, such as the one above, around Newcastle.

The AMWSU shop stewards in the region have decided on a comprehensive policy which will help the organised shops fight unemployment. The shop stewards have decided to allow only essential overtime

allow a maximum of 8 hours a week overtime in any circumstances seek support for these policies in the workshops discuss new jobs with employers use overtime bans to fight redundancies mobilise the strongest resistance to sackings try to make sure that all vacancies are filled by union members.

INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

What We Stand For

The International Socialist Organisation is a revolutionary socialist organisation, and we stand for the principles and we are writing to you because we believe in them.

WORKERS' POWER
Workers control over the whole of society based on workers' control of the factories and workplaces. Only the organised working class has the power to create a society free of capitalist oppression and war. Russia and China are not socialist because they are based on the exploitation of workers by a bureaucratic ruling class.

REVOLUTION, NOT REFORMISM
We believe in overthrowing the capitalist system, not patching it up or gradually trying to change it.

SMASHING THE CAPITALIST STATE
The State machine - parliament, courts, the law, police and army - is a weapon of capitalist class rule and can never be used to serve the interests of the working class. There is no Parliamentary road to socialism.

INTERNATIONALISM
A socialist revolution cannot survive in one country. It must build revolutions in other countries or it will be defeated like the Russian revolution of 1917. We are building an international revolutionary movement, opposed to patriotism and working to overcome national divisions.

FULL EQUALITY AND LIBERATION
For women, blacks, migrants and all oppressed groups. Racism, sexism and discrimination against migrants and people are all pillars of capitalist system. We are opposed to the social penetration of homosexuals.

REVOLUTIONARY PARTY
To smash the capitalist state, we need a revolutionary party, organised and built in the workplaces. Without a revolutionary party, the revolutionary struggles will be crushed.

RANK AND FILE ORGANISATION
Workers need their own rank and file organisations to fight the bosses when the trade officials are working. We work within the trade unions and fight to bring them under rank and file control.

IS works to build a revolutionary party out of the struggles workers are waging today. We fight for a program of industrial and political demands that can strengthen the self-confidence, organisation and socialist consciousness of the working class.
If that's the sort of work you want to do... **JOIN US!**

DOING A BIT OF WORK

"I'VE NEVER SEEN the need for these publications until now."

That was what one shop steward told me a few days ago. He was in the middle of a strike and we had just asked him to write a report of it for the Bulletin.

He'd seen the Bulletin before. In fact, he'd seen most of the leftwing papers sold outside his workplace.

In the past, he had simply brushed past those paper sellers in a bid to get to work. But when you are on a strike and we had just asked him to write a report of it for the Bulletin, he was different. You see the way the capitalist press distorts what you say.

You see the way it chooses to print what suits it and how it avoids publishing you in order to distort you.

You see how ready the TV camera is to film someone disrupting a strike meeting and how reluctant they are to use an interview in which you describe the conditions you work under.

support

When you are on strike, you need all the support you can get. And the most effective source of support is other militants and socialists in the factories around YOU.

It's part of the job of the leftwing press, and especially The Bulletin, to organise that support. To get the true story and tell other workers what they can do to help. But there's more.

The capitalist papers are full of lies about how wage rates cause unemployment and how trade unions supposedly wrecked industry.

Every militant knows how many workers swallow the bullshit. How you have to argue day after day against the reactionary ideas that the capitalist press plants in people's heads about unions, about socialism, about strikes.

That means we must not begin to ask you, our workers, for money to the fighting fund and take up a regular collection at work.

The final test of whether our militants is whether or not they are prepared to help pay for it.

Tough

On its own, The Bulletin is not enough.

If we are to smash the capitalist system, we will need a tough and united revolutionary party.

A party of working class militants that can lead across to the factories and the streets. A party that can expose the greedy Liberal bullies and the weak kneed Labor compromisers, and carry through the fight for workers' power.

But The Bulletin is the vital first step in this task.

Because by selling it at work, you get more exposure across to more people than you could in a month of leaflets.

Because when people see The Bulletin, they realise that socialism is more than just some fancy idea that you argue about for the sake of arguing.

And, most importantly, because The Bulletin is the first step to breaking through isolation that cuts you off from thousands of other militants scattered across the country.

It lets you tell them what you are doing, it keeps you in touch with what's going on in a central network that is actually organising against Fraser.

It lets you see immediately how the former granddaddy gets to afford his latest lifestyle. It cost \$8.50 just to sit on the grass in front of a public sale and free concert hall seats started at \$10.

The promoters were so greedy that they then made sure you couldn't see the show properly because they had stuck their own great pictures at the edge of the lawn.

This was for Channel 7 to film the concert. \$8.50 and you couldn't see properly unless you stood up.

For all that, it wasn't a bad concert. If you were a fan of the Atlantic Crossing and afterwards Rod Stewart, you could hear (but not see) him do all your favourite songs.

If you were a fan of the Vanilla Fudge back in 1967, you got an extra bonus. One of the singer's backing group is an ex-Fudge member and they did the Fudge's only hit. "You keep me hanging on."

But if you happened to get into Rod Stewart back in the early seventies, back when he was Rod Wood seemed to be the only music left over from the sixties who remembers that rock was about rhythm, harmony and guts, if that was the style of Rod Stewart, then you were in for a disappointment.

Before the concert I wondered how he was going to live. "Marcus May" was Rod Wood on guitar. The answer was "no" to be the best he couldn't.

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ROD STEWART from Gasoline Alley to Sunset Boulevard

A FEW YEARS AGO, the book "Rock Dreams" characterised Rod Stewart as a drunken football looter.

The sort of guy, you could imagine, who would "steal my Daddy's car and be ailing out of playing pool."

by DAVE NADEL

Nowadays, Rod Stewart has a different image. Jet-setter, tax exile and (with Briti Edmund) half of the now generation's Burton and Taylor.

His music's changed too. From the hard but harmonious rock, which was always tough, even in the romantic ballads, much of his music has gone as spry and lush as his life-style.

Even in his latter soft days, he's still one of the better rock artists around. So I ignored about 20,000 other Melbourne rock fans and went to one of his two concerts at the Myer Music Bowl.

You can see immediately how the former granddaddy gets to afford his latest lifestyle. It cost \$8.50 just to sit on the grass in front of a public sale and free concert hall seats started at \$10.

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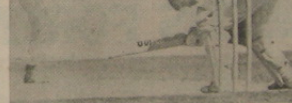
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"Every picture tells a story."

THE CENTENARY TEST

THANK GODNESS IT HAPPENS ONLY ONCE EVERY HUNDRED YEARS



THE CENTENARY TEST is coming. And what an over-rated, under-rated, out-and-out rip-off it's going to be.

Long-suffering Melbourne cricket fans are going to rake, typhoid, and food poisoning from atrocious MCC staid, toilet and canteen, to watch what?

On a MCC wicket that should have been dug up and thrown away the day they abandoned the timeless Test.

Like Mohammed Ali's twentish "fight of the century", we're getting all the hooks in the world to convince us that it's the greatest match ever.

Benson and Hedges, the sponsors of the charade, are running endless repeats of their tedious Little-Thomson ads that they initially sold for the Pakistan team.

And even TAA are running special promotions for flights to Melbourne for the game. And the "Age" and the "Melbourne" for the game. The "Australian" have cashed in on the publicity with name "Yarns of the Great Australian Train".

Australia's worst-ever cricket captain. The highlight of the Test promise to be when Her Royal Highness, the Queen, comes up. After her complicity in the 1967-68 tour, we must see the first demonstration of the MCC since MacGuff was chucked out of cricket.

In keeping with his "youthful progressive" image, Victoria's Liberal Minister for Youth, Sport and Recreation, Brian Dixon, said he was going to boycott the match because of the way Benson and Hedges was using it to get the ban on cigarette advertising.

But now's related. He's going to stand on the day the Queen is there as a mark of respect for Her Royal Highness. We believe Dixon is a certainty in the back streets of Coburg.

After adding him with two leg spinners for the one day Gillette Cup final, Loxton blamed Robinson for Victoria's narrow loss because he didn't field Max Walker every over, we must see the first demonstration of the MCC since MacGuff was chucked out of cricket.

With all the promotion, the Centenary Test, which drew a world record crowd for a cricket match. But don't expect a repeat of Lillie's effort against Pakistan, where the huge MCC crowd roared the Pakistan bats into submission. The English have just spent three months in India - and crowds don't just roar there, they light fires in the grandstand.

English cricket captain Tony Greig says, "I'm really sorry to hear Jeff Thomson is going to miss the Centenary Test because I wanted to be Australian until everyone here. Then he promptly led his able side to a defeat and a disheartening loss to the last two tests against India."

Norov's going to win the Centenary Test - except for the Melbourne Cricket Club, the advertisers and the MCC caterers who'll charge the usual 10% mark-up on food, drinks and services.

And even little of your two bucks will go towards improving and the appalling toilet facilities at the Melbourne Cricket Club, who are to conduct a grass-roots level master grounds. Or giving a boost where it normally gets the average club player about \$50 in match fees and subs for a match. Leave it to the man who is Victorian Chairman of selection and only has it in for Robinson, who learns his cricket from watching the last two hours on TV instead.

THE BATTLE 2 MARCH 1977 PAGE 13

International Socialists

HELP THE BATTLE

The Canberra branch is busy campaigning against the proposed Industrial Relations Bureau.

Following the call of the Trades and Labour Council of a campaign of industrial action against the Bureau, the branch has published a leaflet outlining the demands that can strengthen the self-confidence, organisation and socialist consciousness of the working class.

If that's the sort of work you want to do... **JOIN US!**

IT'S TIME TO RE-EVALUATE OUR CONFERENCE

BATTLE FIGHTING FUND

The Bulletin Fighting Fund received \$367.54 with thanks from:

- L&F \$10
- JG \$5
- WH \$5
- CS \$100
- DS \$40
- High Comm worker \$1
- Individual Sales \$0.54
- Chinese diner \$0.54
- JW \$5
- TO & A \$50
- OPD Melbourne, 2001

All I.S. members and friends are invited to attend and support of the I.S. and supporters of the Bulletin are warmly invited to come and participate.

If you would like to join the organisation or our affiliate in the Australian Labour Party contact any Battle seller, or the National Secretary of the I.S. PO Box 143 850

FRONT LINE

Magazine of the International Socialists.

Available from: 28 Block Place, Melbourne, I.S. Branches 50 cents

Contact International Socialists In Your Area

- MELBOURNE 28 Block Place, City phone 654 2414 654 2329 628 4466
- SYDNEY 494 King St, Newtown phone 51 3665 797 0348
- SOUTH COAST PO Box 35, Oatlands phone 61 0400
- CANBERRA 2 Peake Place, Curtin phone 81 5705
- ADELAIDE 54 Koolah Ave, Woodville phone 266 5357

There's about 300,000 people like me who can't get a job

UNEMPLOYMENT IN AUSTRALIA at the end of February stood at 246,600. That's 5.7% of the workforce—the worst February figures since the depression.

At the same time there were 28,870 unfilled job vacancies. That's one job available for every twelve people registered out of work.

But the bare facts tell only part of the story. Nearly 60% of the unemployed (197,344) are semi- or unskilled, but only 45% of the job vacancies (13,273) are in this category. So it's unskilled workers, migrants, women and other people who are taking the brunt of Fraser's economic strategy.

And the "dole-bldgers" (Gak) which covers up for the Government the "bludger" takes all the more hysterical if they have the gall to organise in defence of their right to work.

We spoke to several unemployed people in Melbourne and Newcastle about their experience of job hunting.

For the last few months, Greg Connellan has been working at a Melbourne shopping centre. But now that the unemployment groups are starting to organise political campaigns, Greg's starting to feel the pressure from Fraser, Street and employers spokesmen.

One boss tried to smear the self-help groups by calling them a front for dole bludgers and communist activists.

"I'm not either, but we can't avoid criticism from the government and businessmen because unemployed people appearing to act as a threat by them."

But Fraser probably hadn't inherited his first million when she found out that life wasn't meant to be easy.

One of nine kids, Glenda has been in a hotel for 12 years. She was lucky to get out, but there's no chance of that while she's out of work.

"The government doesn't allow hotel staff to go on the dole. We get \$12 a week. We've got to bank \$3 and in the end we've only about \$6 spending money."

In the last year, she got two bookkeeping jobs. The first one paid \$45 a week and the next one was \$50.

Along with three other girls, Glenda was rehired from the first job when business got slack.

She lost the second job after four weeks when a girl who'd left to have a baby five years earlier came back and Glenda, having been the shortest time, got sacked to make way for her.

"I don't like the way that so many people are being sacked out of their jobs. I don't bludge myself to get jobs. I work really hard. But only the ones that the boss like to work on. It's not fair."

Since then, Glenda's been looking hard for work.

"The other day I went for an interview in a dressing gown factory in Collingwood. They said I had a good chance and they'd meet me back by yesterday. But they didn't ring at all. They all do that."

Glenda is registered at the CBE, but reckons it's a waste of time.

"You would spend for an hour or two every week looking for a job, then you just sit for five minutes and all they can say is 'If something comes up, we'll send you a telegram'."

chance to prove himself.

"I'm sick of just sitting around and I need money to get a new flat. Because I've just got it, I can only stay where I am for a few months. If I don't get a job and a new flat, I'm stuffed. Because I'll have nowhere to go to."

"I dress well when I go for a job, but when you're on the dole, they don't say like that. But suddenly they tell you the job's already taken, or they give you some work excuse like they should've been there. I know a shorter or someone who's shorter or taller."

Now Kelso is starting to see

who's really at fault for his situation.

"I'm going along to the Demand for Work Rally on April 15. I reckon this government's much harder than Whitlam was. When they talk about cutting people off the dole, it really worries me. It's not fair because there's about 300,000 people like me who can't get a job and there's hardly any work available."

"We dole office tried to kick me off the dole. They tried again today. I went down and said they shouldn't send me a white form so I could claim the next cheque. I don't know why they keep trying."

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Peter Mann and Mehan have been out of work for some time, but formal unemployment started when they started attending the meetings held at Melbourne's Street Job Centre.

But now they are producing the monthly "Demand for Work" (DFW) which is the monthly publication of the Unemployed Federation of Victoria (UFV).

"I've had a few first three lines offers, \$10,000 capital, and May money. We hope to do better."

"The first two weeks we'll also be doing a 5.000 copy issue for the Demand, to work in Melbourne."

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social workers and trade union officials.

The officials have so far been reluctant to use their influence to help the Right to Work campaign amongst their members.

Despite trying for a motion to organise a shop stewards meeting on unemployment, they have consistently failed and made excuses for not doing anything about it.

The real action has come from the unemployed activists around the self-help groups and the Brotherhood of Job Centres.

Across Australia, "trade unionists are fighting breaths to their jobs. We report a couple of these struggles elsewhere on this page."

The fight is on. Now we need more organisation to coordinate all the individual responses and lead a general movement that can resist any sackings and win jobs from the government and the bosses.

There are plenty of organisations already. The widest ranging organisation is the Right to Work Campaign, established largely by the Communist Party in all but three states.

However, in NSW it is weak and its meetings dominated by the pro-state unionists. The real organising goes on behind the scenes even though it is bureaucratic shell, dominated by

department can reduce their range of activities. Not so the Department of Employment, which the majority of whose staff are CES officers.

Unemployment in NSW has gone up by half to over 150,000 in the past two years. But the total level of dole offices has dropped almost 15%.

The Works Programme itself hasn't been changed for ten years even though there has been a massive increase in unemployment.

By a CES EMPLOYEE, SYDNEY

By March this year senior management in the Department of Employment was reporting to the pressure from CES staff and to least maintain staff levels.

But central office wouldn't tell them what the overall staff level was supposed to be. "Wastage" as employees termed or resigned.

In fact, this has meant that many people are bullied into resigning when they are denied study leave or compassionate leave without pay.

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out that it's their jobs that are being negotiated away.

The unemployed can get involved in the self-help groups, organising political action-oriented sub-committees. Just like the Unemployed Action Group.

They can go around to factories that threaten to lay off workers and picket, demanding that the jobs be saved. They can negotiate against "national wastage" agreements, pointing

out that the real means for any fight against unemployment must come from the organised workers.

Shop stewards can immediately propose that their shop refuse any redundancies or casual wastage. By reducing the number of workers employed, the bosses are increasing the speed and pressure of work for those left.

There is a fight workers can use making occupations against unemployment. Workplaces fighting to save jobs can place a lot of support for other workers and the organised unemployed.

There is also a fight for jobs by the unions. This means pressuring employers to refuse to get union policies for the shorter working week so no redundancies implemented.

It means supporting every isolated and unofficial struggle for jobs.

Unemployment will never be organised by the officials. They are always too weak, no matter how left-wing their talk.

The fight must come from the rank and file. First by taking action in the individual workplace. Second by building a rank and file committee to coordinate the struggle.

That is the task for all of us.

When they were a member of the station assistants and metropolitan gangway staff, the ABC finally got to know some time in April.

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Right to Work Campaign

FOR SCORES OF ACTS

THE FIGHT FOR JOBS IS ON.

The Right to Work Campaign in Victoria has called a rally on April 15 to demand jobs and dozens of unemployed activists are building support for it.

An unemployed newspaper has been published and an Unemployed Action Group of the unemployed has recently been formed around the Brotherhood of St. Laurence's Job Centre.

Across Australia, "trade unionists are fighting breaths to their jobs. We report a couple of these struggles elsewhere on this page."

Unemployment in NSW has gone up by half to over 150,000 in the past two years. But the total level of dole offices has dropped almost 15%.

By a CES EMPLOYEE, SYDNEY

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Newcastle a traged for the young

FORTY-NINE and a half per cent of ten to fifteen year olds in Newcastle are under the age of 21.

For the young people of the Hunter Valley Region, the economic crisis means personal disaster.

Janelle Cartwright has been out of a job for almost two months. "You get a bit dirty, being unemployed," she told us.

"I don't think it's fair. I'm just going to have to try harder."

When she was laid off at his boss's work at Christmas. Since then, he's gone for about jobs while on the dole, but with no luck. He's prepared to take any work at all, but with only one job for every 17 unemployed juniors, what hope has he?

The government's most casual actions are reserved for unemployed people under the age of 16.

They are not entitled to a single cent of the dole. But when losses can expect 30 kids to apply for any job. Some find that practice and "respectability" come before being able to get a job with a record.

Government struggles to save jobs for the jobs

dispute was heard before Deputy Arbitration Board.

It didn't take long before it emerged that the current staffing level was 125 in NSW. This was 1009 in NSW. This was 125 in NSW. This was 1009 in NSW.

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Railworkers resist private operators

TEN THOUSAND VICTORIAN railworkers have begun a fight against the threat of redundancies and the loss of their jobs.

The ARU gave Transport Minister Rafferty seven days to open discussions on branch line closures, redundancies and payment of moving expenses for railway employees forced to move to other parts of the state.

The Victorian government wants to cut back line its own safety by running down branch lines and handing over major lines to private operators. This would mean that Victorian workers would be carrying. Leading and leading of

Behind the Economic Crisis

by TOM O'LINCOLN

A real solution has to start from the other end. Not from the need to stimulate business, but from the needs of the working class.

It begins with the thirty-five hour week on forty hour pay. That would end unemployment overnight if it was brought in across the board.

The employers say that behind the demand for the 35 hour week lurks a communist plot. There is a certain twisted logic in that. The only way to get full employment is to scrap the employer and their system altogether, and revolutionaries like the International Socialist say so openly.

rupts the smooth working of the system. It makes it too difficult for the boss to force down wages, too difficult to sack the unions. It takes away their causal labour and seel pool.

As it becomes more obvious that the right or meet any other of that kind become revolutionaries.

Because for working people, it really is the way out.

another era of idle queues. If the cause goes as deep as most the solutions.

Bill Hayden is supposed to be a whiz at economics, but what is he proposing? A little more public spending. The idea is to increase demand, which is supposed to stimulate investment.

But as we have seen, investment can actually make things worse.

It is a contradiction the Liberals would rather avoid facing, for it lays bare some of the nastiest aspects of the capitalist system.

To begin with, it means that the employers are taking some of the increased production out of speedup. They intend to keep on doing that next year, and also to make use of increased overtime rather than hire new labour.

That is partly because they have little confidence that the recovery will last.

It is cynical for more cynical reasons. Both the employers and the government intend to use the high unemployment level to bludgeon us into accepting lower wages and worse conditions.

There is also a second reason why employment lags behind growth. New investment is going into capital-intensive areas. It is being used to buy new machines which make work obsolete.

It's amazing when you think about it. New investment makes unemployment worse! But this is perfectly normal and has always been part of how the system works.

Writing about capitalism over a hundred years ago, Karl Marx showed how the growth of the system led to growing unemployment.

To the need for each firm to compete with the next force it to automate as quickly as it can. The machines replace workers. The result is a permanent body of jobless which Marx called the "industrial reserve army".

This reserve army is damned useful for the bosses. It provides a hand one day and fired the next, as the demand for labour fluctuates.

It provides a huge pool of potential scale. It intimidates the unions so that wages can't rise by a large minimum.

Now it is clear that we don't have any unemployment.

Automation sometimes leads to such a rapid economic expansion that new jobs are provided anyway. And because of Australia's geographical position, we have had to import large numbers of immigrant workers.

But even here full employment is the exception, not the rule.

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New PM Fraser: Hindu fanatic and tenant anti-communist

MAORIS FIGHT FOR THEIR LAND

THE NEW ZEALAND government wants to steal five hundred acres of Maori land at Bastion Point in Auckland. And the Ngati Whatahu tribe of Orakoi, the rightful owners, are fighting by physically occupying the land.

Joe Hawke, committee of the Orakoi Action Committee explains, "We have used peaceful means but we have been frustrated by legal chicanery. We made no impression on the government: we are now forced into physical means after a succession of frustrations. This is the only way to do it."

The land is a park with magnificent views of Auckland Harbour. The government wants to subdivide the land and sell it to their rich friends for \$100,000 a block.

Scandalous

The Auckland Trades Council placed a green ban on work on the site: the first in New Zealand. Trade unions arrive with goods and building materials. Local residents of a housing mile also bring their own materials to the camps. A neighbourhood regularly brings food. They don't want the subdivision.

Restoration

The Orakoi Maori Committee wants a complete restoration of the Bastion Point land to the

Jeff Goldhar

India: the End of a Dastardly

INDIRA GANDHI has taken the count, and her brutal dictatorship is at an end. But worse may lie ahead.

Gandhi used jail and torture against her opponents. She set out to smash the unions and the left. She unleashed a vicious compulsory sterilisation campaign. But her terror was also directed against the extreme right. Her fall means that the extreme right has taken its revenge.

Gandhi introduced the State of Emergency out of her self preservation: she was caught rigging the vote in her own election. This came at a time when the old freedom fighter J.P. Narayan was leading a mass campaign against corruption in government, and she felt her survival was in danger.

But at least part of Gandhi's ruling Congress Party was anxious to end her rule and streamline the government. They sought to use the emergency to do both. Her son Sanjay organised a curious movement of Congress youth and Bombay hoodlums which set out to dump many of the old machine politicians.

These politics brought the government into conflict with the most parasitical and reactionary elements in Indian society: landowners, bureaucrats, capitalists. These elements came together in the Janata alliance.

The immediate result will be an end to repression. But it would be a serious mistake to imagine that this government will really be any better than the last.

The victorious opposition is a rotten alliance of reactionaries and parasites. Jayaprakash Narayan is far from a modern industrialist and going back to the spinning wheel. The Jana Sangh, largest party in the alliance, preaches Hindu chauvinism and is connected with the fascist RSS organisation. Also in the alliance are the middle class BLD party and the DMK, a southern regional party.

The political confusion could offer opportunities for the left movement to intervene in its own right. Three years ago Indian railway workers launched a massive national strike and working class radicals and militants in states like Kerala and West Bengal.

But the parties of the left are a pathetic sight. The Communist Party, which had sold out to Gandhi in the interests of Soviet diplomacy, has lost its mass base. The Communist Party Marxist, which is supposed to be more militant, has long lagged behind Gandhi. Now has the Socialist Party, which was once a leading force in the national rail strike.

Unless a new leadership emerges among the Indian workers, the future looks grim.

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ITALY: Workers, Students on the March

THE ITALIAN Communist Party (PCI) gained 34% of the national vote in its recent last year. Enough, Italian workers thought, for the PCI to act as a strong opposition to the conservative Christian Democrat (DC) government, and to push it to the left.

Yet immediately after the elections the Communist Party leaders agreed that they would not oppose the Christian Democrats in their presidency of the Chamber of Deputies and a few vague promises of reform from the government.

The Western press are praising Enrico Berlinguer, leader of the PCI, for his plans to reach "historic compromise" with the conservative parties and with Italian business.

Such a coalition will find it hard even to form a stable government. The various opposing interests within it will fight among themselves to draw the resources of the central government towards their direction. Those who fear they're losing will demand regional autonomy or even more radical measures.

The hold of reactionary landlords will be strengthened, and the growing power of Jana Sangh may lead to communal strife.

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This 3 year open pensioners didn't pay for rates - so they piled in!

This is Labour's Britain, 1977

EVERYBODY knows that Britain is in a mess. The British economy mired out on coast of the post war boom. For example, Britain's share of world exports of manufactured goods fell by nearly half in the decade between 1964-1976.

The bosses' plea has some simple explanations for all this. It is the fault of the workers - they produce too little and earn too much. Or, it is the fault of the welfare state, draining taxpayers' money away from productive enterprise to make life easy for the bludgers.

The real reason is elsewhere. In fact, British labour costs are lower than all her major competitors, even Japan.

The real problem is that the British bosses have no faith in their own economy. They have made great profits out of British industry, but

THIS IS BRITAIN 1977

A pensioner is jailed, council rates are raised at \$8 a week. School boys back and the kids are fed a mash. Meat is a luxury for millions. We've all heard about how a once-proud union, reduced to poverty by the welfare state, is now a militant.

There actually is a Britain that happens when the bosses' system. It's the story of how people are able to feel the real value of their money.

It takes the money to other countries to invest. That way they keep their profits as high as possible.

The result is a stagnating economy, old, rundown and uncompetitive machinery, and it's caused by the British workers.

But the British workers make the difference. Through Labour and other policies and anti-strike legislation, the British workers successfully resist these attacks and the trade unions refused to cooperate with government legislation on wages.

In January 1974, the miners' strike brought down the Tory government of Ted Heath, and a Labour government was elected with promises of reform and a pledge to carry out a fundamental shift in the balance of wealth and power towards the working class.

In July that year, a major steering crisis developed as British specialists transferred their holdings of sterling to other currencies.

The Treasury insisted on the need for statutory wage controls.

Although the government opted for "voluntary" controls, it accepted the policy of wage cutting. In August, the government announced that the new wage would be limited to £10 a year later, another sterling crisis and the limit became £8.50.

The run on sterling is nothing but a mechanism used by the bankers to blackmail the government into carrying out their wishes. And it works.

In the last year, Labour has gone on a wild attack on the living conditions of the working class in a desperate attempt to shift resources from wages and welfare to profits and investment.

Labour has allowed and encouraged massive redundancies throughout the workforce - unemployment has jumped by half a million from 844,000 in August 1976 to 1,400,000 in January 1977.

The government has carried out cuts in public spending totalling \$6 billion in 1976 and is systematically destroying the welfare state. In one inner London area alone, 120 hospitals are being closed.

This attack has involved great deal of workers' lives. Rates, fees on public transport, electricity charge, have all been jacked up, while incomes are cut.

The result in Manchester pensioners aged 63 and 72 were jailed for failing to pay their rates, and four families with young children were evicted out of the council hall and into the street.

The fall in rail traffic on some lines has made dramatic traffic from London to Glasgow fall by 30% last year.

And as for electricity, even the daily press no longer hide the fact that thousands of old people amying in the cold because they cannot afford the price of adequate heating.

This has led to massive working class disillusionment with the Labour government.

The fact that it was the trade union leaders who were policing wage cuts made the whole experience even more confounding.

Labour in Power

ONCE IN POWER, the Labour government forgot its promises.

But how could it be otherwise? The real power in Britain lies with the bankers and bourgeoisie of the City of London, not in Parliament.

The bankers successfully brought Labour to heel and the government of Harold Wilson offered little resistance.

Take the Bilderberg conspiracy. In April 1975, the Bilderberg group of international businessmen, civil servants, politicians and army officers met in Turkey to discuss the necessity of wage controls for British workers and the case for a sterling crisis.

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The Fight Back

FOR TWO YEARS, British workers went along with the government's attacks.

But as their pay packets shrank, as social services collapsed, they began to fight back.

A Right to Work campaign was organised to fight redundancies and unemployment.

The hospital and government workers started fighting the cuts that were costing them their jobs and destroying the welfare state.

There was physical resistance to the threat of the National Front as the blacks began fighting back.

Now the resistance has spread to industry. The strike at British Leyland is directly aimed at smashing the Social Contract. It is a powerful blow against the Tory policies of the Labour government.

With the deepening of the British social and economic crisis, the collapse of Labour's credibility with the working class, a direct confrontation between the bosses and the workers moves apace.

There can only be two possible outcomes, either the workers take over the country for themselves and end the rule of the bankers.

Or the fascists of the National Front, backed by the bosses, will crush the workers' rights beneath the jackboot of terror.

It is the responsibility of militants and socialists in the British Labour movement to build a new political party capable of organising a revolution needed to solve Britain's problems.

Building a New Socialist Party

FOR THE LAST two years, resistance to the Social Contract and the policies of the Labour Government has been very weak.

Workers who had fought trade union battles against the new wage freeze were confused and demoralised by the new wage freeze imposed by their Labour Government, policed by their trade union leaders.

Moreover the most enthusiastic champions of the Social Contract were the left officials and continuously argue the need for rank and file action to rely on their own strength, organisations, rank and file officials and a national rank and file movement.

But most importantly, organising the various pickets, strikes and building them together into a mass socialist party that can not only resist the bosses' attacks but can actually challenge the bosses' rule.

The SWP faces the task of organising the various pickets, strikes and building them together into a mass socialist party that can not only resist the bosses' attacks but can actually challenge the bosses' rule.

For as the mass struggle grows, the need for a revolutionary party that has the capacity to lead the working class to fight back.

Students

IN FEBRUARY 9 this year, Students at the London School of Economics seized the administration building.

This kicked off a wave of occupations that has now embroiled more than thirty colleges throughout Britain, and has led to various attempts at home occupations in several colleges.

The central issue is the average rise in tuition fees which the Labour government has imposed on students in the face of Labour's cuts in state spending. For British students, tuition fees are £200 (£750) a year for undergraduates and £650 for postgraduates. For overseas students, £254 (£1125) for undergraduates and £550 (£1275) for postgraduates.

But in fact local authorities cover the fee of most British students while the majority of overseas students finance their studies in Britain out of their own pockets. And even when they are covered by scholarships from their home countries, these are not likely to rise in line with the rise of fees.

Many overseas students will be forced to abandon their studies and fees will be able to come to Britain in future. In fact, the Government has admitted that it intends to drastically reduce the number of overseas students in its current level.

The government's decision to raise the tuition fees is a specific attack on overseas students and part of a racist attack on blacks and immigrants. Britain's nationalistic bourgeoisie.

Roger Galloway, one of the leaders of the L.S.E. occupation, pointed out the significance of the maintenance of the fee increase. At the same time we are fighting what he called the "new cuts, the new cuts, the new cuts" which the L.S.E. is asked for.

And this is how the working class is fighting back:



THE STRIKE at British Leyland has produced a national crisis.

It has closed production lines in the greater part of the Leyland car plant, management responded by laying off 40,000 workers.

The government has threatened to shut down Leyland altogether, wiping out 120,000 jobs directly and possibly half a million jobs indirectly.

The reaction was swift. 6,000 workers came out of the gates in an angry demonstration demanding an end to wage controls.

Five days later 200 senior shop stewards representing the whole Leyland workforce met to plan a strike.

The strike against British Leyland's Birmingham plant on February 11 this year, spoke to the workers on the Leyland Social Contract, the Leyland Social Contract, the Leyland Social Contract.

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DEMANDS

The demands of the room workers include: 10% if they can force the wage freeze, workers will be in a march through the streets.

Everyone in Britain can see what this means.

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What's On

MELBOURNE - Thurs 31 March
 7.30pm - 9.30pm - **International Socialist Conference** - 2nd day
 7.30pm - 9.30pm - **International Socialist Conference** - 3rd day
 7.30pm - 9.30pm - **International Socialist Conference** - 4th day

SYDNEY - Sun 3 April
 7.30pm - 9.30pm - **International Socialist Conference** - 5th day
 7.30pm - 9.30pm - **International Socialist Conference** - 6th day
 7.30pm - 9.30pm - **International Socialist Conference** - 7th day

MELBOURNE - Sat 1 April
 7.30pm - 9.30pm - **International Socialist Conference** - 8th day
 7.30pm - 9.30pm - **International Socialist Conference** - 9th day
 7.30pm - 9.30pm - **International Socialist Conference** - 10th day

ADLAIDE - Sun 30 April
 7.30pm - 9.30pm - **International Socialist Conference** - 11th day
 7.30pm - 9.30pm - **International Socialist Conference** - 12th day

ADLAIDE - Sun 1 May
 7.30pm - 9.30pm - **International Socialist Conference** - 13th day
 7.30pm - 9.30pm - **International Socialist Conference** - 14th day

Have a Socialist Night out!

SYDNEY - Fri 15 April
 7.30pm - 9.30pm - **International Socialist Conference** - 15th day
 7.30pm - 9.30pm - **International Socialist Conference** - 16th day

I.S. Branches

MELBOURNE
 14 Wight St, Kensington
 Phone 370-1404
 56-2239

SYDNEY
 454 King St, Newtown
 phone 31-3665
 797-0348

CANBERRA
 2 Teal Fife, Curtin
 phone 81-7070

ADLAIDE
 5A Koolanda Ave, Woodville
 phone 268-9597

Code to Crack Conference International Socialists Mad as Hell... but haven't got a clue what to do about it!

**MELBOURNE EASTER
 SAT, SUN APRIL 9,10**

THE COMING Conference of the International Socialists will mark an important stage in the development of a revolutionary organisation in Australia.

THE I.S. was founded just over a year ago in the wake of the coup and the smashing defeat of the Federal Labor Party.

We attempted to look forward to the coming years of the Labor Party rule, and chart a course for our small, Melbourne-based group.

Our major achievements in the past year have been the

building of a national movement, and the development of an active rank and file shop stewards movement. In 1975, only a couple of our members were not Melbourne residents.

We can now claim to be a national organisation being based in other states and our task is now to consolidate our new branches.

matured
The building of a national group from a Melbourne-based one has meant that the Battler has matured in its coverage of Australian politics, and it has meant that we have been able to intervene in a number of

states to fight for Medibank and against the Fraser government. But this has created severe strains in our organisation.

Our conference will try to examine the problems caused and explore the political tasks facing the group in this coming year.

The I.S. Conference is the highest decision making body of

the organisation. All members are entitled to attend, speak and vote.

It will look at the growing instability of the Fraser government and its continuing attempts to cut workers' wages.

In the face of growing attacks, we expect a vigorous response from the officials and a growing movement of rank and file action independent of the trade union officials.

We will discuss ways of building that movement of rank and file action and ways of countering the militants of all political ideas and the need for revolutionary organisation.

There will be a major discussion of our attitude towards the Australian Labor Party. On the one hand, the Australian working class looks to the Labor Party for political leadership and is tremendously loyal to its leaders.

On the other hand, in Labor Party in practice, it is the building of an independent capitalism in Australia. It is a need of our rank and file working class - from its Hayden badge of 1975 but through the Terral conference, the use of troops to break the 400 minute bet of the wage cutting of the Depression.

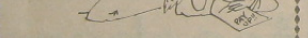
In every crisis, Labor has stood with the capitalists, but the working class still supports it. Why? And what can we do about it?

Battler
The attempt to build a fortnightly Battler and discussion of other aspects of our organisation and our politics will take up the rest of the two-day conference.

We will be meeting over Easter, on Saturday April 9 and Sunday April 10 in Melbourne at the Flinders Hotel, Gullfleur building, Victoria St, Carlton, near the Flinders Mall.

All I.S. members will be attending and friends of the I.S. are very welcome to attend and participate in the discussion. Please let us know in advance if you are coming by ringing one of the I.S. branches in your city.

we have to pay bills too!



What a BOMBER!
The March Fighting Fund has topped \$1000 for the first time. It is raised to an urgent plea for funds, the Canberra Branch of the I.S. sent \$750 in one hit. But the Battler still owes over \$1000. We're asking for your support. Other contributions gratefully received.

RV	\$10	PI	\$10	MC	\$45	EP	\$5
MF	\$40	SM	\$3	TH	\$0		

West Branch Social \$66, Sydney Branch \$91.40 Total \$1043.41
Please send all donations to: The Battler, PO Box 7 Richmond 3122 (Cheques payable to 'The Battler').

How we're building The Battler in Sydney

by Jean Pinder, Battler sales organiser, Sydney I.S.

Battler sales are on the way up in Sydney. As a small and new branch, with a lot of political tasks, we used to be a bit weak on paper sales and pretty discouraged.

With a new organiser, that's changing. One person says that everybody knows where and when they're selling.

Even more important, every member is accountable for every paper they take. We keep a record of the places we sell and how we go, to work out the best time and place to sell. The membership has taken back at each weekly meeting.

All the information is kept in a Battler book, which shows how sales are going and where they're up or down. In this way we'll be putting our energy into the areas where we can grow.

what we fight for

WORKERS' POWER
Workers' control over the whole of society based on workers' control of the factories and workplaces. Only the organised working class has the power to create a society free of exploitation, oppression and war. Russia and China are not socialist because they are based on the exploitation of workers by a bureaucratic ruling class.

REVOLUTION, NOT REFORMISM
We believe in over-

throwing the capitalist system, not patching it up or gradually trying to change it.

SMASHING THE CAPITALIST STATE
The state - parliament, police and army - is a machine of oppression. Full equality and liberation can never be used to serve the interests of the working class. There is no Parliamentary road to socialism.

FULL EQUALITY AND LIBERATION
For women, blacks, migrants and all oppressed groups. Racism, sexism, discrimination against migrant peoples are all pillars of the capitalist

system. We are opposed to any form of persecution of homosexuals.

REVOLUTIONARY PARTY
To smash the capitalist state, we need a revolutionary party, organised and built in the workplaces. Without a revolutionary party, the struggles of workers will be crushed.

RANK AND FILE ORGANISATION
Workers need their own rank and file organisations to fight

the bosses who are using the state to oppress and exploit them. We fight to bring them out of the capitalist state and into the workplace.

TV IS ALL A big con. It's all a big illusion, just like any other area of show business.

All except the news, because the news is supposed to be talking about real life.

But just like everything else on TV, the news has to compete for ratings, because ratings are the measure of how many customers the sponsors can rattle their pockets at.

So when the ratings go down for newscaster Howard Beale (Peter Finch) he decides that his life is stuffed so he promises to blow his brains out on the next episode.

Suddenly the ratings go up, because now the news has some real, real life in it. So instead of blowing his brains out, Beale gets his own series.

But that can't last, so Beale starts to pinpoint some things he thinks are more crucial than the news. His ratings are up, because he seems more real than real, and that can only mean a mystic breakthrough.

So Beale is visited by a "voice" which has made himself available as the spokesman for the Truth.

Beale protests: "I'm not Moses." Back comes the reply, "You're not Moses," he asks. "Because you're on TV, dummy."

At last Beale just whips up a bit of hysteria about Life and Death, and he's mad as hell, but he, because they are mad about things.



Mark Matcott reviews the Oscar winning film "Network"

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THE LAST FOOTBALL SEASON?

THE LAST season of the Victorian Football League is about to begin.

Well, not quite, but if the current irreparable, greedy attitude of the VFL directors costs them the VFL could end up as a minor league league.

Either that or Australian Rules football could end up as a minor sport of less national interest than hockey or men's basketball.

In the face of the growing interest in Soccer and the decision of the Soccer Clubs to form a National League the Australian National Football Council decided to transform itself into the National Football League.

With growing interest in the game in Queensland and even in NSW prospects for Aussie Rules seemed excellent.

Then Sir Maurice Nathan, his partner Dr Allan Aylett and the greedy band of VFL directors stepped in.

Last year they refused to take the competition seriously. This year they have set up in opposition to it. And while every major rules body comes Hobart to Brisbane and across to Perth to compete, the VFL set out.

The only thing with the MCG competing with the VFL is the properties division. This is a little racket whereby the VFL paid for endorsing certain products. The VFL believes it needs the money to pay for VFL Park Waverley.

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I.S. BOOKS FRONT LINE

INSPIRED by the Queen's Jubilee, Simone Brady (Lad 11) and Michael Duffly (British engineering worker) penned these tributes to the Queen.

Simon's poem (below) and Michael's contribution (right) are worthy competitors with the offerings by Sir John Betjeman.

FRONT LINE 50c
Magazine of the International Socialists

IS BOOKS has moved its Melbourne Office.
Our lease at 28 Block PI has run out and we're now at 14 Wight St Kensington.

In conjunction with the move to the new location, we're launching our latest pamphlet, Radical Feminism - A Critique, by Janey Stone.

Price 40 cents, plus 20cents post. See the full range of IS Books on any IS Branch literature on page 12. Mail order enquiries to IS Books, PO Box 1473N, GPO Melbourne 3001.

BLEE BEEERS

The Duke was at the Palace Counting out the money. We haven't got the bloody cash. To support our way of life. I hear the ruler sigh. That we need a million more. Or just to be able to four.

Her husband's just the same you see, When he goes out on his shopping spree, In his million pound limousine.

Princess Anne on her horse rides. She thinks she does not need a guide. Whip in hand she makes a stride. Misses the hour, she falls beside.

Then there's Charles, Andy and Ed. You don't know what's going into their head. They're really all a bunch of weeds. First class snob, I'm glad I'm not the. Who cares about the Jubilee?

So in this Jubilee Year. Let's see the National Health. And give the Royal Family. Their fair share of our wealth.

THE BATTLE 4 APRIL 1977 PAGE 13

MEAT STRIKE

The 1977 meatworkers action got under way in Victoria this month. But it has immediately run into an unexpected hitch.

AMU members went out for three days at Gilbertsons, Farnes and Grazers, Ralphs, Smeagons and the other meatworks covered by the Victorian Meatworkers Association.

But before any further action could occur, the Cold Storage Union called a strike of its own without consulting the AMU.

The Cold Storage Union has members at several meatworks which the AMU also covers, and as a result AMU members at Newport and Smeagons were stood down. This made a mess of AMU plans to hold further one day stoppages.

One AMU delegate told the Battler, "We don't mind the

but they did it in an unorganised fashion and suggested to us. Our executive has sent them a letter and we should get an answer on Tuesday.

It seems that some staff at Richmond did work covered by the Cold Storage Union and it snowballed from there, though they're going for wages still."

The AMU campaign is for a \$20 rate for labourers, a nine day fortnight, maternity leave after ten years irrespective of the reason for leaving. Labourers in particular have not had a wage rise outside indexation for two years.

THE Battler

Building Workers Plan Fight Back

A NATIONAL committee of rank and file building workers met on the 19th and 20th of March in Melbourne.

The building industry could be cancelled while urgent building workers are unemployed. All housing shortage is critical. It is only needed schools and hospitals (e.g. Suburban, Croydon and Lower South, Epsendon) are built.

On the job the bosses must rubbish attacks on the conditions of those workers lucky enough to have a job.

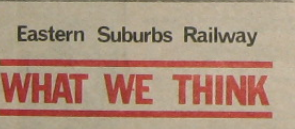
The building industry will do nothing until the government is forced to take a national campaign to fight each other instead of the workers.

Gallagher and Clancy want to have to organise one coming from the job level. They want the leadership will get up on their backs.

The national rank and file committee has drawn up a charter to form the basis of a fight back by building workers.

CHARTER

1. A 35 hour week with a loss of pay.
2. No wage restraint, full indexation without strike action.
3. An end to overtime.
4. No subcontracting, preference to be employed by the contractor.
5. Expansion of Homeless State public works program. Stop the run down of government building operations.
6. A massive government led program of socially useful buildings, e.g. schools, hostels and hospitals.
7. Money from state government funds to be spent on housing, high rise speculation.
8. Retaining of workers will obsolete high rise and low rise (skidder, riggers) for housing and other types of useful construction.
9. Government to take over assets of failed companies like Manning, Parkes, E.O. Motors and community groups to whom assets and environment problems are a common building industry.
10. Form links with other unions and community groups to whom assets and environment problems are a common building industry.
11. Amalgamation, and union of the industry. For unity with the building, Parkes, E.O. Motors and BIF between.
12. Form links with other unions and community groups to whom assets and environment problems are a common building industry.



WHAT WE THINK

THE EASTERN Suburbs Railway has been a sinkhole of poor organisation, craft hostilities and miserable conditions.

As the workers themselves say, it's like the 14th century. The AWU has been predictably inoperative. Language differences have divided the labourers.

Under these circumstances, the 6-day strike was a triumph for the rank and file militants who led it.

Language differences have divided the labourers. The decision to join the BIF is absolutely correct. The BIF in NSW is again beginning to take a militant stance. But, no-one should be starry-eyed about this union.

The Gallagher leadership was capable of working with the bosses against the NSW branch. It cannot be treated any more today.

STRENGTH

The Sydney office is poorly financed and has few organisers. Joining the BIF is a useful step, if it comes off.

But, no matter who writes the tickets, the workers' strength will still lie with their rank and file organisation on the job.

BY DAVID SHAW

Tanker Drivers show the way

IN MELBOURNE, 450 oil tanker drivers have mounted the most serious and determined challenge to the indexation fraud in 2 years.

As the tanker goes to press, their 13 day-old strike has brought Melbourne to the brink of shutdown. The roads are bare of cars, petrol blackmarking is rife and companies are threatening massive stand-downs.

Hysterical motorists, desperate to get their cars mobile, have been holding up service stations, stealing petrol from cans and trying to bluster their way into emergency fuel queues.

Food deliveries are ceasing as the distributors run out of petrol and are refused status as essential services.

In this overwhelming atmosphere of frustration and disillusion, the Victorian Government has wised the Essential Services Act to allow it to use police to move fuel.

And the Federal Government is openly and publicly offering the use of troops to break the strike.

The drivers' major claims for \$5-10 to make up for what they lost on the last partial indexation decision and payment of the Medibank levy.

FIGHTING

The press has painted the strikers as a handful of selfish militants holding the community to ransom to gain something no-one else has.

That is what makes this struggle so important. If the tanker drivers win, we all win. No matter what polite phrase is used to hide their pay rate, whether it's called "service payment" or "indicator allowance", if they get all or most of the \$5-10, they will have blown a huge hole in the partial indexation system.

The tanker drivers are fighting for the whole working class and we should be 100% behind them, no matter how inconvenient it is to be without petrol.

Union officials from one end of the country to the other have reacted and raved about the indexation pay robbery. Yet the tanker drivers have done more to smash the indexation guidelines and pay freezes all the talk of the past two years.

Fraser and Street have rallied against the 230 votes that extended the strike for an extra week.

MINORITY

But the real minority of "taxes" are Fraser and Street who have stepped in to stop the oil companies from settling with the drivers.

It is Fraser and Street who have caused Melbourne's petrol crisis. It is Fraser and Street who are responsible for the imminent shutdown of thousands of Melbourne workers.

It is Fraser and Street and the tiny minority who have decided that the majority of the working population shall be denied the money they are rightfully due.

We should be thankful that a small number of drivers have the power to shut Melbourne down. They have been able to use it to shake the indexation system to its foundations.

For the next union to take on the task of these organisations, the struggle will be easier. This is the tanker drivers' legacy to us all.

2 MAY 1977
MELBOURNE
NUMBER 33 April 30, 1977 TEN CENTS

Fraser's Freeze

Written by the GPO Melbourne for Transmission by CPD as a periodical (C6 C)

Fraser's Freeze is a... (text partially obscured by large 'WAGES' graphic)

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SOLIDARITY BEATS THE SACK

'DON'T BE FOOLED by this legal mumbo jumbo, and going to court.'

It's only strike action that will get anything done. We're had no help from the union, just cups of coffee. It's an absolute union.

That was AMU delegate Sean Cuddy summing up the six day strike at Sydney's Eastern Suburbs Railway. He then led a march to Trade Hall, where the strikers joined the BIF en masse.

Three hundred men came out a week ago in defence of two workers, who had been sacked for refusing to work concrete pumps at suburban wages.

They returned to work last Tuesday, after the two were reinstated and the Arbitration Commission promised an early hearing for their claim. The claim for higher pay was lodged by the AWU last January, and the job delegates agree that without this strike, it could have taken months more before it was heard.

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Get yours on time!

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Between the lines

MAXWELL NEWTON (the person King who makes Rupert Murdoch's publications seem positively tasteful has been in bad financial trouble for over a year now. Therefore his Sunday Observer (Melbourne) has been resorting to more and more deperate tricks to sell papers.

A couple of months ago it splashed across its front page Harold Kildraper's "Grizzly Death". Twenty-four hours later the "dead" Harold Kildraper, Edwin Eastwood emerged from the bush to kidnap street men, people, "Newspaper" report. Eastwood's death had been based on "usually reliable" police speculation.

Last week Newton reached the bottom of the barrel. His front page headline read "Premier's Footish Scandal" complete with picture of Don Dunstan. The article made no attempt to say anything about Dunstan's sexual habits, it simply reported that Dunstan had given an interview to a gay newspaper, *Crapp Shock Horror*. What a scandal!

It may sell newspapers, but it's not worth the paper.

So far, backed by Bjelke-Petersen and Court, wants a compulsory wage freeze (price freezes) and the Liberal Government are always voluntary and the next indication being abandoned.

He is not prepared to trade any kind of cut for a wage freeze and therefore set a date for a conference between the governments, bosses and union leaders.

He is not prepared to trade any kind of cut for a wage freeze and therefore set a date for a conference between the governments, bosses and union leaders.

AND while we are on the date government bureaucracy, you are notified that during public transport strikes the Minister for Transport always accuses the workers of sabotaging public transport. The argument is that workers who start taking their cars to work because the trains are not running keep using their cars because of the strike ends.

So you would expect that during the recent Victorian petrol strike, when Melbourne motorists were leaving their cars home to save petrol. Vic Rail would have gone all out to make converts to train transport.

Yes? They did not run one extra train!

But enough parish pump politics. What the workers need is an international outlook. Like those factories international, who are "localised" government of China, which will see negoti- ated a \$10 million dollar loan to the government of Chile.

That's right, Chile, the fascist regime of Pinochet, that trade unions all over the world have been back there.

This is a part of China's campaign against imperialism. We see, if they did not lend the money to the Chilean generals, the imperialists from the CIA would.

by Dove Nadel

WHEN Fraser and Hamer proposed the Wage/Freeze freeze they had basically the same objectives.

In the short term, to avoid paying the Federation wage rises until after the devaluation price rises.

And in the long term to force down wages. Since then things have got a bit more complicated.

The Labor Premier supported the freeze only because they thought it could get some cheap popularity out of it. More importantly because they want to win the trade union movement. The idea of voluntary wage rises.

This has been a major political strategy of all recent British Labour Governments. It is the strategy of the next Federal Labor Government.

Wran and Dunstan soon found that the con involved in the freeze was so obvious that even the right-wing N.S.W. Labour Council wouldn't wear

conclusion

So they backed off quickly. At the same time the refusal of even the right-wing of the trade union bureaucracy to be bought quite cheaply caused splits in the ranks of the Liberal politicians.

And confusion in the ranks of the A.L.P.

Positions began to proliferate. At the time of writing, the following alternatives were being offered.

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by Dove Nadel

tion to Fraser is being from the ACTU rooms in Melbourne from the Shadow Cabinet.

The empty organisational proposals. Fraser got it easier to let the politicians can for them.

People who come here to help migrant workers or to escape political repression in companies and groups (like the favour manufacturers and tailors).

It comes down to the Relations Bill if necessary, to force wage earners out of the system in Australia. It will offer tax cuts since the reduction of devaluation in the economy from the earners to losses. He is in position of the book who you up and steal your own

Hammer is more civilised than Fraser. He would return for cutting wages. He would not feel the wage would be lower. In a stagnant economy because people would afford to buy more and more wages, it would not cut profits.

It's a confidence trick. In six months time the tax would be absorbed in price rises as before, only we will have the wage rise to give the money to buy them.

Hammer is like the lady who sells you a car that breaks down beyond repair two days after it is out of warranty.

Hammer is prepared to let that car, only he wants a price for it.

tax cuts

A cut in income tax would put more income in people. But it would take at least 20% to stop a drop in wages. That's not an option.

And prices are going up on commodities like petrol, food, and imports coming in.

Fraser is serious about the wage freeze (which he isn't). So he is not serious about tax cuts.

After three partial inflation judgements we need to cut plus a wage rise.

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It really does not matter at what age judges retire. 75 year old reactionaries are no more than 45 year old reactionaries. But you might as well vote Yes to spite Bob Menzies who is the only person in the country who cares either way.

For the poll on the national antiquities which is being held at the same time, we recommend a vote for Walking Matilda.

"Advance Australia" is possible.

the Fraser Government isn't just making life tough for Australian workers.

People who come here to help migrant workers or to escape political repression in companies and groups (like the favour manufacturers and tailors).

It comes down to the Relations Bill if necessary, to force wage earners out of the system in Australia. It will offer tax cuts since the reduction of devaluation in the economy from the earners to losses. He is in position of the book who you up and steal your own

Hammer is more civilised than Fraser. He would return for cutting wages. He would not feel the wage would be lower. In a stagnant economy because people would afford to buy more and more wages, it would not cut profits.

It's a confidence trick. In six months time the tax would be absorbed in price rises as before, only we will have the wage rise to give the money to buy them.

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The executive and most union leaders are obviously not prepared to pull up a fight over weeks of the industrial action. A general meeting called on a national 24 hour stoppage of the day's get full indication. The vote to be backed up by factory workers. But there hasn't been a peep from the executive since stop work was called by a trade union black ban.

The vote on this has been brought down. All they've done is call Dunstan to pay up and state employees and for on state assets. Far chance of that.

Real unions to support them. Because in the face of a ruling by industrial action, they haven't got a hope without support action.

And finally, fighting for our wages means organising politically as well as industrially. Because that's exactly what the bosses are doing. They're using the Press and the Liberal and Labour politicians to spread the lie that we need to be cut. Because their whole capitalist system depends on doing just that.

It's not only to fight the ruling class at work and in the union. It's also to fight in their own other place as well. We have to build an organisation that can take on the job of organising black and getting rid of the bosses altogether.

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Uranium We need a new approach

from David Shaw

ON April 1st Canberra had one of its biggest demonstrations for a couple of years.

Over 800 people marched straight into the Parliament. Much larger rallies were held in Melbourne, where a massive 15000 people took part in the biggest wave of the large demonstrations, but some people think that's all we need to beat uranium mining.

The truth is that unless we change our tactics very quickly, uranium companies are going to win.

Firstly the anti-uranium "Movement" has come up with just weak debate.

Instead of saying "keep uranium off the ground", Uranium Movement called for a 5 year halt to uranium mining. These demands are vague and easily taken to mean that to anybody.

Besides, we can't hope to win against uranium in any form. A public debate on uranium mining. The way to stop uranium is by a trade union black ban.

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As a racketeer Capitalism' can't be beaten

—GENERAL SMEDLEY D. BUTLER U.S. Marine Corps

"I spent 33 years and four months in active service as a member of the Marine Corps.

"And during that period I spent most of my time as a high class muscle man for big business, for Wall Street, and for the bankers.

"In short, I was a racketeer for capitalism.

The speaker is US General Smedley D. Butler. And what did the general do for capitalism?

"I helped make Mexico safe for American oil interests in 1914. I helped make Haiti and Cuba a decent place for the National City Bank boys.

"I brought light to the

Dominican Republic in 1916. American sugar interests in 1916. In China in 1927. I helped to help the Chinese. I helped to help the Chinese. I helped to help the Chinese.

This is the ugly face of imperialism—the global network of capitalism. If we had the consciousness of other Generals in Europe, Japan or Australia, their stories would certainly be similar.

Capitalism is a system of ruthless competition.

The world became one big market. Not only companies but nations were forced to compete in it. In the ceaseless battle for markets and profits, nations devoted their armed forces, their spy systems, their

diplomacy to the fight for supremacy.

In the space of 25 years, the great powers of Europe divided up Africa among themselves like a cake. In a series of one-sided wars, China was opened up for exploitation.

The sun never set on the British empire.

While the colonies got the powerful freedom struggles of Indonesia, Vietnam and Algeria about the imperialists. But if the blatant methods like military conquest wouldn't work anymore, there were still more subtle means.

White line colonies got

the new independent

the multinational corporations and take over local industries and drive local firms to the capital rear end.

By the means countries Brazil, and Indonesia, who

with high hope for

meat after 1945, but

reduced to cringing

the pressures even

to countries "socialist". Many

European countries are

USSR itself.

Even China, said to be

pressure from the Russian

on its border, may be

to accept lowered living

for the sake of "our boys

over there."

So what does this mean

about Anzac Day today?

Although most people regard

it as nothing more than a

to push the same ideas as

were used during the First

World War.

It is the myth that "the

had a single interest, the

myth that the workers and

had something in common.

If the sounds a bit familiar,

it's because it's the same

that's come out over "the

freese" in recent weeks—

how it will benefit "the

country as a whole."

Anzac Day was never

intended as a day to pay

tribute to the fighting troops.

In fact, within twelve

years later, many of the

soldiers of the First World

War were unemployed and

working on relief projects—

such as the unemployment

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Pakistan: Blame Govt. Tories

The BRUTAL dictatorship of Pakistan's Zulfikar Ali Bhutto may be on its last legs.

Since the elections on March 7, his regime has been rocked by a series of general strikes protesting the rigging of the elections.

The seeds were sown by a striking resemblance to the fall of Indira Gandhi in neighboring India. Bhutto, who came to power after the disastrous defeat in Bangladesh, has maintained a state of emergency ever since.

But, the IMF cavalry countries are forced to take IMF "advice" in order to get out of the crisis.

The advice? The restrictions on foreign exchange, the multinational corporations and take over local industries and drive local firms to the capital rear end.

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LEAFY FIJI'S CRISIS

A lot of people are comparing Fiji's recent "Constitutional Crisis" with the events of November 11 1975.

First, the Governor-General of Fiji refused to appoint the leader of the majority Indian National Party as Prime Minister after the election in early April.

But there the similarity ends. Fiji has two major political parties: the Alliance Party, which is supported by Fijians, and the N.F.P. supported by the numerically superior Indian population.

The N.F.P. won 26 of the 32 seats in the Fijian House of Representatives, the Alliance Party 24, 2 and independents 2.

The swing away from the Alliance Party was caused by the formation of a nationalist, racist splinter group, the Fijian Nationalist Party which wants an all-Fijian government and the expulsion and repatriation of the Indo-Fijians.

Although the Nationalist Federation Party has a majority, they are divided for and against the Party leader, Siddiq Koya. It was on these grounds that the Governor-General reappointed as the former Prime Minister, Ratu Suva Kameame.

The outcome of the Governor-General's action is likely to be an increase in the racial tension that is simmering below the surface of Fiji's society. This will probably come primarily from the Indian Community who feel they have been denied political as well as economic power. Indo-Fijians, brought from Fiji last century

by the Australian owned Colonial Sugar Corporation, are still not allowed to own land. Those who have become farmers have lost their traditional Fijian title, usually on 10 year leases.

However a close look at the situation in Fiji reveals that both Indians and Fijians are second class citizens economically and politically in a country which is dependent on foreign capital, imports and tourism.

Since last century Australia owned companies have dominated Fiji's economy. CSR was followed closely by Burns Philp and Carpenter, who between them own or have interests in at least 40 Fijian companies.

Both companies have made substantial profits from their investments in Fiji, but little of this has been passed on to the people who work for them.

Burns Philp, along with the other, pays Fijian workers 1/10th of the wages earned by Australian workers. As Fiji's cost of living is close to that of Australia, Fijian and Indian workers are battling to get to get ahead.

Not so for the Europeans employed by these companies. They earn as much if not more than workers in Australia.

Australian and American companies dominate Fiji's lowest industry. They operate package deals by which they buy land and build Australian tourist in places, bare and hotels that it's own or has shares in. There is a long history of industrial disputes between Fijians and European workers, whose pay and conditions are below that of Queensland, Australia.

There is a mass of Fijian and Indian elite who have profited from the exploitation of Fiji by foreign companies. Among them are the politicians who are now squabbling over power.

But which ever party wins Fiji will continue to be dominated by foreign investors. No matter party seems interested in breaking free of this struggle but by taking the necessary steps to improve the conditions of workers in Fiji, they are Indian or Fijian.

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Lest We Forget

Some boys — some of British landing during the Gallipoli campaign



DIANE FIELDS looks at Anzac Day

... the Anzies

ANZAC DAY has rolled around again with the usual opportunity for politicians and the RSL to sound off about "sacrifice", "loyalty" and the need for eternal vigilance—and so on.

They say "Lest we forget", but what are we supposed to be remembering?

On April 25 1916, a group of allied shock troops, with 1,500 Australians as the first assault, were landed at Gallipoli to capture a Turkish position. There were 2,000 casualties in the first day, and the final total of Australians killed was 2,581 and 19,500 wounded.

Side-show The attack never had a chance of success. The British High Command couldn't give a damn about Gallipoli. For them, it was a side-show. The real war was being fought on the Western Front.

It was a war to defend the interests of the bosses on both sides of the trenches. The first World War was a fight between the ruling classes to carve up the world amongst them selves.

But the rich were quick enough to get others to do

with TOM O'LEIN

countries dependent on economic development that they needed capital.

But as Cheryl Pao shows in her book "The IMF Cavalry Countries are forced to take IMF "advice" in order to get out of the crisis.

The advice? The restrictions on foreign exchange, the multinational corporations and take over local industries and drive local firms to the capital rear end.

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were used during the First

World War.

War in Central Africa

The Western powers are making a desperate attempt to prop up the government of President Mobutu in Zaire (Central Africa).

France is ferrying Moroccan troops to aid Mobutu, the old friend of Idi Amin in neighbouring Uganda. In the USA the CIA is recruiting mercenaries to join the fighting. South African agents are known to be actively supporting Mobutu.

For the past few years Zaire has been a private fiefdom of the CIA. Now its corrupt government seems unable to stop a 30,000 strong army that's marching across southern Zaire.

The invaders of Zaire are the exiled Katanga gendarmes driven out in 1963. For ten years they served the Portuguese rulers in Angola, fighting against the freedom fighters.

But the gendarmes returned to their base for the Mobutu regime — and during the Angolan war, when Mobutu attacked the MPLA, the gendarmes transferred their allegiance.

They are largely from the exiled Katanga and are likely to get across local support.

The gendarmes aren't fighting directly for the Angolans, but it's obvious they're looking for a way to get support from the MPLA.

Angola is a severely split state. It was left might become a state.

None of these are particularly desirable developments. But by the nature of things, the opponents on the left, Bhutto and the Indian Nationalist Party, are the most likely to be destroyed.

It is up to us to support the world's real and progressive movements, and to mobilize to end the oppression of the poor peoples of the world.

by the Australian owned Colonial Sugar Corporation, are still not allowed to own land. Those who have become farmers have lost their traditional Fijian title, usually on 10 year leases.

However a close look at the situation in Fiji reveals that both Indians and Fijians are second class citizens economically and politically in a country which is dependent on foreign capital, imports and tourism.

Since last century Australia owned companies have dominated Fiji's economy. CSR was followed closely by Burns Philp and Carpenter, who between them own or have interests in at least 40 Fijian companies.

Both companies have made substantial profits from their investments in Fiji, but little of this has been passed on to the people who work for them.

Burns Philp, along with the other, pays Fijian workers 1/10th of the wages earned by Australian workers. As Fiji's cost of living is close to that of Australia, Fijian and Indian workers are battling to get to get ahead.

Not so for the Europeans employed by these companies. They earn as much if not more than workers in Australia.

Australian and American companies dominate Fiji's lowest industry. They operate package deals by which they buy land and build Australian tourist in places, bare and hotels that it's own or has shares in. There is a long history of industrial disputes between Fijians and European workers, whose pay and conditions are below that of Queensland, Australia.

There is a mass of Fijian and Indian elite who have profited from the exploitation of Fiji by foreign companies. Among them are the politicians who are now squabbling over power.

But which ever party wins Fiji will continue to be dominated by foreign investors. No matter party seems interested in breaking free of this struggle but by taking the necessary steps to improve the conditions of workers in Fiji, they are Indian or Fijian.

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THE PEOPLE BECAME THE SQUARE

THE thirty years dream is over.

The dream began at the end of the war, a dream of peace and prosperity.

After 1945, the world was full of hope. In America and Europe, in Japan and here in Australia, peace brought prosperity. World trade and industry expanded. Millions of working class people moved out into the suburbs into their own homes bought their own cars and turned on their new TV. "You never had it so good!"

But the prosperity of the fifties and sixties was built on waste and destruction. Writing in the 30's, the great economist Keynes proposed a "cure" for capitalism's problems.

"If the Treasury were to fill old bottles with notes, bury them in suitable places in disused coal mines which are then filled up to the surface with trown rubbish and leave to the private enterprise on the

well tried principles of laissez faire to do the notes up again, there would be no unemployment. And the real income of the community and its capital would probably become a good deal greater than it actually is."

That is exactly what happened after World War II. Instead of burying banknotes, however, they built bombs. Massive amounts of public money were spent on armaments, especially in the USA. Once the USA was in the arms race, of course, everybody else had to follow suit to protect themselves. Now even India has the bomb, though millions are hungry.

Arms are produced, but they are not blown up or become obsolete. They add nothing to humanity's wealth.

Other forms of waste also played a role. useless packaging, useless status symbols like tailfins, useless cosmetics. And to provide a market for the waste, fantastic amounts of money were spent on advertising.

And it was all paid for on

credit. The government deficit grew larger and larger. Private debts grew too; to view purchase companies and banks. The boom was paid for by mortgaging our future.

Now the future has arrived. Keynes, when he first suggested the idea of burying banknotes, was told: "but in the long run there will be a crash all the same."

He replied: "In the long run we are all dead." Now Keynes is dead, but we have to face the consequences.

The dream has become a nightmare. A world-wide economic crisis has engulfed us, hitting the Western world with massive unemployment queues. Great cities are bankrupt.

And there is no end to the gloom in sight. Workers in the 'richest country on earth' are being told we have priced ourselves out of work and that our living standards have to fall for the first time since the depression.

We are now entering the second greatest of the twentieth century. All indications are that it will make us feel like a rough hump in the road.

The one stable democracy of the world is in chaos. No party can form a government in America, an elected president is driven from office, and a Vice President is a convicted criminal.

In Australia, the bosses throw the constitution to the winds in order to bring in a union-busting Prime Minister. Yet, in turn, proves unable to run the economy.

Around the world, from modern Sweden to backward India, the ruling classes are driven, by one frantic despair, to stop up profits for the ruling class. For profits rates are falling, as they did in the last crisis.

When profit rates fall, the rich stop investing. This happens, and the capitalist system starts to fall apart, because investment is its main spring.

To keep profits rate up, the bosses everywhere are demanding the same things.

They will close down their businesses and retire to Surfers. Paradise Production will drop and we will suffer shortages and massive unemployment.

No-one organises the masses for today's society, so there are food shortages, large, even in wealthy countries. There is intense speculation and speculative property crashes. No-one builds houses so there is a housing crisis.

Sections of the middle classes and the unemployed become hysterical. And they become the bait for the counter-attack by the bosses - aimed at destroying the trade unions and shaking the working class.

And they do it in well-endowed, "civilized" countries like Australia. The first great crisis this century is fascism take over in Germany, Spain, Italy, Portugal and all over eastern European countries with strong cultural traditions and considerable industrial wealth. As well, there were powerful fascist movements in Britain.

"Fascism will never happen again" we were told in 1945. What they really meant was that they hoped it never need it again. But they did.

The bosses brought in the military brass in the 60's, in Chile in 1973 and in Portugal again in 1975. Last year it was Argentina and Thailand. Pakistan could be next.

As the capitalist system is driven deeper and deeper into crisis, we face a choice. Either get rid of it or let it bury us under dictatorship. It is id in Germany, Spain, Italy and Eastern Europe last time round.

But as in the thirties, it becomes a choice between socialist revolution or fascist barbarism.



students rise workers rise

ON MAY 3, 1968, a few thousand students demonstrated in Paris against the French government's education policy.

In Guelles Field Paris and the army was placed on standby, ready to put down any insurrection.

At first the demands were simple: pay and conditions. But with the example of the students, they moved rapidly toward political concerns.

Communist Party leaders on a radio talk-back used to stick to the wages issue, but were repeatedly asked: what about politics?

The students had many bitter, stoned-up grievances against the government's authoritarian and punishing education policy. Yet their demonstrations were peaceful and orderly.

The first violence was provoked by the police, who blocked the march route and then trapped the marchers inside the student quarter on the Left Bank. The students looted the shops, smashed the coffee shops, and built barricades.

By the time the police finally gave them out, 1,000 had been injured.

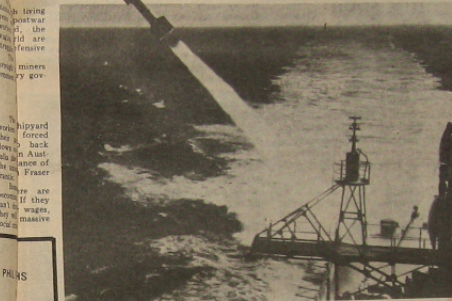
The workers of Paris at first been hostile to the students, "privileged brats playing at revolution." But when they saw their courage and the quality of the police, their sympathies changed.

On March 13, a million Parisians in solidarity. The Communist Party, which had at first denounced the students as "anarchic and troublemakers" was forced to support the demonstration.

After the march, the workers returned to their factories in a ferment. They too had long-standing grievances and they hated the Gauch government.

In one factory after another, strikes began to break out. They began in the car plants in the province of May. By late afternoon, the Renault Renault factory in Paris was itself on strike.

Other workplaces followed. The following day, the train, buses and underground were out. Next day a general strike. By the following day, the French bosses may not get off so lightly.



This was to be made a flying off to try and save captain from itself.

of the revolution thrust them forward, aroused their civic pride and latent genius for organization. It is their duty to build democracy out of the ruins of bureaucracy.

One Hungarian radio station reported that "a workers' council has been formed in the bus factory in Budapest."

It procured food for the workers and has given or will give important supplies of provisions at its disposal to clinics and hospitals.

Not only were the Hungarian workers challenging the repressive state apparatus, they were showing us exactly how the working class would organize the new society in a cooperative way.

"The miners of Bohemia have formed their own workers' council and discipline themselves by only electing people they could trust. The government can't do anything to stem the tide of workers councils in every factory."

But the workers' councils were democratically elected. The government can't do anything to stem the tide of workers councils in every factory.

discarded

But the workers responded by running the elections themselves, not only electing people they could trust. The government can't do anything to stem the tide of workers councils in every factory.

But the workers' councils were democratically elected. The government can't do anything to stem the tide of workers councils in every factory.

So just months after his speech condemning Stalin, Khrushchev ordered Russian tanks in Hungary to put down the workers' revolution.

denounced

The international "communist" press was brought into line and the Hungarian workers denounced as "fascists."

A new regime was established under Janos Kadar. The workers had lost

control of the streets. So they fought back with the strike. The country was paralyzed.

But the effects of the struggle soon began to tell. The power of the Russian tanks and they were finally forced back to work. In the streets that followed, many of their leaders were executed and many millions victim.

The Hungarian rising nearly succeeded and if it had triumphed, the workers' councils would have been the building blocks of a new

new East European workers are on the march.

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Budapest 1968. Workers have torn down the statue of the symbol of their oppression, Josef Stalin.

gave an awesome preview of what a socialist revolution could look like. The first time was as early as 1916 in Hungary.

On October 22, 1956, 100,000 workers and students marched through Budapest, in support of the Polish

in the satellites in eastern Europe, news of this speech caused a great political ferment. In Poland, for instance, there were striking and reforms. The impact was dramatic.

A statue of Stalin was toppled, and then the marchers went to the radio station and with machine guns, and the demonstration became a revolt. Barricades

1956 This is what a revolution looks like

WITH THE postwar boom came an age of political calm.

In most places, the conservative parties ruled. Labor parties became more "moderate" and they stopped even talking about socialism and began to speak of improving capitalism.

The big lie was published that the workers couldn't rise socially, even if they wanted to. Just look at Russia, they argued, the workers look over there and in the end they needed a stern leader to run the country.

There were fewer strikes and the workers seemed more content in their suburban houses.

But although the boom had passed over the worst cracks in the capitalist system, it was still a system exploiting the mass of working people in the world.

This meant that despite appearances, workers still had to fight the boss to win anything. And in some countries, the struggle for their rights threatened the system.

twice during the postwar boom, workers in Europe

What's On

March with I.S. on Mayday



SYDNEY Sat 30 April
Meeting in protest against the attack on the Sydney Olympic Games on the Sydney Workers' Centre, at Sydney City Hall, 11.30am. Admission free. See page 69-69.

SYDNEY Sun 1 May
10.30am meeting on "The Right to Work Campaign" at the Sydney Workers' Centre, at Sydney City Hall, 11.30am. Admission free. See page 69-69.

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Tapes

Adelaide IS has a number of tapes available on political topics. This month, they are featuring a speech by Marxist author Dr Nigel Harris on "World Crisis".

Price \$3.00 from
MIK O'ROCK
18 Salisbury St.
Unley, S.A.

Canberra

HAVING doubled its membership in the last two months, the Canberra branch has been able to expand its sales of The Battler to builders, labourers, public servants, teachers and students.

The branch has started a series of political discussion

We've moved

The Battler has a new home. Our new address is
PO Box 46, Flemington
Victoria, 3031

Our new phone number is
(03) 33 4241

The new phone number for the National Office and Melbourne Office of International Socialists is (03) 33 1606

Battler \$5,000 Equipment Fund

THE BATTLE is aiming to go fortnightly in September, but only if we have the equipment and the money. We've set up an equipment fund aiming to raise \$5,000 by August 1.

Since the IS Conference at Easter, we've raised over \$1000 towards our equipment fund, so there's \$4,000 to go.

We have used the money raised so far to help buy a process camera for the paper. This amazing machine prepares photographs for printing and enlarges or reduces them to the size required. It will end up saving us a fortune currently spent on camera services.

But there is more equipment we need. Please help us buy it by making a donation to the Equipment Fund, or coming to one of our fundraising activities.

Thanks this month to
GJ \$50 BT \$40 JG \$75 AT \$60
MG \$30 JS \$25 MC \$20 TO \$25
BH \$20 TL \$20 L&JT \$20 RM \$24.85

Confidence Collection \$22.15

Thanks also to those contributors to the Fighting Fund -
South Fundraiser \$57
PC \$1.00 EP \$5

Please send all donations to: The Battler, PO Box 46, Flemington Vic 3031. Make all cheques payable to "The Battler".

WORKERS' POWER
Workers' control over the whole of society based on workers' control of the factories and workplaces. Only the organised working class has the power to create a society free of exploitation, oppression and war. Russia and China are not socialist because they are based on the exploitation of workers by a bureaucratic ruling class.

INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS
what we fight for
The International Socialist are a revolutionary socialist organisation, open to all who accept our basic principles and are willing to work to achieve them.

REVOLUTION. NOT REFORMISM.
We believe in over-throwing the capitalist system, not patching it up or gradually trying to change it.

SMASHING THE CAPITALIST STATE
The state - parliament, courts, the law police and army - is a weapon of capitalist class rule and can never be used to serve the interests of a working class. There class is the Parliamentary road to socialism.

FULL EQUALITY AND LIBERATION
For women, blacks, migrants and all oppressed groups. Racism, sexism and discrimination against migrant peoples are all pillars of the capitalist

the house who the paid officials are unwilling. We will bring them under socialist control.

REVOLUTIONARY PARTY
To smash the capitalist state, we need a revolutionary party, organised and built in the workplaces. Without a revolutionary party, the struggles of the workers will be crushed.

RANK AND FILE ORGANISATION
Workers need their own rank and file organisations to fight

FOR 88 YEARS NOW, since 1899, socialist and labour organisations have celebrated May Day as the day of international working class solidarity.

In that year of 1889, the newly formed Socialist International of the demand for the eight-hour day.

The response to that call was such that the day is commemorated by May Day rallies throughout the world.

This year, the International Socialists will be marching in cities on May Day. Details are below. Join us.

MELBOURNE
MEET - Sunday May 1, 10:00pm
Plumbers and Gasfitters Building
Next to Trades Hall, Victoria St.

AFTERWARDS - Traditional Calabrese (Italian) style dinner.
Sunday May 1 at 5:00pm
33 Heller St, West Brunswick
\$5 including wine.
Ph 489 9957 for details

SYDNEY
MEET - Sunday May 1, 10:00pm
Hay St, Haymarket

AFTERWARDS - I.S. Public Meeting
"The Right to Work Campaign in Britain and the lessons for Australia."

SPEAKER - Andy Milner, an activist in the British campaign.
494 King St, Newtown
Sunday May 1, 7:30pm

ADELAIDE
MEET - Saturday April 30, 10:00am
Elder Park

AFTERWARDS - I.S. Public Meeting to launch our new Adelaide Branch "The Right to Work Campaign in Australia."
Sunday May 1, 7:00pm
5a Koolindra Ave, Woodville

CANBERRA
MEET - Saturday April 30, 10:30am
Garema Place

I.S. building workers meeting
"Why You Should Be a Socialist"
Wednesday May 4, 7:30pm
Dickson Tradesmen's Club
SPEAKER - Phil Griffiths, Editor, The Battler
Further details, ph 47 3337

We CAN beat Fraser ~ but it's up to the Rank and File

"POLITICAL INSTABILITY is now a permanent feature of Australia life."

"Tweaks months after throwing the constitution to the winds, and winning a huge popular vote, Fraser finds himself isolated and unpopular."

This is how Tom O'Lincoln introduced the major discussion at the second I.S. National Conference held in Melbourne over Easter.

Over 50 delegates and a number of observers met over two days to discuss the work and the politics of the International Socialists and The Battler.

It was the first truly national conference of the I.S. bringing together members from three states and the ACT, many of whom met each other for the first time.

Moving the major resolution for the I.S. National Executive, Tom O'Lincoln argued that wage indexation would probably collapse.

"Even if the ACTU does not withdraw from the system, the more militant unions are likely to engage more independent struggles."

"The bias of the system will be obvious."

However, he warned, we will not be able to rely on unions to lead the struggle against Fraser.

"Heads and the centre-right will continue to call for moderation, probably beginning to

International Socialists

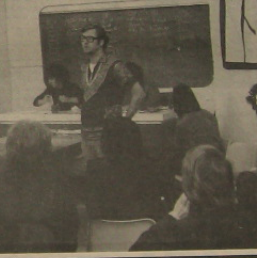
National Conference Easter 1977

Tom O'Lincoln introduces a resolution to the I.S. National Conference held over Easter

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A fortnightly Battler ~ Here's how we can do it

ONE of the most exciting decisions of the I.S. Easter Conference was the decision to once again publish the Battler every two weeks, providing we can find the money.

The discussion around the fortnightly paper was the most sober of the whole conference, as members realised the huge sums of money involved.

Phil Griffiths, editor of the Battler, presented a budget that aimed to share the expense between our members, our readers and our supporters.

We are going to be renewing our efforts to build the regular Battler Fishing Fund. I.S. Branches are to be given Fighting Fund targets and some of the biggest branches will be appointing Fund-drive directors.

Our office is expensive. And we pay nearly \$20 a week in telephone bills. So we're asking you, our readers, to stay with us when we raise the price of the paper.

The price rise will add several hundred dollars each month to our finances and will be crucial to our ability to build our frequency.

As well as running costs, we will need more equipment to put the paper out more often. So we are running a special BATTLE EQUIPMENT FUND to raise \$5,000 for some much-needed plant.

Over the next three months, I.S. branches will be holding special fundraising efforts

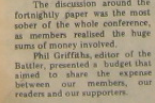
Our final appeal is to our readers. We are raising the price of the paper to 20cents from our first fortnightly issue. The current price barely covers the cost of printing. The biggest expense in producing the paper are for our artwork and our writing staff.

We will be adding an extra journal to the staff and commissioning special writers in all cities with I.S. branches. Conference set a tentative

date of September 1 for the fortnightly Battler, but made it clear that the readers for the paper have to be definitely available.

In the final analysis, our future is in the hands of the militants and socialists who read our paper.

Only your support, and your participation in building a socialist newspaper in Australia, will ensure our success.



pledges
As a first step, we're raising pledges for the paper from our members. We need \$100 a month and it looks like we'll be successful.

We are going to be appealing to supporters of the paper to pledge a regular contribution to the paper of \$5, \$10 or \$20 a month. We hope to raise from pledges at least \$100 in the way

raise the money. We will be asking our supporters to contribute all they can so we start our new life in a healthy way financially.

In this issue, we list the money that has already been collected for the Equipment Fund.

We will be adding an extra journal to the staff and commissioning special writers in all cities with I.S. branches. Conference set a tentative

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I want to join the International Socialists
NAME _____ ADDRESS _____ PHONE NO. _____
TRADE UNION _____
Circ and Post to: I.S. National Secretary, PO Box 46, Flemington, 3031

RICK PETERSEN

THE LEVEL of participation and debate was good. It wasn't just some fluffy stuff, it was the hard work of mulling over ideas for the coming year.

Differences were out in the open, you know where every step stood. It accomplished a great deal. It was a great education for newer members, and great for morale.

The decisions on the Battler and the Labor Party were important. But the most important thing was the way the conference pulled together the national organisation.



PAM TOWNSHEND

THE thing that impressed me was the efficient way it was run. Everyone took each other apart but they were still friends afterwards.

The trouble with only a two day conference is that it was all taken up with business. There wasn't enough time to meet people.

I didn't think the resolutions on the ALP were concrete enough. Our ALP policy still isn't sharply defined.

The decision to move towards a fortnightly Battler is absolutely necessary.

The Tasks and Proposals resolutions weren't just dogma mongering. The emphasis was on agitation among workers and building rank and file struggles, not just on propaganda.

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PHILIP
PAGE 13

Between Fraser out-Foxes Greenies

The Lines

RULES, as they say, are made for rules. All sorts of people do have to obey them.

For example, if you happen to be a Governor-General.

In Sydney's Prince Henry's Hospital there are six units for patients who have to stay at least twice a week. This is enough to cope and there is considerable hardship.

Not however for the party of Sir John Kerr when in hospital for treatment, space was immediately found by keeping those who were in but waking a little longer.

Kerr's people didn't even end up staying the night!

OB at the local level, if you happen to be on the municipal council then obviously you do not have to obey Council Rules.

This is obviously why our Broadmeadows Vic Council who own a milk can factory with a licence on public display choose not to require a licence. Other milk barneys in the area who sell milk from a shop shopping centre receive regular visits from the Council Health Officer.

DUT of course if you are one of the real rulers you can actually make the rules.

The Colonial Sugar Refining Company is the biggest agricultural producer in the country. Apart from its mining and manufacturing interests, CSR has virtual monopoly on the sale of the Australian sugar crop and extensive beef cattle interests as well.

How better for it to protect its interests than to have a man where it really counts... running the Federal Department of Primary Industry.

In Doddington is a C.S.R. executive. He is currently on secondment to the Minister for Primary Industry, Ian Sinclair.

He is also a semi-private secretary to the minister, his duties—handling the Minister's dealings with his department.

CSR has no difficulty obeying the rules.

BHP, Australia's other super-rich company, does one step further. It makes the rules over for itself.

BHP's Wharfedale steel division set an appropriate price (subsidy) equal to its price paid for financial year 1976.

That would probably more than double its contribution for the year. In other words that only did BHP (Wharfedale) not pay taxes. They made a profit in reboots from the tax office.

After all why should they pay taxes if they are only Australian rich company.

AND whoever else's it is, never the majority.

It put as well that the referendum held last week did not matter. Because on the same question, simultaneous elections 1975 voted yes and 88% voted no. In case you have forgotten already, the Yes vote lost.

By Dave Neale

(continued from page 1)

They also know that, thanks to their phony Land Rights legislation, Northern Territory blacks can claim royalties but they've got no power to veto mining proposals.

Refusing safeguards on the disposal of mining waste to the fishing areas of the Alligator River and Arfursu Sea should be good news for the blacks. Except that Arnhem Land is notorious for cyclones. A river...

WELL if we didn't know it before, we certainly know it now — not only does the CIA operate in Europe, the Americas, Africa and Asia, but it also has the bloody nerve to operate in God's Own Australia.

Ever since Charles Boyce the ex-CIA agent charged and convicted of passing secret information to the Russians began to drop noisily hints about the CIA's operations in Australia, secret information of a very different kind has been steadily trickling into the hands of both the Australian and American press.

Certainly, Whitlam's conscience didn't seem all that bothered when, as Prime Minister, he told us all in July 1973 that "they (the Pine Gap facilities) are not part of any weapon system, they cannot be triggered or directed by any military operations whatever."

Now did it seem to trouble him all that much when he assured us, as late as February 1975, that "We know what goes on there and we can stop it if we wish." And if his conscience bothered him now, not certainly did it bother him, in that same year, when he gave assurances to the Labor Government, that the Pine Gap agreement would be reviewed at the end of 1976.

Ever since November 13, 1974, a powerful myth has been in the making — a myth peddled by both the ALP and by supporters of organisations such as the Australian Independence Movement.

The central idea at the root of this myth is the idea that Australia is not really an independent nation at all, that it

quickly than they'd like. This showed up in the sit-down of the anti-nuclear bikeriders on Commonwealth Avenue Bridge in Canberra last week.

The bikeriders managed to obstruct traffic but they only obstructed the mining companies' take notice of any the black-bans on movement of uranium by unions like the ARU and the Northern Territory T.U.C. Pretty soon uranium was going to be mined by a propaganda campaign in

ANDREW MILNER discusses the latest CIA revelations

business is the fact that anyone is all that surprised by the revelations. After all, the Committee for the Abolition of Political Police has been publishing CIA activities in Australia for over 4 years now.

So why all the fuss? Why has Hugh Whitlam suddenly acquired a conscience about the CIA's spooks, and their base at Pine Gap?

It's still a colony controlled from abroad, from either Britain or America.

From the notion follow many others — and particularly the notion that the Whitlam Government was overthrown by a CIA inspired coup because of its heroic commitment to the cause of national independence.

Australia, according to the myth, is really another Chile, and Whitlam another Allende.

In reality, Allende's Government wasn't brought down by the CIA. Certainly, the Agency did all that it could to aid and assist the Chilean ruling class in its bid to smash the Allende Government.

PHILIP ABE

WHAT exactly did Malcolm Fraser's Industrial legislation on March 31 consist of?

But it was the Chamberlain class itself, and the school boys, and the police, and the courts, the judges, the country are loyal to the class rather than to the public who form the government. In all of this that defeated John La. Fleming may not have believed that secret news from the world. But in the world, rather than in the fiction, real power belongs to the ruling class, to those who own and control the state, and the bank, the shipping and the oil.

James Bond may well have licence to kill — but will he have the licence in his own country?

enemy

And what goes for the go for Australia too. His enemy facing the labor movement is not the CIA or Elizabeth Windsor. It is Australia ruling class itself.

And that is why Australian nationalism is such a dangerous idea. In arguing that Australia merely a British or American colony, it distrusts Australian workers. It distrusts the matters, the fight against the bosses here in Australia.

There was overwhelming student support for the change in the campuses that did vote. The proposal was not just because many campuses did not vote.

In the short term, their little doubt that implementation of direct elections in A.U.S. would have meant a significant move to the right. The left have been replaced by right-wingers. Student politicians backed by liberals would be able to defeat the A.U.S. members of the NSW Upper House. As a result Ducker will be able to really get his back by giving them highly

DUCKER MOVES FOR CONTROL

JOHN DUCKER's right wing machine is making fresh moves to cement its total control of the NSW ALP.

Newly proposed rules changes to the ALP and by supporters of organisations such as the Australian Independence Movement.

The central idea at the root of this myth is the idea that Australia is not really an independent nation at all, that it

AND where does Bob Hawke's compromise leave us?

Those are two questions that a lot of unionists are asking themselves right now.

Basically, Fraser's industrial legislation — after being kicked around in the Labor Party backroom for a year and a half — ended up as a pretty sophisticated, four-pronged attack on the unions.

It consisted of a new set of "consequences" for striking when Arbitration said not to, much stronger protection for scabs, a dubious secret ballot proposal for strikes and the industrial police, or IRB.

The reason the Liberals took as long over it date back to 1969, when the penal powers who form the government. In all of this that defeated John La. Fleming may not have believed that secret news from the world. But in the world, rather than in the fiction, real power belongs to the ruling class, to those who own and control the state, and the bank, the shipping and the oil.

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AS Democracy takes a back seat

A LONG-TERM campaign to have the A.U.S. Executive elected directly by students instead of the present collegiate system of election by the A.U.S. Annual Council has narrowly failed.

There was overwhelming student support for the change in the campuses that did vote. The proposal was not just because many campuses did not vote.

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THE Australian Union of Students called its second national strike over the issue of student living allowances on 28 April. From all indications the response was much stronger than for last September's strike.

apparently by two Eureka Gad carrying students.

Most left-wing students had a gut reaction to this right-wing push and voted for the status quo.

But the fact remains that direct election would be a small first step to involving rank and file students in the A.U.S. The profound inability of the Executive to get students moving over even such a small mental issue of their wages was just how far out of touch they were under the present system.

The Executive relied on the quality of their own members in the last challenge. Many campuses

These Unions have said "NO DEAL"

NATIONAL UNIONS	VICTORIAN UNIONS
BUILDING Workers Industrial Union (BWIU)	A.F.U.L.E. Food Processors
Amalgamated Metalworkers	A.P.U. Furnishing Trades
and Shipwrights Union (AMSWU)	B.L.F. Liquor Trades
Australian Railways Union (ARU)	E.T.U. Marco Stewards and Pantrymen
Mines' Federation	Meatworkers
Federated Engineers and Frameworks Association (FEF&A)	Miscellaneous Workers
Seamens' Union	Painters and Decorators
	Painters and Dockers
	Plumbers and Gasfitters
	Tramways

In addition, a number of non-Victorian union branches have come out against the deal. We have only scant details of these as we go to press. The strikers from Port Kembla have already voted the IRB compromise. Let's build the movement to smash ALL the penal powers.

By ALEC KAHN

Has Yours?

By refusing to recognise any court authority to suspend officials. But in doing so, they would have effectively hampered in their day-to-day work. After all, it's pretty hard to operate as a union with no bank account, no office and limited access to the membership it wanted to resist.

Obviously unions could have resisted these — For example, by withdrawing their assets from the bank, by hiding property, by organising union meetings outside workplaces if right-of-entry was suspended and

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Men have transformed the world with their knowledge.

Men who are not afraid to experiment. Farming has been made possible by the experimental farms of pioneers. Men who have built, and almost they work, earth-shaking, changing, strong themselves driving the world to produce. But men who use their minds to create a better world. Men who can find no more to do for the hungry people eat their produce.

Men who make the world better and big, can find no more to do for the hungry people eat their produce.

Men who have created new fruits in the world can create a better world. Men who have seen the world.

The Goshawk of oranges dumped on the ground. The people come for miles to take the fruit. But this could be done. How would they buy oranges at 20 cents a bushel? How would they pick up for nothing? How would they know how to grow the oranges, and if they are angry at the crime, story at the people who

have come to take the fruit.

A million people hungry, needing the fruit - and oranges sprayed over the golden mountains.

And a smile of red fills the country.

There is a crime here that goes beyond denunciation.

can that gear

There is a sorrow here that people can't see. There is a failure here that people can't see.

The fertile earth, the straight tree rows, the fruit that the ripe fruit. And children crying, must die because a profit cannot be taken from the people.

The people came with nets to fish for oranges, and the guards hold them back. They rattling cars to get the dumped oranges but they are sprayed. And they stand still and watch the oranges drop down to a patrolling car. The eyes of the people there is a failure and the hungry there is a growing wrath.

California in the 1930s, from John Steinbeck's "The Grapes of Wrath"

NEWPORT

The final report of the Newport Inquiry, recommending that a \$500 Newport after all, must have come as a rude shock to many leading Leftists.

The Union officials supported the inquiry last December. They had seen the Inquiry as a painless way to avoid an all-out fight against Hamer's fascist Vital State Projects Act brought down in November.

Hamer agreed to let his name on the table (not repeat it) if Trades Hall Council agreed to abide by the Inquiry's decision. The agreement of Ken Biondo and Hal Humphrey grabbed at this escape hatch with relief and the T.H.C. voted 23-13 on 12 December meeting to accept Hamer's deal.

Many on the Left justified their support of the "impartial" Inquiry by pointing to the environmental records of two of the government appointees, Jack Fraser (Environment Protection Authority) and Neil Smith (Gas and Fuel). Together with Trades Hall President Jack Ellis they

WESCAN lobby at Trades Hall



WESCAN lobby at Trades Hall

were regarded as certain to overrule Chairman Sir Louis Thompson after the "due process" of an open inquiry. According to revelations made by Ellis on 6 May, these

predictions were correct. Based on the evidence taken at the public hearings of the Inquiry and the E.P.A.'s environmental ratings of the possible sites, the Inquiry was all set by 17 March to come out 3-1 against



WESCAN lobby at Trades Hall

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surprise, surprise their arms were twisted and the first Report of 23 March was up in the air over Newport.

Given this kind of behind-the-scenes skullduggery and the secret nature of the second, "expert" Inquiry it was a foregone conclusion that the Inquiry finally plumped for Newport.

The A.L.P. and T.H.C. opposed the Inquiry's second report on the grounds that the first report appeared to rule out Newport and the Alliance were consequently left-handed, they were misled beforehand, they were not consulted.

And that's the propaganda winner for the Government. What Ellis revealed was common knowledge in the unions before 23 March (between the Labor April Battle). There was plenty of muttering about "political pressure" all through April but when the truth really got out, the Government had its way.

The real issues of whether Newport and the Alliance were misled beforehand, they were not consulted.

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There is a crime here that goes beyond denunciation

"Food is a weapon. It is now one of the principle tools in our negotiating kit."

"In bad harvest years Washington would acquire virtual life and death power over the fate of the multitudes of the needy. . . . Not only the poor, less-developed countries, but also the major powers would at least be partially dependent on food imports from the United States."

"I have heard that people may become dependent on us for food. I know this is not supposed to be good news. To me that was good news, because before people can do anything, they have got to eat."

"And if you are looking for a way to get people to lean on you and to be dependent on you, in terms of their cooperation with you, it seems to me that food dependence would be terrific."

World famine is a big business, and not just as a byproduct. Food companies sometimes cause deliberate shortages.

For example, the phony shortage of soybeans in 1972, which led the US government to ban soybean exports. The government found the shortage was faked, but meanwhile the price in Europe had tripled, and the soybean exporters got rich.

Other companies use commercial satellites to give them advance warning of likely poor harvests in the world. Then they work up to cash in.

These are some particularly horrid examples of what has occurred last issue - how imperialism uses the weapons of the world market to exploit the

Third World. Let's look a little further. Encouraged by western "experts", most third world countries have switched more and more land away from food production to cash crops.

Now they import food. Food imports pay up export earnings, and the poor countries are further behind than ever. But what about the "Green Revolution"? What about the "miracle seed" and "miracle wheat" which the experts said would end hunger forever? Well, these special breeds do indeed produce a far higher yield. But

the roller has risen by only four percent! Encouraged by such much land away from producing food, and more land away from food production to cash crops.

WHY THE LIBS WANT NEWPORT

WHY is the Victorian government so anxious to build Newport? If it had wanted to get off the hook, it could have avoided the committees (and recommendations) against Newport. Hamer's part to get that reversed.

At the WESCAN rally against power stations in January, several speakers suggested that the State Government determination to build Newport was due to pressure from ESSO-BHP.

At the time it seemed possible. People often overestimate the power of multinational such as Esso, but they are powerful. It is impossible to overestimate the power of BHP.

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Source: To maintain the price of beef in Victoria, Australia, 1976.

WATERS' STRIKE



WATCH carefully to see what happens with President Carter's energy proposals in the United States.

We told Australia many months ago to do the same. Jimmy Carter has summoned Americans to the moral equivalent of war. He cited a "CIA report" (since exposed as false by the Wall Street Journal) which claimed that the world reserves will run out at the end of the 1950's.

He called for "painful sacrifices" to avert a "national catastrophe". The idea is that (American doesn't cut their consumption of oil, they'll be in trouble later on. To cut consumption Carter intends to raise prices. He also talks about alternative sources of energy.

The whole thing is a fraud. There may indeed be a looming world energy crisis. We may indeed run out of oil at some point, so there are some arguments for alternative sources of energy. But Carter's proposals

are nothing to do with all that. He is simply out to raise profits. The oil companies manufactured the last world "energy crisis" and made a pretty penny out of it. Exxon replaced General Motors as the most profitable corporation in the world. Now these same giants are demanding more ransom.

refuse

When the White House says the oil may run out, they mean that the oil companies will have to find more oil unless it's made worth their while.

Consumption of tax crude oil and petrol. These taxes will be passed on to the consumer, as prices rise. Consumption will probably drop, but that doesn't

mean strip mining the oil fields in the western part of the country. It's also likely to mean standards in safety standards in the mines, as the companies rush to produce.

Another suggestion is "ecology-conscious" energy. Carter is to double the number of nuclear power plants.

Not only does he want more of them, but he wants to stop away what little safety remains in the existing Reactor design to be standardized, so that no one would have to be licensed—and proven safe—individually.

"Light water reactors have a good safety record," said the White House fact sheet.

What about the recent one in Alabama, when a candle led to a maintenance worker nearly set to a core meltdown? A one second could kill up to 25,000 people.



UDA picketing a factory during the last loyalist strike in 1974. This year's was a flop.

WHY PASLEY FAILED

The Strike of "loyalist" workers in Northern Ireland has failed—mostly because it did not have the support of the workers themselves.

Socialists normally support strikes without question, but this is one strike that no socialist anywhere supported.

The strike was neither called nor led by Northern Irish workers. It was called by the extreme right wing Orange politician Reverend Ian Paisley and effectively led by the paramilitary Ulster Defence Association (UDA).

The demand of the strike was for greater "security" within the province and for return to sectarian rule by the Unionist (Protestant) dominated legislature at Stormont.

This is in fact a demand made in the name of one section of the Ulster working class for oppression of another section of the working class "Security" in the province of Ulster has never meant simply control of terrorism. It has meant indiscriminate killings without trial of Catholics (who may or may not have been Republicans), searching and destroying of homes in working class Catholic areas and shooting of non-combatants by the British Army.

All of this has been happening for the last eight years and Ian Paisley says its not enough and calls for greater security!

Similarly a return to Unionist rule at Stormont is demanded for greater democracy. It's a demand for a return to the situation where two thirds of the province systematically denied the other third basic civil rights like housing and jobs.

The strike failed although

the Protestants make up a large enough part of the working class for a strike to succeed if it had full solidarity.

In fact, however, Paisley had to resort to outright terrorism from the UDA to get numbers of Protestant workers to strike and even then large numbers of Protestant workers kept working in the face of death threats.

All this is in sharp contrast to the strike of Northern Irish Protestant workers three years ago which smashed the Sunningdale agreements.

The Sunningdale agreement was between the British Government and middle class politicians representing both communities. It allowed Catholic participation in the government but at a tokenistic level.

It implied co-operation with the Irish Republic but in no way threatened the basic sectarian nature of the Ulster state. It was denounced by the Republicans and the majority of the Orange representatives.

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participation

Then the Ulster Worker Council, which at that stage was principally led by Protestant workers called a general strike in support of the Sunningdale agreement and all its provisions being dropped.

There was almost total participation in the strike by Protestant workers and very little use of terrorism to support it. It was not necessary because the workers actually wanted to strike. It was a few days the Sunningdale agreement was dropped.

The difference between the strike in 1974 and last week's strike lay in the demands. This

was not to say that the demands of the strikers three years ago were progressive. They were not. Their reasons for opposing the Sunningdale agreement were hostility to even token Catholic involvement in Ulster government.

But there was a progressive aspect in their response. It was a refusal of the Protestant working class to have any "solutions" arranged to the Ulster situation without being consulted.

On the other hand the strike last week was simply an attempt by a few Protestant politicians and paramilitary organizations to manipulate the workers for their own ends and the workers wouldn't be in it.

There is one other lesson to draw from the strike situation. The Sunningdale agreement was smashed by a strike when terrorism from the Provisional IRA had been unable to do it. A strike from the workers of one community succeeds, yet when the same workers are called out by politicians for a strike that is nothing but an attack on the other community it fails miserably.

The lessons are clear. Neither terrorism nor politician can end the situation in Ireland. Only a strike by the workers of both communities can.

But there can be no united action in the context of a sectarian state.

Terrorist in Power

A VULTURE named Menachem Begin looks like becoming the next Prime Minister of Israel.

He will replace a hawk named Shimon Peres.

Begin represents the Likud Party, an alliance of super-Zionists who are for the hardest possible line against the Arabs. Their miserable conception of a West Bank state is more than the Likud is prepared to consider.

Begin is a logical leader for a reactionary party. He has spurs during the fighting in Palestine during the 1940's, as leader of an irregular terrorist outfit called the Irgun Zvai Leumi.

The Irgun was responsible

for the worst atrocity of the fighting—the massacre at the Arab village of Deir Yassin. The inhabitants of this village had actually collaborated to some extent with the Jews—and it was a collaboration to some extent for destruction.

Innocent people were lined up and shot. Women and girls were raped, houses blown up.

The message the Irgun was trying to get across was this: even pre-Jewish Arabs are not safe from rape and murder. If you want to live, the Palestinians should state that they are Jewish-baiters. There was a general flight of Arabs from Jewish-baited territory. Later, the Zionists claimed that the Palestinians had left their lands "voluntarily", and proceeded to

divide the land among Jewish settlers. This was the basis of Israel.

Now this man is the leader of Israel.

Israelis did not vote for Begin and the Likud out of anything for him. All the votes were that they voted for any and all opposition parties.

Some people say that it was economic depression and public discontent.

But the disastrous economic situation of Israel, the failure of its foreign government, and the evidence of the weakness of the Israeli state in the past, Israeli governments have provoked the people in order to demand a change in leadership.

Keep an eye on an Egyptian Hebron may be an ominous event indeed.

safety

But if Carter's unwillingness to the safety of the Arabian people, it can never be said to let down a friend in need. It's Herman Wilton Carter, the man who contributed by his American oil sales for the world's oil companies.

Cain arranged a meeting between the President and a number of oil and gas executives just before the energy plan was announced. Cain just happens to be a Vice President of the Panhandle Eastern Pipeline Co., which pipes natural gas.

Then there is T. Julian Stephens, also a fundraiser for the oil industry. As he would have it, he saw one trillion cubic feet of natural gas. Carter's mates will class the bill.

Watch carefully what's going on in the USA. For if they can get away with it over there, you can bet they'll try it here sooner or later.

worry the oil companies because Carter has something new in mind: a new concept called "oil and gas produced in the USA at a controlled price lower than world prices." American oil sells for \$12 a barrel, while world prices are about \$14.80.

But under Carter's scheme, if oil or gas discovered from any existing site is "new source". It will be sold at world market prices. The oil companies will reap a bonanza.

It's the same scheme as the BSO — BHP are pushing, claiming that they have oil in Bass Strait will sell at world market prices. Carter's proposal is to allow the oil companies to receive market prices for sources of energy. Oil is local.

BATTLER SPECIAL CAR INDUSTRY CRISIS LIFTOUT 28 MAY 1977

Car Workers say

But to produce the one-way mean strip mining the oil fields in the western part of the country. It's also likely to mean standards in safety standards in the mines, as the companies rush to produce.

Another suggestion is "ecology-conscious" energy. Carter is to double the number of nuclear power plants.

Not only does he want more of them, but he wants to stop away what little safety remains in the existing Reactor design to be standardized, so that no one would have to be licensed—and proven safe—individually.

"Light water reactors have a good safety record," said the White House fact sheet.

What about the recent one in Alabama, when a candle led to a maintenance worker nearly set to a core meltdown? A one second could kill up to 25,000 people.



GM Chairman Chairman can afford to pick his stripes out of GM workers... the company made 190,000,000 profits in the first three months of this year.

GMH has just tried to force all their production employees to take a week's forced holiday, or face 600 sackings.

The company claims they have picked a downturn in the Australian market. They've got 10,000 cars which will take them just 12 weeks to sell, if the market remains the same.

GMH has been hit for two reasons. First, they have lost part of their share of the Australian market to Ford and Chrysler. The new break-up is as follows:

GMH 23.79%
Ford 24.25%
Chrysler 10.99%

But there is a second reason. All Australian car makers are selling fewer cars. Last year, Chryslers were making 225-230 cars a day. Now it's down to 200.

The company has been chopping back on wages and

The Battler

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

BATTLER SPECIAL CAR INDUSTRY CRISIS LIFTOUT 28 MAY 1977

Car Workers say

SALE

DOWN

THEY'RE at it again. BY MIKE GREWCOCK

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The company has been chopping back on wages and

conditions wherever it can. In the first week of May alone, over 60 firm notices were handed out. Supervisors are deliberately spreading rumours about layoffs and one was heard to comment "You might all be out the gate in three weeks time."

Workers who have left since Xmas haven't been replaced and militants are continually under the threat of victimisation.

The whole car industry in Australia is in trouble. But the latest drop, they just sack the workers, or force us to take holidays. We are expected to pay for the economic crisis.

The company has been pushing for sales tax cuts to boost demand for cars. But the last time this was tried it didn't work.

In December 1974, GMH successfully blackmailed the

No sackings

forced holidays

They're not paying

GM workers speak out

THE BATTLE SPEAKS TO SEVERAL GM workers about the crisis in the car industry and General Motors' plan for forced holidays.

We spoke to a GMH shop steward from Dandenong, Victoria.

Every time the government doesn't suit the company, or the profits are not coming in as fast as they would like, they pick on the workers.

There is no lingo on the floor. They're being hitting the people as far as last Tuesday. The pressure is applied as it has been applied in the past. They can't blame over-production when they're applying pressure like this. I don't think the people would object if this was self-funding anything. The company made it clear that even if we take that sack off, there's still a possibility that they'll withdraw. And loss, in my view, that I don't think that it will save the General.

What is stopping them saying a couple months from now, "Well, look, we'll give another sack because we're in bad shape again." The company actually directs to the workers. They don't say for one moment they are not cooperating on the floor, as far as that goes, they just say, "Look you've done it, that's all there is about it."

But we work for a living. We're making money for the General, whether we're making \$ million, 10 million or whatever millions we're making in the past — that was always from the workers.

There was a proposal that women be the first workers sacked or stood down. A woman car worker we spoke to challenged that idea.

"CAR WORKERS are not just men workers. Women are in the work they're doing. More importantly it is usually the monotonous and routine work which they are doing. These jobs are often held by women because the men can't stand them. Women on the other hand need the money so where there are men on the same job the female workers are usually more strictly supervised."

ONE FIGHT
"THIS could mean that in any plant men and women are divided against each other, something the employ-

NISSAN-DATSUN, Clayton, VIC, were planning to expand their plant adding 800 jobs in 1978. Now they have scrapped that plan and they are producing cutbacks in afternoon shift during the next month. The company has promised no sackings, no pay cuts.
"As one worker said, 'we must stick together!'"

ers would have, but in G.M.H. at least, all workers irrespective of sex join the same union, the V.B.U.I.
"It was good to see at the recent mass meeting at G.M.H. Elizabeth that the suggestion that married women be laid off first was greeted with derision by the other women and men of the meeting.
"The women were justly upset at the prospect of being the first to go, should a lay-off come, whether they were single, married or divorced. (Many women are divorced and need the money to bring up their children.)
"The married women knew that they could not even claim unemployment benefit afterwards. Women, in any case, have the right to work."

THE G.M.H. SITUATION

"THE WORKERS at G.M.H. were offered a five day 'holiday'.
"There were two reasons for being suspicious of this. First, anybody who had worked there for the previous five months was entitled to five days leave anyway (one free day per month being granted by the employer).
"And secondly, they were afraid that on their holiday, money lay-offs might begin."

LAY OFF

THE ANSWER?
"NATURALLY, no worker feels that he laid off. Some feel that a solution would be to lower the price of cars to sell more.
"Others feel that profits should be ploughed back into the industry, in G.M.H. especially, to improve machinery. The present equipment has a lower output per man than three years ago, for instance. Other conditions of work contribute to output loss: in some plants lack of proper air conditioning in the summer slows down production.
"Regular maintenance of machinery during the holidays also needs to be a priority."

CHAIN OF UNEMPLOYMENT

"THE SITUATION at G.M.H. cannot be seen as an isolated one. Workers know how much of their work carries others to work. GMH supplies parts, for example, to other plants and to Melbourne.
"The effects ARE ACROSS STATES AND ACROSS FIRMS if married women are laid off at G.M.H. Lay-offs will follow in other plants, and married women won't accept that any more than men will."
"As one worker said, 'we must stick together!'"



The General Repair Bill

by John Willin and Adelaide I.S.

WHEN the holiday plan was made public, GMH say they were caught with their pants down.

They had hoped that the usually reliable bureaucrats from the VBU would keep quiet about it. They also expected to tell Fraser, who was forced to condemn them publicly.

But good friends take a lot of parting, and Fraser and Street were soon 100% behind the seven day lay-off. Which isn't so surprising if you consider the alternative.

What GMH really wanted was a cut in sales tax. So does the rest of the manufacturing industry and the Unions.

Fraser doesn't because it

sold it. Further massive devaluation manufacturers also want less ball-park.

All firms found themselves unable to supply any of their own cars but it certainly puts a stop to it just after.

And it means that foreign workers are then forced to look to the capitalist government in their own country to try and protect their jobs.

The only people who win through increasing national tensions like this are the bosses, who use this economic nationalism to keep the workers both here and overseas under their thumb.

When we raise tariffs, we also weaken the Asian and European car industry unions, and this undermines their ability to defend wages in their own countries. Lower wages overseas mean that the price of imports is cheaper again and higher tariffs solved nothing.

weakens

There has also been a call for nationalisation. If that just means substituting an Australian boss for an American one, then it doesn't make a spot of difference. If it means a government takeover like Leyland in Britain then many of the problems will remain.

The British government paid the former owners of Leyland a huge amount of money to sell the plant to the government. The result is that Leyland is crippled by debt.

bankrupt

This company should not have had to pay the shareholders anything. It was bankrupt when the government took it over.

But because even the Labour government represents the interests of the rich and powerful, the shareholders got paid an even higher price of the stock market value of the shares.

THE General Motors Corporation is the biggest company in the world. Last year it made \$3,000 million profit.
It employs 800,000 workers throughout the world. GM's advertising spends \$200,000,000 on advertising each year. It is the largest manufacturer of cars, trucks, buses, refrigeration, car parts, locomotives and cigarette lighters in the world.
General Motors is an important part of the American Way, the Free Enterprise system. You would be surprised to know that GM was building military trucks for the US government in WW II.

AFTER World War II, GM agreed to sell up a project to build 'Australia's own Holden', but only if the Australian Labor Government made concessions such as —
removal of sales tax and import taxes.
— all of wartime factories, including Fishburnes Bend.
— GM wouldn't invest any money, the project would be financed by a \$2 million government loan.
— Since then GMH has made profits of over \$500 million. \$200 million of this has been sent to the US as dividends.

To pay less tax, GMH sent 'Australia's own Holden' to the GM Corporation in other, more sneaky ways, such as having secondhand equipment from General Motors of inflated price.

But did you know that they were making trucks and

GM Truck Plant at Brandenburg, Germany, during World War II. They demanded reparations for aiding Hitler's war effort — and got \$33 million!

The Company you can trust??

profits in Germany too? By 1939, GM and Ford had converted all their German plants for the production of military aircraft and trucks. In 1938, GM's chief executive for overseas operations was awarded the Order of the German Eagle by Chancellor Adolf Hitler.

reparation
After the war, General Motors demanded reparation from the US government for damage to their German factories as a result of allied bombing. By 1967, GM had received \$33 million in war reparations.

Can you trust this company? A US Senate Committee found that from 1934 to 1937 GM spent nearly 1 million dollars to spy on workers suspected of having union sympathies!

General Motors runs unsafe plant and breaks safety regulations all over the world. As long as the profits keep rolling in, they don't care if workers get killed or maimed.

But they have the courts on their side. April this year, GMH was fined just \$50 for breaking safety regulations when a man had his hand severely injured at Fishburnes Bend.

GM sells cars — so whenever they get the chance they try to sabotage public transport.

destroyed

Between 1932 and 1956, General Motors destroyed more than 100 electric rail systems in 45 US cities, including New York, Philadelphia and Los Angeles.

In MID-1973, GMH laid off 100 electric rail workers in Australia. They refused to start work. They sat down on the job. Some workers made their own plan getting others to join in. After a few days, the company gave in, and agreed to return the overtime payment.

This was a time when the railways were stopping cutting services, closing country lines and raising fares because of lack of finance. General Motors was then a very important customer of the Railways; they also supplied the diesel engines.

Something even more suspicious happened in 1971, when GMH's Managing Director became the new chairman of V.R. — He immediately proposed to close one third of Victoria's country railways. This is now being carried out.

Is this the kind of company we can trust to look after our job opportunities?



In 1949, GM was convicted of planning with Standard Oil of California, Firestone Tire and others to replace electric transportation with petrol or diesel powered buses and monopolise the sale of buses. The fine was \$5,000.

diesel

In 1949, the Victorian railways started an expansion program and bought 170 steam locomotives. Within a few years, almost all of the loco's had been taken off the tracks — they were replaced by a new fleet of diesel electric engines.

Now the government is once again blaming about the financial difficulties of Leyland. They blame the Leyland workers, in a desperate attempt to drive down wages even further.

The truth is that nationalisation without compensation to GMH is essential to protect the future of the factories here.

control
And unless the plants are placed under the control of the workers, the day by day life on the line doesn't change at all.
The multinational car companies have caused their own problems. But we are expected to pay for their mistakes.

The Car Industry Under Socialism

AS LONG as capitalism exists there will always be crises in the car industry.

The only real way to stop the hardship and suffering caused by overwork one week and unemployment the next is for us to make a socialist revolution.
Socialism means that workers will take over and run the factories themselves. Everything will be run for the benefit of the workers. The factories will be made democratic so that car workers will decide, but the changes are that:
(1) There will be no assembly line system.

Only those who work on a moving line know just how bad the work can be.

The assembly line is out of date and should be replaced by more modern technology.
Car assembly by small teams is such a good idea that some auto companies, like Volvo and Saab in Sweden are trying it out.
But Volvo's solution is just not good enough. People still take one week of overtime and are paid less than they should be. Instead we'll have a 30 hour week, or more. The 20 hour week we were promised after

abolished!
(ii) public transport will be upgraded. Then we'll need fewer cars.

(iii) Car workers will be able to plan production for their own needs. When the workers win socialism, we will be able to plan production so that everyone's special needs will be filled. If we find that too many cars are being made, no one will get the cars.
But Volvo's solution is just not good enough. People still take one week of overtime and are paid less than they should be. Instead we'll have a 30 hour week, or more. The 20 hour week we were promised after

(iv) Instead of today's cars which are too powerful and too cheaply constructed to be safe, car workers will be able to build cars which they are proud of: safe, useful, and easy to use.

There will be other types of vehicles too, for special purposes: electric cars, small buses, and cars for city driving.
(v) Some car models will be cancelled for more useful products, such as portable power tools for home use, schools and hospitals.

THE WAGE FIGHT FOR JOBS



Sit-in Strikes - and the Law

From our legal advisor

ONE of the greatest concerns of workers planning a sit-in strike is what the police and courts will do.

To occupy the boss's factory is NOT a criminal offence, it is a civil "wrong". The management merely has to give you a warning to leave, then they can take "all reasonable steps" to evict you.

After that try to throw you out yourself, management will usually call the cops. If you resist the cops, you are then liable for criminal charges, such as assaulting a police officer, resisting arrest, hindering them in the course of their duty and obstruction.

Chances are they'll take the opportunity to bush you round a bit first.

But getting the cops to show up is only one tactic management can use. In Britain, they have often done absolutely nothing hoping that the occupation will remain "passive and lawful".

They can also go to the courts prohibiting the sit-in continuing. There is no way to predict what the bosses will do.

But there are some basic rules:

1. Don't panic at legal action against you - when you fight the occupation, you can force the boss to withdraw it.
2. Do not confront or fight the cops once they are on the scene inside the plant. The key is to make it impossible for them to get in.
3. Our photo shows workers at a successful occupation at Faber-Breda in Britain waddling up the factory.
4. Do not be intimidated or outbided by legal arson and "advise" from cops, bosses or union officials about the dangers of what you're doing.
5. Get your own legal advice from a lawyer you can trust.
6. Don't stop, ask instead for explanation of the legal situation.

RANK AND FILE ORGANISATION - THE KEY TO WINNING

RIGHT now the main problem is how to build the fightback on the shop-floor.

It's left up to the officials of the VBU nothing much is likely to happen. About 30 people turned up to the May general meeting of the VBU in Adelaide.

Last year an overtime discussion at Chrysler as part of the campaign for their top of claims. The VBU executive wanted it dropped no matter what the membership thought.

In the end they called a secret ballot which narrowly rejected the ban. Some of the workers claim that more votes were cast than there are members of the VBU.

Now the officials are talking of sit-ins. If organised properly, this can work. But the officials are not likely to lead it.

The VBU executive watched Peter Van Arred and Will Heald go to jail for sitting in at Tonsley Park to save their jobs.

Past experience show that this is a fight the Rank and File must lead. The Chrysler Rank and File is the sort of group necessary to win this fight.

Through their weekly broadsheet they have started to organise their fightback now.

"While we should be supporting the workers at Elizabeth and Woodville who are fighting for their jobs, we must also continue to protect our own jobs."

This must be done all the time, not just when Chrysler want to stand down or sack us. For example opposing transfers and fighting harder work engagements, overtime, speed-ups, preventing overtime. All these things can be done now.

We need rank and file organisation in every plant. These can be built around the fight for the most important

THE BATTLE

Dear Battler, I am writing to you following your 4th April with your editorial comment on the Eastern Districts factory going down.

The BLF in NSW is again beginning to take a militant stance. What you go on to qualify this statement, I still remain amazed at how such a command can be reached. It is

THE OFFICIALS of the VBU have raised the possibility of occupying the car plants if GMH goes ahead with its plan to sack 600 workers.

We think it's our duty to fight sackings, but we don't believe the VBU officials are serious.

How would a sit-in work? What do we need to do to make it successful? Here, Doug McCarty, who has some experience in this outlines his ideas for organising one.

STRIKES ARE A WELL TRIED TACTIC in fighting the boss. We've found that they need to be well organised to be successful. For the strikers to be successful, they must be able to function effectively with their workers peacefully in the factory going down.

So it is essential to have an actual occupation on a base outside support outside the factory that the major activity of the strikers must be to visit many places as possible to build up - whether it's money or backing or promises of support or a line of the police by an evictor.

A strain that just sits and waits for the closing date of submission from the public. The inquiry has only been done 3 months. This is not enough time to enable a thorough evaluation of events.

Finally, the terms of reference were publicly announced only 2 weeks before the closing date of submissions from the public. The inquiry has only been done 3 months. This is not enough time to enable a thorough evaluation of events.

Secondly, the terms of reference make it impossible for the union to function - not just in the shop-floor but in the wider community.

Most workers do not occupy the factory. They are picketing the hotel and the pub and evicting the Chrysler boss.

Most workers do not occupy the factory. They are picketing the hotel and the pub and evicting the Chrysler boss.

Regular mass meetings are essential. So the rank and file must know about the progress and in decision.

The Chrysler Rank and File have correctly pointed out how the officials will cut the average worker and his family to the bone. This is just what the law requires.

Finally, don't leave the rank and file until management are ready to write the following request, especially to assure workers.

After an experience at work last week, the cleaners refused to work the extra 1 hour during the month of the process workers on alternative days.

The award stated that at 11 p.m. the cleaners should be paid for the extra 1 hour during the month of the process workers on alternative days.

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The NSW BLF strangled by officials

Dear Battler, I am writing to you following your 4th April with your editorial comment on the Eastern Districts factory going down.

The BLF in NSW is again beginning to take a militant stance. What you go on to qualify this statement, I still remain amazed at how such a command can be reached. It is

Dear Battlers,

At a time when the levels of unemployment are high and we continue to be so, the NSW government has issued an inquiry into unemployment benefits.

We feel this inquiry has been designed to justify a reduction in the amount paid out in benefits and tighten eligibility.

Finally, the terms of reference were publicly announced only 2 weeks before the closing date of submissions from the public.

Secondly, the terms of reference make it impossible for the union to function - not just in the shop-floor but in the wider community.

Most workers do not occupy the factory. They are picketing the hotel and the pub and evicting the Chrysler boss.

You supported Hungarian fascists?

Dear Battlers, I was saddened by your centre pages of issue No. 33. Your obvious approval shows there are many of our communist betrays a dogma that doesn't usually surface, but which obviously exists.

Your categorisation of the attempted communist revolution as a revolution is tragic - for above all, socialist movements need a revolution in the way they think.

But what kind of objectivity is it to give the Hungarian revolution a "revisionist" label? It is a revolution in the way they think.

Finally, don't leave the rank and file until management are ready to write the following request, especially to assure workers.

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incorrect and totally misleading, and to saying that I make the following points to back up my statement.

The Federal BLF look over the NSW Branch and installed "named" officials in 1973. They were aided by the M.B.A. along with National and International Developers.

At no stage did they ever seek or receive a mandate from the rank and file in NSW. In the two years since that takeover their performance has been high

lighted by the following actions:

- 1) The expulsion of over 20 rank and file members and officials on false charges of corruption.
- 2) The refusal to accept any of the NSW Branch's proposals.
- 3) The refusal to accept any of the NSW Branch's proposals.
- 4) The refusal to accept any of the NSW Branch's proposals.
- 5) The refusal to accept any of the NSW Branch's proposals.
- 6) The refusal to accept any of the NSW Branch's proposals.
- 7) The refusal to accept any of the NSW Branch's proposals.
- 8) The refusal to accept any of the NSW Branch's proposals.

Acceptance of a new award, with some of the worst conditions ever, including agreement to a 12% cut in the rate with inflation.

Known militants driven out by bosses without any Union support, or driven out for two years until 1977.

No Branch or two members of the Industrial Union of Marine and Shipbuilding Workers of Australia.

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The first open Branch meeting in 1977 saw two thirds of members present to open opposition to the "officials".

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INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

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The Battler is written by and sold by people who are building rank and file organisation in their own unions. If you are interested in doing this, contact us at your factory, just contact us at PO Box 139 Unley, South Australia

Don't just give up - STAY and FIGHT!

Dear Battler, After an experience at work last week, the cleaners refused to work the extra 1 hour during the month of the process workers on alternative days.

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— Eastern Suburbs Railway

IT'S GUERRILLA WARFARE

IT'S GUERRILLA warfare on Sydney's Eastern Suburbs Railway.

During a 24 hour stoppage in early May, three members of our Action Committee paid a visit to Charlie Oliver, head of our union (AWU).

We demanded that he take our complaints to the Premier. Oliver insisted he'd been trying all day and couldn't reach anyone.

We got on the phone ourselves. Wren was going overseas, but we got through to the Minister for Transport within an hour. We demanded — and got — a meeting with him the next

by the Eastern Suburbs Action Committee

day. At that meeting the Minister, Peter Cox, agreed in writing to five of our demands.

Among the demands he agreed to was weekly hire — in issue the AWU has been trying to push for months with no results.

Cox also agreed to look into having our award translated into five languages, and to make a personal inspection of the sites within the month.

The bosses are going around

saying we weren't signed document, or that Cox has no jurisdiction. But we intend to hold him to his word.

Soon after we found ourselves in court to discuss the issue of the concrete pump operators. The demand for wage justice for these two brothers was the spark for our first strike.

The court just told us to go back to work and be good boys. Nothing else.

We immediately banned the concrete. This sent management into a frenzy.

Our concrete pump operator was sent home three days out of four for refusing to work the pump. The other was called into the office and intimidated so that he had a nervous breakdown.

At the Bondi site, delegate Sean Codie was sacked for driving a vehicle "without permission" — though he had been driving it daily for weeks.

Engineer "Bertie" Birtles told him he had five minutes to get off the site. At this, the whole site downed tools and marched to the office. Sean was reinstated within fifteen minutes.

Still unconvinced, management next had a go at Tony Perera at the Redfern site. Man-

THE Battler

As a publication endorsed by the Executive Committee of the NSW Branch, 1977 the agreement between the NSW Branch and the National Union of Seafarers is published in this issue.

1. weekly agreement.
2. national jurisdiction.
3. freedom of speech to seafarers.
4. a strike notice on the condition of employment for the seafarers.
5. the establishment of a salary mediator.
6. money required to work in the area.
7. the availability of all relevant information from the AWU.
8. the fact that any of our members who are intimidated or harassed and who are unable to work should be paid.
9. that no seafarer who is not a member of the union should be employed on any vessel.
10. that the union should be consulted on any matter relating to the employment of seafarers.
11. that the union should be consulted on any matter relating to the employment of seafarers.
12. that the union should be consulted on any matter relating to the employment of seafarers.
13. that the union should be consulted on any matter relating to the employment of seafarers.
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*Peter Cox
Minister of Transport
1977*

WILL PETER COX RAT ON HIS PROMISES?

At the Bondi site, delegate Sean Codie was sacked for driving a vehicle "without permission" — though he had been driving it daily for weeks.

The foreman then called up Charlie Oliver, the union office, and Charlie threatened to reorganise the new rep.

Printers' Union Plundered

The PKIU didn't have a choice of a chance. Specially when you consider that Kenneth was a Liberal MLA and the judge said he had up the Liberals as his old enemy.

The PKIU did nothing to fight Kenneth industrially until it was too late, the union officers were raised and the union's finances seized to enforce payment of the damages.

loosely

When the matter was raised at Trades Hall, a solidarity motion did propose industrial action. It was so loosely worded that nothing Kenneth did could specifically spark a response — and

we had J. May, a lawyer, ring up by a man who identified himself as Steve Black of the AWU delegate at the Chalmers St. site on Sydney's Eastern Suburbs Railway.

"I got this member of the committee to ring the man and he later told me that our committee was being asked to go to a meeting being held by Joe Owens and other BILF oppositionists and back them up."

The committee met and immediately rejected the proposal.

The Eastern Suburbs Action Committee has declared its complete support for the efforts of Joe Owens and others to get reinstated in the BILF and for their struggle to reform the union.

The union has still not been out to destroy our relationship between sites. They have decided that if we look out of our union business at any time we will stay booked off for the rest of they day.

They can't do this because the union has still not been around to reorganising our committee.

Our response is to hold our meetings at 3 p.m., so we only lose an hour.

Mark Matcott
PKIU,
Containers Ltd

when the balliff arrived the only people who paid much attention were the TV cameramen.

Instead, the PKIU crumpled and paid up \$5,000 of its membership dues.

scabbing

Kenneth's successful lawsuit is a precedent for future union busting. The PKIU's defeat undermines the strength of all unions.

We hope that next time a union is sued, the Trades Hall will take the issue a little more seriously.

The Battler

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

25 JUNE 1977 NUMBER 35 10 CENTS

I WAS ASKED TO BASH

IT APPEARS that the Gallagher forces in the Builders Labourers Federation are still prepared to use physical violence against their opponents.

The following statement was given to The Battler by Barry Kinzie, AWU delegate at the Chalmers St. site on Sydney's Eastern Suburbs Railway.

"I was told by J. May, a lawyer, ring up by a man who identified himself as Steve Black of the AWU delegate at the Chalmers St. site on Sydney's Eastern Suburbs Railway.

"I got this member of the committee to ring the man and he later told me that our committee was being asked to go to a meeting being held by Joe Owens and other BILF oppositionists and back them up."

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threatened

The Battler was contacted right when it said that the AWU leadership will try to regain control.

Some of our own members said they'd like the Battler produced in different languages so all of them can read it.

encourage workers in other places to try the same method.

building workers' charter

IMMOCRITES ON PARADE

THE COLLECTION of pompous arseholes who make up the heads of Commonwealth Governments spent two weeks in London expressing outrage over apartheid in South Africa and the brutality of Idi Amin.

But amid all the prattling about human rights, nothing is said about the skeletons they have in their own closets.

JAMES CALLAGHAN, British Prime Minister presides over the destruction of inner-city families, by erecting higher barriers for dependants trying to enter Britain. And during the Jubilee festivities, police break into houses with axes and Alsatian dogs and arrest 60 people on charges of "conspiracy" to pick pockets.

The operation was called "S/P/H" — officially standing for "Police Night Hunt".

KENNETH KAUNDA, President of Zambia, is appalled at the reported massacres carried out by Idi Amin. Yet it was Kaunda who attempted to wipe out the Zambian ZANU guerrillas in 1974-75.

He arranged for one faction to attack the other, killing guerrilla leader Herbert Chitepo. He then arrested the leadership of the other faction.

MALCOLM FRASER waxes eloquent about racism in faraway Africa. Yet in his own electorate, in Victoria's plush Western District, he organises and enforces the poverty line and unemployment is at a disastrous level.

The lands owned by Fraser and other Graziers are the ancient tribal lands of the Gouardichimara tribe, who are not assimilated by Fraser's performance.

He talks about Zimbabwe, but he can say Gouardichimara? He says "Indigenous", but he can't say "Indigenous".

FRASER'S attempts to have Australia trade its way out of 25% and that Europe was not impressed by Australia's control of significant uranium reserves.

In Europe, he tried to get the EEC to lift its restrictions and penalties on the import of Australian dairy and agricultural goods.

The many EEC people have raised tariffs to protect local producers. What a dastardly trick! It's not as if Australia would ever do anything to harm them.



FRASER'S unusual position of apparently championing the rights of the oppressed was pure hubris. The nationalists have virtually won in Zimbabwe. Fraser wants the whites to retain control of their wealth when the black movements win power.

He wants a negotiated liquidation in South Africa that leaves the whites in power and western investment secure. Neither are in the interests of black Africans or Australian workers.

Fraser will return from his overseas jaulet to be applauded by the lickspittle journalists of the Australian press.

But his real role has been to reinforce the influence of American trade for their survival.

meanwhile...



THE VICTORIAN branch of the PKIU is still reeling from the body blows of a common law action by KNF Advertising, a law suit which has cost us \$8,600.

The PKIU's crime involved attempting to recruit members of KNF staff to the union since they were performing work covered by the printing award.

Jeff Kennett, the proprietor was so horrified that he served an immediate injunction on the PKIU and sued us under the law of tort. This means that the PKIU was not being tried by a court which had no connection at all with the settlement of industrial disputes.

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Between the lines

If you were to run someone in the street that would be a manslaughter and you would get about five years in jail about someone in cold blood that is murder and you could be imprisoned for life. If you have two young women to death in a factory, with blocked fire escape the penalty is a twenty dollar fine and \$150 costs.

Last week a factory in Exhibition St, Melbourne owned by Allan George Ansd burned down. The escape had been blocked by materials for at least a month before the fire. It resulted two teenage girls trapped in the fire died.

Last week Ansd appeared in court charged with permitting an obstruction to be placed on or near the staircase of the factory while he was the occupier. On the premises in contravention of Section 88 of the Labor and Industry Act.

You don't need to be James Bond or a member of the CIA to get a license to kill. All you need is to own a factory.

It is not what you are its who you are. If you own a factory the system works for you. To spot the mark words in this newspaper.

It appears Carlton have a club rule that all players must get to the ground an hour before the game. If they are late they are fined. Superstar David Jacks has been up fifteen minutes before the start of the Collingwood match.

Officials however decided not to fine him as they had not spent any amount of time and money during him back from Fremantle.

At this a lot of the other players joked up. They get fined for disciplinary offences but they do not get contact pay payments in good as McKay.

It took a lot of talking by the Carlton Officials to get the players on to the ground and a fullscale players strike.

Carlton then got done by over a hundred points.

It is not what you are its who you are. If you own a factory the system works for you. If you live in Richmond and your name is Loughnan or O'Connell, Clyde Holding works for you.

The Loughnans, with their allies the O'Connells, have taken the Richmond Labor machine for over fifty years.

So it's really surprising that when a couple of Loughnans and an O'Connell get minor spots of legal bother, that they should get local Labor member Clyde Holding to defend them in Court.

James Loughnan Junior is at present resident at Pentridge but in May he did a bunk from the Ristone College and turned up at Bernie O'Connell's place. O'Connell works for the council but he is a shed in a Council Park and went round to see his old man.

Councillor Loughnan took his son to a hospital in Foster Street. 125 miles from Richmond and he was shortly afterwards sent back to the Pen. O'Connell and Loughnan acquired the charge of harbouring.

Holding said: "they were responsible citizens caught up in a series of events they could not control".

Something of the same applies to Clyde when he finds himself defending them.

by Dave Keadell



Bjerkes' privileged thugs

IN THE LAST nine months, scandal has followed upon scandal in the Queensland Police Force.

The bashing of a female student by a police officer followed the September 30 demonstration over TEAS allowances, the resignation of Police Commissioner Whirore, the Cedar Bay incident, in which police combined with the army to raid a hippie commune and the report of the Lucas Inquiry have done no good at all to the Queensland Government PR.

But as a result of the Lucas recommendations, Queensland Police may now be able to enter homes without a warrant under the Health Act, detain people for 12 hours without arresting them and have a jury "suspect with suspicion" a regard to decision to remain silent.

The course of the so-called Miatovic incident illustrates how little Queensland Police or politicians can be treated with any power, never mind increased.

Some youths reported to the Lucas Inquiry that they'd seen a man being bashed through a window at Valley police headquarters.

The man, Miatovic, is currently in Long Bay jail and, as he later admitted, he issued a statement denying the youths' charges in order to avoid further trouble with the police.

In the meantime, the Police Minister, Newbury, had started an investigation into the allegations on the

recommendation of the Lucas committee.

Job promptly moved in to quash the investigation without any query as to what might have motivated Miatovic to deny the testimony to the Inquiry.

The Queensland Council for Civil Liberties, through its NSW branch, obtained a statement from Miatovic, minus the presence of police officers, which contradicted his earlier denial and, as a result, the Justice Minister Laskias has restarted the investigation.

The latest information at

FARMERS HAVE A BEEF

IT'S NOT just workers who are badly hit by the economic crisis.

The recently formed cattle man's union estimates that 62% last year earned less than \$5,000 despite the huge investment they have to make to keep their properties viable. They'd be bitter off to the dole!

The Union is demanding that the whole marketing system be reformed.

Under the old haphazard scheme there was no quality control, importers could buy cheap Australian beef. They are insisting that beef should be classified according to cuts, fat content, etc. in order to comply with international requirements and compete effectively on international markets.

One of their central demands is reconstitution of the meat marketing board, which the government has now stacked

with people representing the processors and exporters.

In addition, they want a price stabilisation scheme which would protect producers from price falls, while allowing exporters a fixed profit of 2.2 cents a pound.

These are modest demands and they have been backed by the meatworkers union.

The actions are equally interstate too, with Telfer (NSW) and Houchan (Vic.)

In a period of serious crisis, the meat monopolies like Vesty and OMI are, along with the processing companies, the only beef making money.

The meatworkers have led with recommending the list of processors. It's a step forward that the small cattlemen realise that the monopoly and meat chases of capitalism are a disaster for them.

They have left the United Graziers Association which too wedded to the National Party and the traditional attitude of putting a word in the right ear.

They have established strong links with the AMPS, the meatworkers union.

Like many other school leavers, Karen Green left school in November last year and found herself immediately unemployed. Of course this was only natural for a situation in which the Govt. is prepared to keep up unemployment benefits (as Lyons' minister last week) in order to restore profits.

Holding will have to pose very carefully on any plans to attack the S.I. It has a lot more support in the trade union movement than he does.

The anonymous Wilkes is widely tipped to be elected Opposition leader unopposed. This is because he is intended chiefly as a seawall - since the ALP cannot win in the next State elections due in 1979.

Meanwhile, Cain from the left and Roper and Fordham from the centre are manoeuvring around the position of Deputy leader.

When the election was held after the elections to go, all has the numbers to lead.

for kids like Karen.

THE FRASER government has launched a vicious attack on the State education system and the rights of all Australian children.

At a time when the government has frozen the total money available for education, it still manages to find room to hand out more for the sons and daughters of the wealthy.

The education budget for all schools in 1978 is \$271 million, the same as this year.

However, in real terms, this amounts to a 5% cut in education spending.

The private schools' share of this is to be increased by \$10 million.

The wealthy elite like Melbourne and Sydney Grammar will pocket two million dollars MORE of our money.

Fraserism means that everyone has to "tighten" their belts to pay for the economic crisis.

Everyone, that is, except the rich and powerful.

All this means that we can expect -

MORE overcrowding in the schools. Old buildings will continue to rot where they stand. The only

"replacements" will be portables.

MORE unemployed teachers as the education departments cut their staff lists further.

STUDENT living standards will fall even further below the poverty level.

ATTACKS on teachers' conditions will worsen.

There is only one hope for restoring these cuts -

And that is if rank and file teachers intensify the struggles for extra staff, more equipment, new buildings which have been raging in all Australian states this year.

Fraser's Education Policy Making a million from abortion



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GOVT ROBS KAREN AGAIN

"I'm quite prepared to do that all again. It's a matter of principle and it will help others."

That was Karen Green's reaction when the Fraser gov. once again refused to pay her the unemployment benefits she is owed for the 3 months after she left school.

Like many other school leavers, Karen Green left school in November last year and found herself immediately unemployed. Of course this was only natural for a situation in which the Govt. is prepared to keep up unemployment benefits (as Lyons' minister last week) in order to restore profits.

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THE BOSSES

THE EMPLOYERS in the building and construction industry range from giants like Dillingham to the cockroach capitalists who run a fly by night set up and crash into bankruptcy overnight.

Building employers are the most ruthless and reactionary in the whole economy. During the property boom a few years ago every get rich quick merchant and

property shark clamoured to get involved in the building and construction industry. They made all their profits on building houses, schools or hospitals, but by holding office blocks for banks and insurance companies, they remained unscathed for years.

The big developers cashed in on the boom: some over-expanded themselves and crashed. Mainline and Parkes Development both fell victim to their own greed. They simply borrowed too much money and when credit

got tight they went to the wall. Property developers like Mainline, Parkes, M.E.P.C. and L.J. Hooker are leeches on the backs of building workers. But the old style contractor builders are no better. These companies are prepared to go to any length to exploit building workers on the job.

The list of building bosses as reads like a Who's Who in corporate crime and exploitation of the working class. Here are just a few examples.

Dillingham Constructions did most of the construction for the U.S. in Vietnam. It is also involved in mining (Fraser Island). The bosses at the Ganta site.

F.T. Eastmont major Sydney contract builder. Went broke after quoting too low on projects in the city. Hundreds of workers may lose their jobs.

Concrete Constructions (Lewis) biggest builder in Sydney. Systematically sacked all its militant workers in Sydney in 1975. Has interests in South Africa.

Thesis Bros Australia's biggest civil engineering firm. Specialises in ignoring award conditions.

Watts linked with Melbourne underworld. Imported armed thugs to Sydney to help destroy N.S.W. branch of the B.L.F. Melbourne's biggest builder.

John Holland Constructions killed 53 workers on the Westgate Bridge.

Ralph M. Parsons Ltd one of the world's biggest builders of chemical and power plants. Involved in the nuclear industry.

Civil & Civic (Lend Lease) probably Australia's most successful developer/contractor. C & C have smart loans. They use worker-partisanship.

P.D.C. Constructions subsidiary of Parkes Development. Parkes was headed by well known corporate raider Paul Straker. P.D.C. are the only part of the Parkes empire that didn't go broke.

The building industry will never be civilized so long as it remains in the hands of property speculators and private contractors.

The workers must run the show themselves.

PERMANENCY Effective permanency for full employment in the industry.

By permanency we mean 52 weeks guaranteed employment for all building workers. As things stand at the moment, most of us don't know where our next job or pay packet is coming from.

These workers and contractors hire only the labour they need for each particular job. We pay the price through lack of job security, lack of conditions until we win them, and lack of income security.

In times of high unemployment, it means that blacklisted by the bosses can be very effective because everyone gets sacked when the job dries down. Under the current system, they don't have to hire anyone they don't like.

It means that if you want to work, you've got to behave yourself. Already, union organisation is being seriously weakened.

Employment centres would be established in each major city or area for the purpose of recording unemployed workers, ensuring those workers get work when it becomes available and payment while work is not available.

All employers would have to pay a weekly levy to the employment centre for each building worker they employ.

35-HOUR WEEK ABOLISH OVERTIME

With an estimated 20,000 jobs lost in the building industry last year, it's about time the employers paid their share of the crisis. The 35-hour week is right for all workers.

Since the war, productivity has doubled and tripled. But the last improvement in working hours was 30 years ago.

Overtime is barbaric. It destroys the worker's leisure, insurance and lets the boss avoid hiring to work overtime for economic reasons. It should be stopped.

ABOLITION OF PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND THE SUB-CONTRACT SYSTEM

WE DEMAND

We believe it will be employed by the man who is not an end to himself.

The boss paying sub-contractors to work for a subbie. The system is growing all the time and must be stamped out. All workers should be employed by the main contractor.

Workers must be paid an adequate wage with all conditions.

Payment of cash in the hand is just another way the boss gets out of their responsibility to meet even the most basic conditions for building work.

The extra money you get (if any) in all payments never makes up for the conditions you throw away.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING ON SOCIALLY USEFUL PROJECTS

For example, schools and hospitals, and so on to freeways and other cleaning projects.

FORMATION OF GOVERNMENT BUILDING COMPANIES

NO RUNDOWN OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENTS

STATE GOVERNMENTS TO PROVIDE FUNDS

for buildings through use of their superannuation, housing and insurance funds. These funds to be controlled by the workers who pay into them.

ABOLITION OF THE AUCTION SYSTEM

of retaining public land. Government to sell land at low cost including the land owned by backward development companies (i.e. Parkes).

LIMITED TENURE OF OFFICE FOR TRADE UNION OFFICIALS

ONE UNION IN THE BUILDING INDUSTRY

Amalgamation to be discussed on the job. We support the building of one union in every area. We support the building of one union in every area. We support the building of one union in every area.

FULL INDEXATION WITHOUT STRINGS

NO WAGE RESTRAINT

ASC & J (Amalgamated Society of Carpenters & Joiners)

formed as a Groupers breakaway union when the B.W.U. degenerated in the 1950s.

Has 10,000 members (carpenters and joiners only).

The ASC&J is known in the industry as the pocky because of the alleged practice of relying on other unions to get all the gangs for the works.

However, in practice, they are more militant than the B.W.U. at the job level in both Victoria and A.C.T.

In Victoria they have about 40% of carpenters, elsewhere their membership is less significant.

AWMSU Covers fitters, boiler-makers welders, lift erectors and metal trades unskilled in the whole industry. The AWMSU has a majority of construction workers on projects like chemical plants and oil refineries.

AWMSU construction fitters and boiler-makers are probably the most militant and best organised workers in the whole industry.

Other unions in the construction industry include the FEDFA, the PIA, the E.U., the Plumbers and Gasfitters and the Painters and Decorators.

BWU Biggest union in the industry (50,000) covers carpenters, brickies, stone-masons, lifters, joiners, sheet metal workers, plumbers, fitters and plasterers (the Plasterers Union is informally amalgamated with the B.W.U.).

—Socialist Party (Moscow Line) leadership federally and in most states. Most B.W.U. officials are prepared to give backing to the struggle to develop on the job (except in the A.C.T. where they openly support the boss). Except in N.S.W. and Queensland, the B.W.U. does very little to instigate any strikes.

—The B.W.U. at present has a claim in for a 23% rise among other things. They are not prepared to have any campaign around the claim and only expect minor gains.

—The Turlan (NSW) site they tried to sign up the workers, which would have meant wages of \$40 below the B.L.F. rate.

—The A.W.U. has been the key union pushing for the export of uranium. In NSW the leadership is marginally better.

—However, some of Australia's most militant sites: Eastern Suburbs Railway, Lower Mooloolga and Dartmouth Dam are AWMSU.

—The AWU has no national claims for building workers.

THE UNIONS

most a proper challenge. The various state branches are now led by Maoist sympathisers installed by Gallagher (NSW, Vic, ACT, SA, WA) or by acquiescent Labour Party bureaucrats (Qld, Tas).

—The B.L.F. has the same log of claims as the B.W.U. more or less but it is a usually campaigning around the claim. There have been a couple of strikes in Melbourne.

—The parilla campaign will fail. Like the one in the trade, the building industry needs a national wage campaign.

AWU —In construction the A.W.U. covers the same classifications as the B.L.F. of civil engineering sites (e.g. bridges, tunnels, freeways, dams, sewerage plants and pipelines).

—The AWU has an extremely right-wing leadership and frequently plays the role of being a union boss.

—On the Turlan (NSW) site they tried to sign up the workers, which would have meant wages of \$40 below the B.L.F. rate.

ASC & J (Amalgamated Society of Carpenters & Joiners)

formed as a Groupers breakaway union when the B.W.U. degenerated in the 1950s.

Has 10,000 members (carpenters and joiners only).

The ASC&J is known in the industry as the pocky because of the alleged practice of relying on other unions to get all the gangs for the works.

However, in practice, they are more militant than the B.W.U. at the job level in both Victoria and A.C.T.

In Victoria they have about 40% of carpenters, elsewhere their membership is less significant.

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THE BOSSES

PERMANENCY Effective permanency for full employment in the industry.

By permanency we mean 52 weeks guaranteed employment for all building workers. As things stand at the moment, most of us don't know where our next job or pay packet is coming from.

These workers and contractors hire only the labour they need for each particular job. We pay the price through lack of job security, lack of conditions until we win them, and lack of income security.

In times of high unemployment, it means that blacklisted by the bosses can be very effective because everyone gets sacked when the job dries down. Under the current system, they don't have to hire anyone they don't like.

It means that if you want to work, you've got to behave yourself. Already, union organisation is being seriously weakened.

Employment centres would be established in each major city or area for the purpose of recording unemployed workers, ensuring those workers get work when it becomes available and payment while work is not available.

All employers would have to pay a weekly levy to the employment centre for each building worker they employ.

35-HOUR WEEK ABOLISH OVERTIME

With an estimated 20,000 jobs lost in the building industry last year, it's about time the employers paid their share of the crisis. The 35-hour week is right for all workers.

Since the war, productivity has doubled and tripled. But the last improvement in working hours was 30 years ago.

Overtime is barbaric. It destroys the worker's leisure, insurance and lets the boss avoid hiring to work overtime for economic reasons. It should be stopped.

ABOLITION OF PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND THE SUB-CONTRACT SYSTEM

We believe it will be employed by the man who is not an end to himself.

The boss paying sub-contractors to work for a subbie. The system is growing all the time and must be stamped out. All workers should be employed by the main contractor.

Workers must be paid an adequate wage with all conditions.

Payment of cash in the hand is just another way the boss gets out of their responsibility to meet even the most basic conditions for building work.

The extra money you get (if any) in all payments never makes up for the conditions you throw away.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING ON SOCIALLY USEFUL PROJECTS

For example, schools and hospitals, and so on to freeways and other cleaning projects.

FORMATION OF GOVERNMENT BUILDING COMPANIES

NO RUNDOWN OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENTS

STATE GOVERNMENTS TO PROVIDE FUNDS

for buildings through use of their superannuation, housing and insurance funds. These funds to be controlled by the workers who pay into them.

ABOLITION OF THE AUCTION SYSTEM

of retaining public land. Government to sell land at low cost including the land owned by backward development companies (i.e. Parkes).

LIMITED TENURE OF OFFICE FOR TRADE UNION OFFICIALS

ONE UNION IN THE BUILDING INDUSTRY

Amalgamation to be discussed on the job. We support the building of one union in every area. We support the building of one union in every area. We support the building of one union in every area.

And now a word on subcontracting — by a subbie!

SMALL TIME sub-contractors who usually consider they are removed from being class situations are having a painful system brought in by the present economic recession.

Even these normally enthusiastic adherents to the economic purge of their now inefficient companies by the capitalist system, they now suffer exactly as their fellow workers.

As a painting contractor I know many Australia-wide companies take up to 50% of contract prices (for obtaining job plus material), leaving only 50% to make up wages.

Key problems encountered by the total responsibility of the sub-contractor. As such, on one job I found that the company rep. and business owner/holder somehow hand with the obvious know-

the B. Fitzhugh Ltd

linked with Melbourne underworld. Imported armed thugs to Sydney to help destroy N.S.W. branch of the B.L.F. Melbourne's biggest builder.

John Holland Constructions killed 53 workers on the Westgate Bridge.

Ralph M. Parsons Ltd one of the world's biggest builders of chemical and power plants. Involved in the nuclear industry.

Civil & Civic (Lend Lease) probably Australia's most successful developer/contractor. C & C have smart loans. They use worker-partisanship.

P.D.C. Constructions subsidiary of Parkes Development. Parkes was headed by well known corporate raider Paul Straker. P.D.C. are the only part of the Parkes empire that didn't go broke.

The house was immaculate, the company got its full share and everyone but the workers were happy. As the economic situation worsens large contractors can use examples like this to blackmail workers into tending to their share of the contract. Incidentally, the contract incidentally, has risen from 40% to 50% in the last few years. A 50% costing which the householder must pay (or the privilege of having a so called respectable company do their job).

Sub-contractors should know just where they stand in the structure of the system and as such be prepared to remain in a solidarity campaign to work in a solidarity campaign to the onslaught of the ruling class.



WE DEMAND

WE DEMAND



WE DEMAND

WE DEMAND



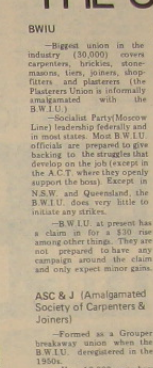
WE DEMAND

WE DEMAND



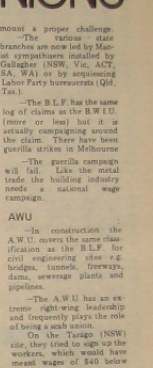
WE DEMAND

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WE DEMAND



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In three states TEACHERS



Erskineville children - their teacher was transferred

Teachers at Erskineville Infant School in Sydney have voted to strike one day per week, after Education Minister Eric Forde rejected their demand for an additional teacher.

Earlier in the term, Erskineville struck for two weeks.

Schools at nearby Tempe and Emmons had also taken strike action over the continuing staffing crisis in Sydney schools.

The strikes culminated in a one-day stoppage of the whole inner city area, and a mass meeting in Trades Hall, Sydney.

At Tempe, High teachers were demanding an ethnic aid, and a limit of 15 students per class. At Emmons, the dispute was over the removal of a reserve teacher, despite a verbal guarantee by an inspector that he would be at Emmons for the remainder of the year.

Tempe and Emmons have since had their demands more or less met.

At Erskineville, the struggle has been much tougher. Federation Rep Kathy Symons took the floor.

"I school this year there were 72 kindergarten children enrolled in two classes making 36 each. We also had a reserve teacher and we decided to timetable the reserve teacher."

We sent a delegation to the Department to explain the situation and they left us with the extra class for the whole term.

"But we came back from the holidays to find the reserve had been transferred. We gave the Department four days to get another kindergarten teacher.

ERSKINEVILLE

but they didn't do anything about it, so on the fifth day we went on strike.

All our teachers went round to Area Association meetings all over Sydney, even as far as Perth. All of them donated money and carried donations of supplies. We got a lot of telephone support from schools and individuals, and people like the P.T.A.

"The vast majority of parents of the infant school understood why we were doing it, and the necessity for another teacher."

"A lot of the parents are migrants and it's hard to let them know what's going on, but we try to have translated letters, and interpreters at meetings."

"Federation backed us to the hilt. We had every officer out of City Union."

The mood was one of confidence. "I think the Minister is on our side," said one speaker. Erskineville teachers felt they would probably get a teacher.

The proposal for a rally and march was defeated, on the grounds that it might provoke Bedford and jeopardise the expected gains. The staff at Erskineville voted to return to work.

Now Bedford has shown what side he is on. It will be harder to regain the momentum now that everyone has been back at work, but the teachers are determined. And they are hopeful that a second mass stoppage will be called soon.

ADELAIDE

THE South Australian Institute of Teachers has rejected Senator Carrick's education cuts.

But the threats of industrial action reported in the press are more fantasy than fact. SAIT President, Milton Hixon went overseas the day after they appeared.

Despite Hixon's campaign against the cuts has started. On June 23rd all schools have been asked to meet during their lunch hour. Parents have been encouraged to attend.

The cuts are being met by larger classes, less pay, time and more retail duties. This will lower the quality of education.

We can begin the fight by lowering the quality of education. SAIT has accepted a new proposal for a Charter of Australian Teachers' Education.

The Charter is still concerned with these issues and recommends basic standards for Australian schools. Last August, the SAIT vote also accepted that the minimum class size should be 24 in upper secondary classes.

So the basis for the fight there. If we don't win a larger class size, better teaching conditions must be won at constant time and cost no dilapidated building they must go into cost cutting.

June 23rd 1977, SAIT will be met by SAIT. A resolution that the whole resolve to implement it. The Government has agreed to SAIT and the ATU stand in action across the state, across the country.

CLASSROOM TEACHER

Wanted by many schools. No experience necessary. We have a large number of vacancies. Reply to: **CLASSROOM TEACHER**, P.O. Box 100, Adelaide. We have a large number of vacancies. Reply to: **CLASSROOM TEACHER**, P.O. Box 100, Adelaide.

CLYDEDALE

A new rank and file teachers magazine from Adelaide.

Not surprisingly, promises have been made. It is clear that the department's policy of increasing the number of teachers is not being met. Teachers and their unions are increasingly coming under attack from this right wing Government. In such an atmosphere, unions must be strong and united.

The VSTA leadership has been challenged to the concept of a rank and file union. The VSTA leadership has been challenged to the concept of a rank and file union.

Further the executive has been alarmingly quiet on the issue, but it always stands for teachers and unemployed teachers.

Nationalwide action has been proposed. Indeed the executive has been instrumental in cancelling the proposed joint three-union stoppage in March in return for

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Meanwhile in South Australia the plan to close down the afternoon shift in the assembly section at Elizabeth and to intro-

duce transfer has just gone into effect. The VBU officials had to be convinced that the transfer would be to their benefit. They're nothing new about it.

Transfer have been operating within the plant for some time. Number of workers were transferred at the beginning of the year. Now, about 65 have been moved into the press shop.

They granted them the same pay (RSR) but refused to grant conditions such as tea money and double time for overtime. Philip Morris metalworkers by blocking machines that were worked on by the Skinner employees.

AMSWU members at Philip Morris in Moorabbin (Melbourne) are out to force the company to bring contract labour on lower pay and conditions. Philip Morris tried to bring in two AMSWU and two PMA members from Skinner to do contract work installing machines.

When AMSWU members tried to work and conditions that they do Philip Morris was only prepared to go halfway.

They granted them the same pay (RSR) but refused to grant conditions such as tea money and double time for overtime. Philip Morris metalworkers by blocking machines that were worked on by the Skinner employees.

BL's wages fight

THE Builders Labourers Federation and other building industry unions have launched a new campaign to fight for the 1977 log of gains.

The old award expired on June 17, and the log gain includes a 5.5% rise in 12 hour week, ending of differentials between rates and a 15 minute afternoon smoko in the afternoon.

As well as the usual factors being used, many building workers are now looking for more money to cover the cost of living. At the beginning of the year, production fell from 150 to 140 per cent a day. Now it's down to 130 with one shift.

The company has guaranteed to dock pay and to give away holiday pay (this goes on). The holiday pay (this goes on) probably not occurring during the period for knock back the latest industrial action. The company has guaranteed to dock pay and to give away holiday pay (this goes on).

But workers of the High Court National Union in Canberra embarked on a campaign of disruption on the job and forced the house, PDC Construction to cancel the job. The guarantee campaign is being selected and was supported in this by the ANZCB organiser.

They should be trying to find ways to encourage unity in our using rules and technicalities to divide us.

And his advice? Call off the guinea campaign, but make round of talks, and then maybe some kind of cooperation period for those four months. While the guinea campaign is building up more union to vote on the union movement.

"So now we've got put on overtime and availability but we manage to coordinate, and that means available to be negotiated with the union. We've got to put positions into negotiation for the first time. It looks like the S.C.G. is going to stop all these unions and make up for the loss overtime ban."

The mass meeting which imposed the ban would have 150-160 against an opposition which would have delayed any action for three weeks.

The final vote in favour of the ban was overwhelming, about 800 in favour and only a handful against.

Company sees no G.P.M. penny seas

GMW WORKERS have been sold out in their fight against compulsory early 'holidays'.

A deal worked out between GMW and VBU Federal Secretary Limp means that GMW will get the money it wants, only that the strike will be back slow and through the back door.

Townsend's deal says that in return for direct sacking, the workers from Fuhernem's Bend to Dandenong in Melbourne, and from Elizabeth to Woodville in South Australia.

The plan is to sack 120 workers in Melbourne's water works in Melbourne's water works and tell them:

"You've transferred. Travel 60 mins a day in peak traffic to and from work - or lose your job."

The same goes for South Australia.

To sugar the pill, the deal includes a \$30 a week allowance for travel, and the very next day, foreman at the plant received pointed directions on how to transfer anyway.

DOUBLE WORKERS IN THE E. SUBURBS RAIL

AFTER several months of struggle, ending with a march by 130 workers down

We have won our claim for two concrete pump operators.

On the same day in court, we got our union recognised by the Public Transport Commission. The march was called after the PTC had tried to sack out the work force and get the delegates.

This too was defeated by our united action, and everybody was reinstated. We have demanded a weekly meeting between the Action Committee and the employers.

They started us to accept a monthly meeting, and they won't meet us at all.

On June 16, the Action Committee arranged a joint meeting with the RTBU and the Carpenters and Joiners. We called for the election of an Action Committee.

John Brody, BSWU organiser made some technical suggestions to prevent a committee being elected and was supported in this by the ANZCB organiser.

We would like these organisations to back up in the dictionary and see what the word "union" means.

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PM conditions defied

AMSWU members at Philip Morris in Moorabbin (Melbourne) are out to force the company to bring contract labour on lower pay and conditions. Philip Morris tried to bring in two AMSWU and two PMA members from Skinner to do contract work installing machines.

When AMSWU members tried to work and conditions that they do Philip Morris was only prepared to go halfway.

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THE BATTLE FOR THE TRAMWAYS BOARD

THE VICTORIAN Tramways Employees' Association has just beaten off an attempt by the Workers' Party to smash compulsory unionism in the tramways.

Paul Stanley Krutulis, a member of the Workers' Party Executive, joined the Tramways Board as a trainee conductor in March.

After doing the training course, he was posted out to Kew depot. But when Jack Kennedy, the TREA delegate, asked him to join the union, Krutulis asked him a long string of questions about Communist influence in the union, and then refused to join.



Jack Kennedy told the Board what happened after that.

"An appointment was made for him to interview the senior officials in the Tramways Board Head Office. After they couldn't convince him they acted like plants and said, 'We wash our hands of this, you'll have to go over and talk to the union officials.'

"Sid Edwards (the secretary of the union) and I interviewed him. He carried on the same argument about the union supporting Madbach, the union supporting the Moralistic and Virtuous, the fact that the union supported Communist causes, that they were affiliated with the ACTU, who he believed was a Communist organisation, and with the Trades Hall Council that he believed was advancing Communist causes.

He then, after some discussion with both of us, said 'I would choose to go to the union to negotiate my own wages and conditions with the Chairman of the Tramways Board.'

"I would seek to negotiate a lease wage than I am getting now, I would seek to negotiate longer hours, and a completely different set of working conditions from what I have now. I don't need the union to help me. I can do this on my own behalf."

(This last comment from Krutulis is probably the last argument the Butler has ever come across for compulsory unionism.)

After the interview at the union office, he came back to the depot and I came back too. I was informing the members of what was going on, as asked to and requested to.

continued

"But they couldn't change his mind and he continued to refer to the union as a communist organisation. In the end, the rest of the members agreed to danger and told him that as far as they were concerned, they would never work with him unless he joined the union."

Rather than sack Krutulis, because the members were prepared to listen to him. But after he had made his point, he believed he thought they were communists, the members got a little story about it and decided to question him more closely.

THE Battler

Now maternity leave gets the chop

The Fraser government has once again attacked the working conditions of Commonwealth public servants. And this attack is directed against a group of workers who are already disadvantaged - women.

The government proposes to destroy the provisions and patently leave maternity leave available to public servants under the Maternity Leave Act.

It's a bit of a "gotcha" that details of the changes are available from the "Equal Employment Opportunity Section" of the Public Service Board.

The changes are:

1. Abolition of Paternity Leave. Fathers used to get 4 days paid leave when the baby was born, so they could help at home.
2. A qualifying period of one year before you can get paid maternity leave. You used to be able to get it as a condition of employment.
3. Removal of automatic access to sick leave after paid maternity leave runs out.
4. Standardisation of paid maternity leave at 12 weeks. Previously, for example, if the baby was born 2 weeks late, the mother got 14 weeks paid leave.

In this same situation, new plans have been announced for four weeks paid leave for the birth of a child.

Obviously this means lots of women will have to go back to work after a baby. But it means that they can't go back to work before they do, so that they can look after the job.

The government knows this could happen, and has decided to change the maternity leave provisions so that it happens.

To most women, paid leave is more important, the pay after the baby is born. But the uncertainty of both decisions likely to encourage women keep working closer to the estimated time of birth. We are sure that they get the same 6 weeks after the birth.

And if the birth is late, the financial necessity could mean some women would be working as soon as the paid leave runs out.

CAMPBELL HIT FOR SIX

THE once - powerful empire of Norm Campbell has fallen.

Campbell and his ultra-rightwing supporters have been swept from office in the recent ACOA elections by a reform ticket around NSW Branch secretary Watson Peck.

As the Battler predicted two months ago, Peck was successful in his bid to unseat Campbell, who has been ACOA Federal Secretary for the past four years.

Greg Fowler, Major, who managed \$11 million rationally and lost by a margin of over 100,000 votes.

Perhaps the most significant feature of the election was the victory of Ant ACOA. Reform ticket candidate for the Victorian Presidency was elected.

The ACOA Reform ticket is a Melbourne based ticket of rank and file activists in the Victorian Branch elections last month.

It holds regular meetings and puts out a publication with a circulation of 12,000.

Me. Forward's success at the rank and file, independent of official channels. She not only won the first motion in the Federal Office in ACOA, but probably the first position in such a position in the ballot without having previously held any union post.

What made her success possible was the fact that she had the solid support of a large number of rank and file members actively campaigning for their own purposes.

It is also worth noting in Victorian, previously known as one of the most "red" parts of the country, more than in any other part, due to no doubt to the fact that this was the reform ticket which was working for the rank and file.

But whatever explanation the the NSW Federal Executive hears, the fact remains that the NSW Branch is different in practice to any other NSW Branch.

Me. Forward will only be a Federal Executive member if she will retain her right wing

The Battler

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

NUMBER 36 23 JULY 1977

URANIUM

Fraser's Education Cuts

CENTRE PAGES

20cents

Registered at the C.P.D. Melbourne, Vic. 3001 for posting as a newspaper, Category C

TRAMWAY UNION

URANIUM can be stopped

Not by Fox Report Talks. Not by ALP resolutions (though they help). Not by "great debates" stacked in favour of uranium producers with bank money to spend.

It will take direct action by workers and demonstration to stop the job.

The recent occupation of Melbourne's Swanston Dock by 300 people against the uranium-wrecking by Columbia Australia was a clear message.

It led to an indefinite ban on the Columbia Australia which advised into a strike covering the whole of the Melbourne wharf in protest at the brutal police action used to smash the occupation.

black

After three days the strike's momentum was broken by a mass meeting of Melbourne's 2000 wharfies and black at future work on Columbia Australia and any other uranium ships passing through Melbourne.

Columbia is the dead end of Melbourne in the dead end of most and set parts, due to no doubt to the fact that this was the reform ticket which was working for the rank and file.

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The Uranium Producers claim that "there has not been a single death or injury from nuclear causes" in atomic plants.

In Idaho, USA, in 1961, three servicemen died in an accident at a military power plant they were working on. Their bodies were so radioactive that it was twenty days before they could be safely handled, and their clothing melting and recapturing, releasing radioactive gas into the atmosphere.

These gases can kill all life for miles around.

At the NTS plant in New York State, there have been a number of disturbing incidents. In 1968, radioactivity was spread into the bloodstream because of an improperly vented stack.

Workers at the plant have been told to wear baby blankets at home. One plant has been contaminated - so was told to get it outside the plant.

The fact that if you were a baller.

The uranium producers claim that scientists anticipate no problems - in attaining complete permanent safety" for nuclear waste material.

THIS IS A LIE.

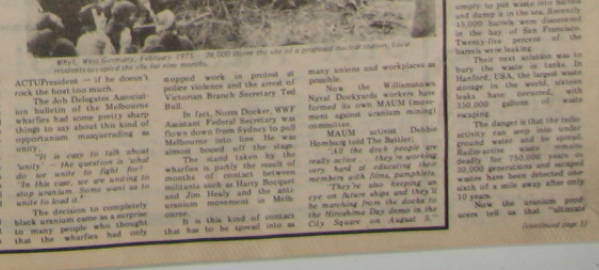
Unfortunately, the judgement of scientists has been that the largest waste materials.

Their best solution was simply to put waste into barrels and dump them. Over 15,000 barrels were dumped in the Bay of Fundy. Thousands of barrels were leaking.

Their next solution was to bury the waste in tanks. In Hanford, one of the largest waste storage in the world, several tanks had overflowed with 150,000 gallons of waste seeping.

The danger is that the radioactivity can seep into underground water. Radioactive waste remains deadly for thousands of years. 20,000 generations and suspended water have been deposited only 10 years.

It is the kind of contact that has to be spread with



3000 people, 1971, 300,000 tonnes of uranium ore, 1971.

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Holmesgren

The fight at Holmesgren Constructors has been lost over the fact that the light is not yet over the rainbow.

The Government is declaring redundant 135 of the personnel.

The redundancy agreement was two weeks pay for each year of service, plus one week pay, and \$107 a year retirement gratuity.

Not much, when you think that most are sixty or over and have to keep up the commission for about 15 years.

-Norm Thompson, AMVU

Between the Lines Qd & WA - Unions under the hammer

Between the Lines

Melbourne

The crunch has come in the battle to keep 32Z on the air.

At 9:45 am on Saturday 12 July, the police pulled the plug on 32Z they occupied its studios. News of this action triggered a 300-strong demonstration in Melbourne's City Square at 10 o'clock the same day.

Stonemans tactics had been used despite incredible moderation on the part of 32Z staff who had seen well the government that they had no intention of occupying the studios themselves.

But with the announcement of the police occupation, station workers decided that 32Z would go on air from other ABC transmitters.

If necessary, they are being backed in this by other ABC staff.

Despite threats of stand-downs, by Telecom, AT&T members are refusing to shut down the transmitter.

It seems that Fraser and Broadcasting Minister Eric Robinson have got more than they expected over 32Z.

Canberra

The Canberra public radio station has also faced attacks earlier this year, a group

of 32Z supporters was that even the Victorian Federation of Unemployed Staff

Greg Connellan records a program for the Victorian Federation of Unemployed Staff

Greg Connellan interviews Carol Clark from the Crisis Accommodation Action Group in Canberra

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Qd & WA - Unions under the hammer

The Queensland, Western Australian and Federal Government are preparing an all-out campaign against unions. And if Bob Hawke has his way they will get away with it.

In Queensland and Western Australia unionists are facing legal action in order to defend their members jobs.

Queensland Stormers and Federal organiser Edward Zaphir, a former criminal justice officer, are being sued for stopping petrol supplies in Toowoomba.

Bielle Peterson has taken out a Crown summons against him under a criminal code rather than State Industrial legislation.

Urb, Australia's largest and most profitable coal company, is also suing the Seaman's Union for "damages".

The Seaman's Union Utah coal carrying vessels to be crewed by Australian seaman. Utah wants

degradation because of their curia campaign for a \$30 rise. At the Mt. Newman mine and its port, Port Hedland workers have been fighting for new awards.

800 miners worked who refused to negotiate their log of claims. AMU's maintenance workers had struck in protest at the use of scabs at Port Hedland.

Fraser has alleged that workers are sabotaging Australia's trade with Japan and the W.A. Liberal Party conference, his ministers were drafting "tough new proposals".

Bob Hawke has joined an "urgent" National Labor Consultative Council meeting in Japan to "reassure" Japanese steel mandarins that workers will supply iron ore.

Unions in Queensland are threatened with action under civil law has been

guaranteed by industrial legislation in the 1900's. But with the economic downturn in the 70's Government and lawyers have been looking for a stick to beat the unions in Queensland. They changed laws making it easier to prosecute unions and Fraser has passed the IIR and amendments to Trade Practices Act banning black lists supporting other unions' struggles.

The union movement is threatened by these changes and Bob Hawke's deal with Fraser in accepting the IIR is the reason. He agreed to the new industrial legislation (IIR) and its industrial police provided nothing new was added. That is accepted the penal clause which has since removed had deflated in the O'Bea strike of 1963.

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YOU'RE obviously a respected family man... the judge told Dr. Frank White who had cheated on his wife... which has repaid \$110,000 and in getting 3 months to pay off the rest. He was found guilty of 74 offences and 14 years. He's got 12 months to go.

MEANWHILE, a cabinet minister... Samual Robertson, a cabinet minister... has been sentenced to 9 months jail... He's got five kids and a proud team coach. He understands how. He's only been able to work for a couple months. When he was got a job in October 1975, he continued to collect the dole. The Social Security department had arranged for him to repay the \$1,000 and 10 per cent. But... he's been able to work for a couple months. When he was got a job in October 1975, he continued to collect the dole. The Social Security department had arranged for him to repay the \$1,000 and 10 per cent. But...

AND how do you obtain benefits at the expense of honest tax payers without punishment? You retire from the position of Governor General, John Kerr... to get pension of \$33,000. Paid from tax levies as a reward for sucking up government.

OF course there are other ways to make money out of politics... Property speculation... for example. Mr. Carr (NSW) Labor MHR for Marrybong recently sold his house for \$165,000. Three years ago he paid \$82,000 for it. The house was not renovated or otherwise improved during the time Carr owned it. That's 79% tax free capital gain for Carr which he can use to buy another property for \$133,000.

Both properties are in Marrybong. Carr's seat of Marrybong is ten miles to the West on the other side of Melbourne. But their property values are not as promising for speculators in Moore Park.

NOT all parliamentary representatives of Melbourne's North-Western suburbs are done as well as Carr, Bill Landy, and Packer's Union, who, in his spare time represents the area in the state upper house but lost a political deal last month.

Landy agreed to let the numbers for Clyde Holding to win the ALP State presidency in an effort for holding presidency. John Gabbaly to stand down as opposition leader in the Legislative Council.

Landy would have been a candidate to win in a caucus election for the position but he had publicly committed himself not to run against local candidate. Landy told the list, holding out the numbers for John Gabbaly to stand down as opposition leader in the Legislative Council.

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Flood

Besides a public meeting of 3700, there has been a flood of letters to his papers. Even Greek members of Liberal Party and representatives of the conservative East European communities have attacked Fraser.

An indication of the broadness of 32Z's support was that even the Victorian Federation of Unemployed Staff

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Women Against Rape

RAPE has been an implicit issue in Queensland for three weeks. After recent reports of prevalent gang rapes in Ingham (Qld), Rosemary Kyrle, a feminist, called upon women to arm themselves and be prepared to kill or maim.

This ignores the fact that 25% of rapes are accompanied by threat with weapons and 80% are track rapes.

It also ignores the fact that almost all rapists are either from the woman's family or from her husband, boyfriend, brother, father or the usual rapist in the mind, psychopaths as in the public opinion.

Bielle Peterson has taken out a Crown summons against him under a criminal code rather than State Industrial legislation.

Urb, Australia's largest and most profitable coal company, is also suing the Seaman's Union for "damages".

The Seaman's Union Utah coal carrying vessels to be crewed by Australian seaman. Utah wants

degradation because of their curia campaign for a \$30 rise. At the Mt. Newman mine and its port, Port Hedland workers have been fighting for new awards.

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Australia for the Australians

AUSTRALIA for the Australians. This finding a new generation of supporters.

Australian nationalism is popular today among radical-minded people. Yet it has an unfortunate history. In the 1880s, the old Bulletin summed it up this way:

"Australia for the Australia - the cheap Chinaman, the cheap nigger, and the cheap European power to be absolutely excluded."

How would you be chanting this complete, unqualified slogan at the next demonstration?

Nationalism may be an understandable first reaction to the fact that decisions affecting our lives are made in the boardrooms of New York or London.

But nationalism is no substitute for analysis. What is the socialist view of nationalism? Nations have not always existed. They were created by capitalism.

The growth of capitalism demanded the establishment of a national state, and a strong national state.

Nationalism was progressive because the capitalist system was still bringing progress to humanity.

Today we live under developed capitalism. Industry has long ago moved beyond national boundaries, and today there is a world economic system.

This system is in crisis - a crisis which demands an international solution.

The class struggle, the one struggle that can provide such a solution, has become a world struggle. Today workers everywhere are fighting against wage cuts and unemployment, and everywhere their enemies are the same international companies.

As Lenin wrote:

"Developed capitalism, in being closer together,



nations that have already been fully drawn into commercial intercourse, and causing them to intermingle to an increasing degree, brings the antagonism between internationally united capital and the international working class movement to the forefront."

Let progressive nationalism today is to obscure the international nature of the struggle - to bring class together,

the struggle of the Vietnamese is an example. It has served last time the interests of Vietnam, cancelled out on a national base.

In that sense, Vietnamese nationalism represents consciousness. But it is a struggle to Vietnam's devastating loss against imperialism, and what could be more progressive than that?

What of Australia? In the policies designed to please the foreign capital in this country, they appeal to Australian nationalism, confident that it is nationalism of the oppressed has a progressive dynamic.

But not all colors in oppositional Australia's white settler state in New Guinea, the South Pacific, have been more unpopular with most capitalists than a "no vote on Omega."

All the newspapers are predicting the Labor's decision to take two years, and how many contractors Fraser lets out, will lose Labor thousands of votes.

Up to a point the press are hoping that if they say there is a majority for mining often enough one. But there is no doubt that a section of the Labor party does believe that their uranium policy will lose votes.

Others, such as the unions, are aware that the bosses would not want Labor in office with its current uranium policy.

At the same time most Labor leaders, including Hawke, do not believe that Labor will be elected next year.

The uranium policy they changed in the 1981 elections, they change it again to win.

Much the same thinking was behind the decision of Whitlam's six weeks ago, when the Labor party made its choice in the party branches and almost unanimously chose the uranium policy.

If caucus members thought they could win the 1981 election, they would have backed up the present uranium policy.

At the same time, even the most important sections of the party can see gains in

chaunivism.

Each time, these imperialist ventures have accompanied by a wave of nationalism in the mind, both to the left and to the right.

Nationalism, in fact, has been the slogan for the Australian Labor Party since it became "Australia for the white."

The current wave of nationalism feeling has been a change in the party. But it is needed in the right and the wrong circumstances.

Meanwhile, in his country and around the world there is a class struggle going on, a struggle which will ultimately determine the fate of the human race. The most powerful workers in that right is solidarity across the barriers of race, color and nationality.

Let us think twice before we help to undermine it.

WHAT WE THINK

AMIDST all the heavy debate at the Labor Party's conference, there were few items that didn't appear on the agenda, or in the speeches of the delegates.

The conference didn't discuss how unemployment could be abolished and jobs guaranteed. The idea of taking away the power of the Party's "backdoor" militant could fight the lack of work. They didn't discuss how Labor Party militants could fight the lack of work. They didn't discuss how Labor Party militants could fight the lack of work.

But one thing did happen at the conference. It repeated an attempt to reward the Party's "backdoor" socialist objective. One of the few victories of the "left" was to retain a working class rhetoric that has been contemptuously ignored by Labor politicians since the day it was written.

So while standing for everything fine and wonderful, the Party has continued to eliminate even the few reformist remains that might make the economic crisis less hard on the working class.

The Labor Party is not committed to socialism or defense of the working class. It is committed to winning votes in Parliament.

You would think that after November 11, 1976, the Labor Party would have learned the value of relying on Parliament. But no, they only reacted as they tried to do things "too fast."

The Labor Party's real problem is that it did too little, too slowly and did not rely on the power of the rank and file.

Labor has no answers to the economic crisis, except to attack the interests for Hayden Labor introduced first.

It was the Holden budget of 1975

That was the message from the 1977 Perth Conference.

The move to the right that Labor began two and a half years ago at Tertival continued space in Perth this morning.

rationality

On virtually every decision except the uranium policy, the ALP conference produced a policy to the right of its previous stance.

Social Welfare is to be scaled back to "economic rationality." Full employment is to be given up. Any future Labor government will be a difficult goal to achieve.

Labor now supports the bombing of the Omega base, which should ensure that the uranium that Hawke still hopes to sell will one day be returned to us in a somewhat abated form.

Labor's policy remains against Abortion. "Death of a fetus is a conscience issue."

Not only will any future ALP government refrain from megadeath in a nuclear war is a matter for a disciplined caucus vote.

ALP government will refrain from new social legislation, it also will not restore its own former programs.

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Does Labor think it can win in 1978?

DOES Labor expect to win in 1978?

On the face of it the adoption of economic rationality policies designed to please the bosses and their media would suggest that they do. But there are some pretty strong indications that Labor does not expect to win.

The one issue that the "left" would like to pass for (nowadays) was allowed to win, uranium, could produce a majority. It has been more unpopular with most capitalists than a "no vote on Omega."

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that started the cuts in social welfare spending.

It was a Labor government that set up ASIO. It was a Labor government that supported the Indonesian invasion of East Timor, though the conference finally chastised Whitlam for his position. Part of use that is now.

And it was a Labor government that joined in the chorus of condemning in 1975, claiming that it was the Halfway that were causing unemployment.

The next Labor government is going to have the task of quietening down the working class and endorsing the bosses' attacks on us.

We are going to need a strong organized movement to fight back whether it's Labor or the Liberals in power.

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On the face of it the adoption of economic rationality policies designed to please the bosses and their media would suggest that they do. But there are some pretty strong indications that Labor does not expect to win.

The one issue that the "left" would like to pass for (nowadays) was allowed to win, uranium, could produce a majority. It has been more unpopular with most capitalists than a "no vote on Omega."

All the newspapers are predicting the Labor's decision to take two years, and how many contractors Fraser lets out, will lose Labor thousands of votes.

Up to a point the press are hoping that if they say there is a majority for mining often enough one. But there is no doubt that a section of the Labor party does believe that their uranium policy will lose votes.

Others, such as the unions, are aware that the bosses would not want Labor in office with its current uranium policy.

At the same time most Labor leaders, including Hawke, do not believe that Labor will be elected next year.

The uranium policy they changed in the 1981 elections, they change it again to win.

Much the same thinking was behind the decision of Whitlam's six weeks ago, when the Labor party made its choice in the party branches and almost unanimously chose the uranium policy.

If caucus members thought they could win the 1981 election, they would have backed up the present uranium policy.

At the same time, even the most important sections of the party can see gains in

chaunivism.

Each time, these imperialist ventures have accompanied by a wave of nationalism in the mind, both to the left and to the right.

Nationalism, in fact, has been the slogan for the Australian Labor Party since it became "Australia for the white."

The current wave of nationalism feeling has been a change in the party. But it is needed in the right and the wrong circumstances.

Meanwhile, in his country and around the world there is a class struggle going on, a struggle which will ultimately determine the fate of the human race. The most powerful workers in that right is solidarity across the barriers of race, color and nationality.

Let us think twice before we help to undermine it.

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BATTLER EXCLUSIVE Alexander Barton speaks How I Learned to Stop Running & Trust the Law

THE first 24 charges brought by the NSW Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) against Alexander and Thomas Barton were dismissed for lack of evidence.

The Bartons, of course, have recently returned from Paraguay where they fled after their KSW business empire crashed in 1972.

Despite the plight of the people they betrayed, the Bartons lived comfortably through from their secret bank accounts.

The charges implied that they had "understated the half-yearly profits" to December 1970 of one of their companies, Sirox Australia Ltd.

But, as magistrate Berman said, the CAC made no attempt to "assert what was in fact the correct profit for Sirox."

Exactly the same reason was given by Judge Taylor dismissing the CAC case against the directors of Minisc last year.

In both cases the CAC had had over five years to get all the documents needed to nail all these crooks.

In the past few days we've started to learn why it is that the Bartons and their ilk always seem to be able to give the law the slip.

In NSW (and probably everywhere else), CAC inspectors

don't have the same power as police to arrest anyone that they're chasing.

Instead, the CAC has to write to a suspect and ask them if they reckon that they've broken the law.

And, apparently, Ryan is Ryan likes to put it, "this procedure inevitably results in delay and on occasions the absconding of an offender."

Once the CAC did hire a few Fraud Squad cops to hurry things up by grabbing some company crooks under the Crimes Act.

But now these cops have been kicked out because they moved too quickly.

It's only now - 14 years after the CAC was established - that its inspectors are beginning to learn about the "backdoor" methods of interrogation and collecting evidence.

Beta Cides, a business associate of Alexander Barton, has made it clear just how toothless the CAC was kept under the Askin Liberal government.

When Cides was chased by the CAC in April 1973, he rang Barton for help. Barton said not to worry because he had a spy at the CAC. And, if all else failed,

You have McCaw, the Attorney-General, on my side. I had better talk to Sir Peter Abelles (head of TNT). Sir Peter

can in turn speak to Bob Askin. It is their duty to help, otherwise I will take them all down with me."

Frank Walker has made a big production of cracking down on corporate crime.

But the Barton and Minisc cases have shown that the laws handed by the CAC - designed to protect small shareholders from speculative operators - are just so much window-dressing.

"Respectable" business can continue its daily robbery of workers. There'll never be any law against that under capitalism.

And even if there was, who would "police" it?



legal abolition but also free and fair.

Only when abolition is available in all public bodies will working class women be free of the demeaning "I'm pregnant" abortion, but...

Whether it's like it or not, Labor does not want to see the legal abolition (death) the use on the party grounds at the Conference.

But any member who has any claim to working class support should argue not only for

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'ts in education? — not for the rich!

FRASER Education
Government in
year is to let next
fewer schools, and
proceed with
More schools are to
State grants.
Education Minister
announced a month
ago that the new
policy will take
from the private to the

rich. Cuts in the Australian Schools Commission (the body which administers the education) grants in 1978 are estimated to be \$40 million.

This money could have built 15 new primary schools, 9 large secondary schools, or employed at least 900 extra classroom teachers.

The Government policy for 1978 maintains real money value of education spending, breaking its earlier

promise of 2 per cent growth rate.

However that doesn't mean government schools will get the same money's worth as last year.

fractured

School buildings funds for government schools have been frozen at the 1977 level of \$196.7 million. With inflation that is a real cut of \$23 million.

The Government has directed the commission to give \$3 million dollar to non-government schools "to assist building program in newly expanding areas. Helping the rich in their 'freedom of choice'."

Another announcement previously unknown is Fraser's directive increasing grants to private schools, and the richest 130 schools at that, to 20 per cent of the expenditure per pupil in government schools.

This will cost another \$44.6 million. The Government has told the Schools Commission to give \$2 million towards this in 1978.

The 1978 policy contains an extra boost for private schools. Government schools are funded by both Federal and State governments.

Recently the State has given more money to Government schools improving their standards.

Because the 1978 policy automatically links grants to private schools to per pupil grants to Government schools, this means that school commission will have to find an extra \$7.89 million from funds which otherwise

would have gone to Government schools.

Altogether these changes mean a transfer of \$13 million from State school to the private schools which teachers need.

John Kirser, President Australian Council of State School Administrators (ACSSA), said that the wealthiest schools would receive \$40 million per pupil while the poor non-government primary schools will receive \$25 per pupil extra.

She said that non-government schools will get more government money than will get less.

The cuts attack the conditions of teachers and of children in schools.

merciless

Migrants and low earners have been mercilessly left to sink or swim. Carrick suggested that the Commission "needs to achieve savings" of \$1 million from the Services and Development and Special Project schemes.

These are the schemes which brought genuine international to schools, especially in poor areas. Teachers, parents and children were involved in the running of schools. They were able to help with

language and cultural programs.

Now these will be stopped because there will not be any money to continue run the skilled teachers need.

The Carrick policy simply "restated the significantly improved position of the States under the revised Commonwealth/State financial arrangements. It contributes to these activities from their own resources."

Even the Liberal State Premiers like Hamer see what a force this "new Federalism" is. The States get their money through the Federal Government by way of the Loans Council and Premier Conferences with the Federal Government.

Because of reduced money from Canberra the States have placed ceilings on the number of teachers they will employ. This year in Victoria the Hamer Liberal Government is refusing to refuse to replace teachers who leave, especially migrant and remedial teachers.

While unemployed teachers are seeking work the State Governments are cutting back and the Fraser Government the money which could pay for them.

Does your child's school look like

St Peters, Adelaide



THE Fraser Government is launching a full-scale attack on the state education system in this country.

It is cutting huge sums of money from the already inadequate education budget and diverting resources into education for the elite at the wealthy private schools.

It is aiming the axe first at those different and experimental programs which have done so much to improve the schools.

The needs of migrant people are being contemptuously ignored.

Behind the education cuts is an ideology that says that all we need are the three P's, reading, 'riting and 'rithmetic. This is voiced loudest by people like Ian Spicer from the Employers Federation.

They want the state system to teach literacy and discipline to tomorrow's workers, passive acceptance in tomorrow's unemployed, and motherhood to tomorrow's women.

They see the extra money spend on education, and the new, freedom-oriented programs of progressive teachers as dangerous and a waste of money.

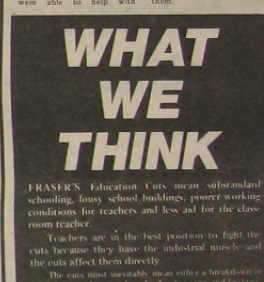
In this report, we look at the education cuts; what they're going to hit and what the teachers are doing to fight them.



Thebarton, Adelaide

or this

WHAT WE THINK



FRASER'S Education Cuts mean substantial schooling, low school buildings, poorer working conditions for teachers and less pay for the classroom teacher.

Teachers are in the best position to fight the cuts because they have the industrial muscle and the cuts affect them directly.

The cuts must inevitably mean either a breakdown in conditions, such as teaching loads, class size and facilities, or an increase in the number of kids in the school/overcrowded classroom.

Probably both.

Earlier in Victoria have fought hard and hard to maintain class sizes and work loads. By increasing their efforts and refusing to let conditions be undermined, they've won back the government's respect.

Unfortunately, teacher unions have long reports of conditions as a shield by which to hide. The cut-throats of teachers at all levels.

But the base of solidarity in the unions will be with the classroom teacher in the school. It's the teachers who have formed "Cuts Committees" to fight the Carrick proposals.

In Victoria, it looks as if these groups are going to be dispersed and uncoordinated. If these groups can be backed up and organized, the government can be beaten.

How we're fighting — in Adelaide

TEACHERS in South Australia are getting themselves up for a fight against Carrick's Cuts. Many schools have established "Cuts Committees". Their task is to build support for effective action both inside each school amongst teachers and outside the schools amongst parents. So far this has mainly been explaining Carrick's proposals and what they mean to teachers in the classroom, plus the effect on the standard of education offered in State Schools. This is the northern suburbs of Adelaide we have taken

ON FRIDAY July 8, the teachers at Devon (Vic) High School went on strike.

They are demanding more staff and the implementation of the VSTA (Victorian Secondary Teachers Association) Conditions Policy.

The school has a history of chronic staff shortages.

Alan Taylor, a teacher at Devon told the Battler that Carrick's cuts meant "halving staff and doubling the first school to cope in the neck."

Six teachers will have at the end of term 2. Replacements are unlikely.

ceiling

Devon badly needs remedial English and Mathematics teachers for its junior form.

But the State Government has put a ceiling on employing teachers for 1977, so Devon has been turned down.

Alan Taylor said migrant and remedial staff will be fewer because of the cuts.

Devon is short of relieving teachers to take the classes of teachers who are gone on leave or are sick. Teachers there are demanding the forming of relief teacher centres called for in the VSTA Conditions policy.

At the moment schools must apply to the department for relieving teachers but they are impossible to obtain.

Instead they have to resort to emergency teachers who are hired on 30 day casual basis with no security, sick pay or holiday pay.

Preston

PRESTON Girls High School crams 840 girls into an area quarter that of Melbourne Grammar School with few of the sporting or

THE CUTS DISASTER FOR THE STATE SCHOOLS

educational facilities of the Grammatians.

The school hasn't any sporting oval nor indoor sporting area. The girls are forced to walk half a mile to the nearest school hall for gym on wet days crossing two major roads.

Gordon Harvey, teacher at Preston Girls told the Battler, "Seventy-six percent of our girls are from migrant families and until four weeks ago they had only one migrant English teacher taking 250 pupils in a 30 period week."

The school VSTA branch has been fighting for the VSTA conditions policy of a half a period for correction

and preparation for each period teaching.

They have held 6 half day stoppages. Forty of 52 teachers have pledged to stop work half a day each week until the education department brings all the staff into line with VSTA conditions.

Government cuts are going to make it more difficult to enforce the conditions policy without a strong fight. Worsening of teachers conditions will run down the quality of teaching they can give to their students.

Now there is only one relief teacher while there are two teachers on maternity leave, 3 on long service leave and 2 resigning. And that teacher could be withdrawn at any time.

In a school with three quarters of migrant background, Preston has been "lucky" to get another migrant English teacher in the last 4 weeks.

But Preston still hasn't any remedial mathematics or qualified remedial English teachers. It still needs another librarian to run its library.

For Carrick girls don't need sports ovals, remedial or migrant English teachers, or librarians. They just have to be able to cook and bread.

MERRILYN DAGG, a teacher in the Parks, a working class area of Adelaide told the Battler:

"I think it's really bad how schools like St. Peter's, the richest private school in Adelaide, will be getting more money while mothers in our

report
Steve
Morgan

area can't even go on borrowing toys from the toy library because the library will run out of money.

"And that's not all. We think the priority project scheme will be cut.

"This means less drop-in centres, adventure play groups, excursions, play groups, family day care centres and, fewer hours for the auxiliary staff that help this work."

"Special teachers in some private schools might 'lose their jobs, like art and drama teachers."

"A lot of the kids in our area are on the free book list. As education spending goes down the prices of books go up."

"What will happen to the kids on free books? Many of them are in schools for the handicapped, use more handikap they could do without."

Brandon Park

A NEW technical school will open at Brandon Park in portables next year.

But are these the drab old portables, grey and faded green? Not at all, the Education Department in typical double-speak says Brandon Park will open in a "relocatable complex."

A barebones term for a school's temporary school. A school which later will be replaced by more permanent buildings.

And who is going to build this new school? Will it be Holmeggan Constructions which can turn out a permanent secondary school in two weeks but is now asking 150 workers?

Not on your life.

Don't write off the CIA!

Dear Battler,
 I'm a little late in replying but I'd like to comment on the article "You Changers" - with love by Andrew Miller which appeared in the Battler before last Feb. (3).

The thrust of Miller's article is that the recent events show about the CIA's attempts to subvert Australian unions are on important.

Dear Battlers,

What do YOU think?
 Write to the Editor, P.O. Box 46, Flemington, Vic.

Forget the big BANG - the struggle for Socialism is elsewhere.

Dear Battlers

Re issue No. 35: The obscurity of the Honourable George Paterson M.L.A. is almost very real, and it is not so surprising it would be very strange.

What infuriates me is why his fellow writer of the same issue, Tom O'Lincow, does not keep with him. After all, the world will not go their way, and continues to change, the broad range of history sweeps right after again from the world's stage in defiance of the dictum "All together get on, or all".

rottenness

Worse still, his changes are accompanied by all the rottenness that marked the regimes they succeeded and not according to the Honourable Member's historical speech be accomplished overnight. How sad!

The Honourable George Paterson and Tom O'Lincow of 1918 were prepared to leave the world to Revolution because of the excesses of the French revolution and the bourgeoisie betrayal that followed.

Sharing "That beautiful angel" who did not "her" things in the "old, in vain" seemed well from "respectable" people who he wrote then.

"It has ceased to be believed that whole generations of men could be so stupid as to continue to live in a hopeless inheritance of ignorance and misery, because a nation of men who had been aware and able for centuries was incapable of conducting themselves with the wisdom and tranquility of freedom or human society" as some of his letters were partly headed.

"That their conduct could not have been marked by any other characters than those of the ignorant, the stupid and the brutal. But this is the historical fact. This is the undeniable fact of its record, and it remains the same, because of its deformity."

My dear idealists (both names) who will you learn that the most incredible piece of

RIGHT: Germany 1918 and revolution. Left: Hitler with police baton during the Spartacist uprising. BELOW: "A factory occupation in Turin, Italy, 1920. Workers were in control until after the military crisis after the Italian revolution ended by the successful Russian revolution of 1917.



socialism is an inevitable, but not necessarily painful stage in the evolution of human society? And exploitation is an inevitable part of socialism if you use the twisted definition of exploitation of Tom O'Lincow's article, effectively, that the provision of value for society's goods is exploitation.

I leave it to the readers if you wish to see this constitutes naive or pro-venal.

The Battler comes to its readers to justify what must be the most incredible piece of

not only to open aggression, but sensitive manipulation as well.

Secondly, Miller argues that the CIA activities are perhaps more likely, is that those activities were only known to a small minority of militants and socialist.

I am surprised to find such a flippant dismissal of CIA subterfuge and coercion in a socialist paper.

In fact, Miller goes out of his way to "prove" his point by arguing that the CIA's involvement in the overthrow of Allende in Chile, was only supportive to the main attack coming from the Chilean ruling class.

I suggest Miller reads the documented book "The Southern States", which shows clearly that from the time Allende nationalised the previously American-owned copper industry, the American backed multinational ITT and the

CIA began extremely heavy pressure on a rather reluctant Chilean ruling class to smother confidence of Chilean workers.

It's debatable whether the Chilean capitalists would have moved against Allende during that period, without the constant pressure and massive agents provided by the CIA.

This is not to suggest that the CIA was more important than the Chilean ruling class who actually carried out the mass slaughter of Chilean workers. What it does show is that neither group - the ruling class nor the CIA - can be separated out as less important.

There's a good reason for this. National ruling classes, multinational companies, and subversive agents like the CIA, are all part of the world capitalist system.

With the CIA in strength the workers are not only the potential for own the means of production, but also the "Fraser's" small but growing standard of living would be poor indeed.

And Andrew Miller's article is no exception. It's a sad state of affairs that the National ruling classes, multinational companies, and subversive agents like the CIA, are all part of the world capitalist system.

Tom is right. You are in the man woman on the shop floor who knows more of what actually goes on in the world than any of the bosses because apart from owning it, paying the workers and (especially) making the profits, most bosses try to keep as far away as possible from the actual state of the job itself.

Yet despite the fact that those who run society often know less about production and the functioning of machines than the workers, they still act as what we must produce and we should produce it. Surely it would be more efficient (not to mention just) if those who actually did the producing ran the job.

That's just one reason we stand for workers control of all industry, as the basis for a new society.

New, because it would transfer ownership and control from the boss, the rank and file workers, organised at the job level.

power

The most fundamental power in society is the power that flows from controlling production.

Most importantly, the workers councils would be subject to instant recall called upon at any time to account for their actions and, if necessary, be replaced.

Workers control, we don't mean handing over the factories, mines and so on to the government - that is, to a state bureaucracy.

After all, a lot of industry is owned at the moment by the British Labour government and as British workers are finding out, they are not workers but bureaucrats.

In feudal times, this power was held by the lord who owned the land. It took years of struggle and several revolutions to free the capitalists to own power.

The working class needs power in the factories because that is the way to break the power of the capitalists. And it is also the way for the working class to defend its rights against any bureaucrats who try to use a socialist state to further their own ends.

Because we are together at work and because production of wealth takes place at work, the

A system which upon the repression and alienation of the workers, the capitalist class, the blue state capitalists, the CIA, the TV World.

Local ruling class, the CIA, the TV World, the CIA, the TV World, the CIA, the TV World.

Miller is quite correct. The CIA is not a separate group as the Independent Movement, the Australian ruling class, the CIA, the TV World, the CIA, the TV World.

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Because we are together at work and because production of wealth takes place at work, the

Workers Councils - How the workers can rule the world

All photos are of the Current Workers Commission, Portugal, 1975.



WHO knows more about your job - you or your boss?
 That's easy - it's the man woman on the shop floor who knows more of what actually goes on in the world than any of the bosses because apart from owning it, paying the workers and (especially) making the profits, most bosses try to keep as far away as possible from the actual state of the job itself.

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A new column answering YOUR questions about Socialism.

Dear Battler,
 As a recently joined member of the "The Battler" should in future develop an expanded coverage on the Party's ideals to the workers role in a socialist society as compared to his lot under either a State or "Free Enterprise" capitalist system.

This explanation, I think, of workers control of government through Workers Councils and rank and file involvement would be of an interest to all readers of the paper.

When the workers of Portugal were developing their bid for power in 1975, they formed workers councils.

Our combined delegates committees, site committees, shop stewards committees - all these are the beginnings of workers councils. Each one takes away part of the boss's power - and as the struggle intensifies, that part gets greater and greater.

In struggle, workers councils have obvious advantages. For one thing, they can produce unity with our co-workers from the bottom upwards. This can overcome old craft distinctions between carpenters (BHU) and builders labourers (DLF) on a building site, and spread the power of an organisation of workers to many others.

Secondly, a worker elected from the work place, can control the facts, they are seeing and make sure they trade union membership is the beginning of workers councils. The 1916 workers' Committee in the Clyde in Scotland showed the power of a workers council.

We will support the officials just so long as they rightly represent the workers, but we will set independently ourselves. Being composed of delegates from every shop and unrepresented by obsolete law or rule, we claim to represent the workers. But we can be replaced at any time by the workers themselves.

That is, when workers are engaged in major struggles, workers councils will be the power of workers control and basis of workers control and basis of workers control and basis of workers control.

Many people argue against socialism on the grounds that it means state control, that it is undemocratic, or that it will take all the industry away from us. But if socialism and workers control mean the abandonment of your job and loss of your money, that can be more democratic?

There have been workers councils in Germany after the First World War, in Spain in 1936, in Hungary after the war in 1956, in Warsaw to oust the Nazis, and even in Seattle.

David Lockwood

MUMBO JUMBO

Dear Battlers,
 Readers may I hope be surprised to find my column in the Battler. I say that AGAIN to emphasise the importance of your column.

The USSR is indeed a 20% of foreign trade in earnings serving foreign trade.

North Korea's GDP of \$1500-2000 million in early 1970, and her GDP on their last year have since been about trebled them - at a rate of interest. So the reckoning is not possible.

When a working class group arrives on the political scene, whose political outlook is obvious, and thus we will require it, and thus we will require it, and thus we will require it.

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Tom O'Leary
 Summer Hill, N.S.W.

VICTORIAN secondary teachers held one of Australia's biggest teachers' strike meetings ever this month to defend the right to strike.

This came about after Director-General of Education Laurie Shears had down an ultimatum to every teacher in the state when he threatened to charge six teachers at Highvale School if they struck again.

Three thousand of us packed into Dallas Brooks Hall to tell Shears that we weren't going to be scared by his threats.

Highvale High School just started this year. It has only 116 students and easily enough staff, but for everyone to work to VSTA conditions.

We decide strike action on six conditions, there is still one more, there's working 200 minute over conditions.

All that's needed is a simple, stable change. But the Principal and the Department instead have chosen to confront the union over conditions and the right to strike.

The teachers at Highvale have been told they will be charged if they strike to remedy their situation. If that happened there's a good chance they'll be sacked.

The mass meeting supported three resolutions from the Council Committee, pledged to take action in the form of rolling strikes, a statewide strike in three conditions, and periodic strikes if negotiations on conditions are not held within a reasonable time or are unsatisfactory.

These motions are rather more militant than we've ever expected from the VSTA leadership but they do have problems. Committee members supporting them said that they were "flexible", but "vague" is probably a better word.

All the action is to be initiated by the Committee and Executive when and if they see fit. In the interim are we to be the last thing we want for this campaign to drag on until it gets too late in the year to do anything and just demoralise everyone.

The VSTA for a long time. Conditions have been the subject of numerous meetings of school throughout the year. Highvale is only one example, and probably not the best.

But it is important for another reason. The Education Department is taking a stand over Highvale because it is a small group of teachers involved, and therefore probably more vulnerable.

The Department figures that if they can defeat us at Highvale, it will be a blow for VSTA conditions all over the state. And they're right.

That's why it's important for the VSTA to put up the strongest possible fight—it's not just Highvale, it's the working conditions of all secondary teachers at stake.

It's also part of the general union bust that the Federal Government is waging on behalf of its mate, Malcolm Fraser. The VSTA leadership at the moment looks as if it's willing to put up some kind of fight—as

TEACHERS' STRIKE

WE'RE HERE, SHEARS!

VSTA mass meeting votes for rolling strikes.

The School Council says that parents meeting at the Ford, a Department spokesman said that the VSTA intimidates the branch, partly Stan. His comment was "I don't know if it's a good idea to get people like that to be a stop. I would be doing right thing."

After ten strikes, a general meeting of the branch hasn't won all conditions, but pretty good. And there's every chance that they'll be in a bonus system, which is a good thing. They'll be in a bonus system, which is a good thing.

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TEN STRIKES continued

CHLORIDE: We're just trying to keep our heads above water

take signatories' claims out of the air. The 39 signatories went out, not just for the day.

The strikes continued, handed out leaflets, and went to take home to their families, explaining the reasons for their action and urging their influence on the public.

Some of the leaflets were three long. The Vice-President, and the branch members are an Australian teachers. A lot of leaflets were shipped up to them by the Federation.

A meeting of parents was held at a room in the Federation. The authorities in the Federation work was no longer needed. The American teachers who had been invited were not invited.

The Director-General of Education, Laurie Shears, said that the Americans in his school were not invited. He said that "American teachers are as free as Australian teachers" but showed no interest in resolving the Highvale situation.

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Yes, nurses take action

Nurses go on strike! Never. This is still the attitude of most nurses, despite the best strike last year which won them a \$5 wage rise.

The Nurses Association has always been a conservative union, and this has been reflected in each hospital bonus. But at one Sydney hospital that's beginning to change.

There is a nurse at the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital. The branch creative which brought us known as conservatives. They would regard last year's strike.

This year, there was so much more discontent at our hospital that a few nurses got together and decided to meet some new blood into the branch. We got elected onto the branch executive and since then things have changed.

Meetings are not the boring affairs they used to be and they are being much better attended. A publicity group was formed to make posters for meetings and to bring out a newsletter after each meeting.

Naturally it will be a day job getting nurses involved in union activities—they are so disillusioned with how it was before. However we have won one victory already.

The hospital administration wanted to charge \$50 per year for the hospital. The hospital wanted to charge \$50 per year for the hospital.

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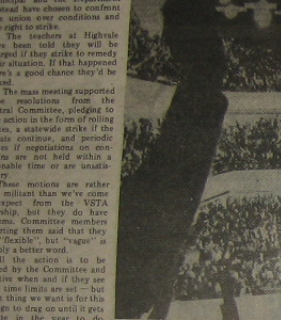
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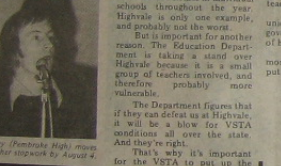
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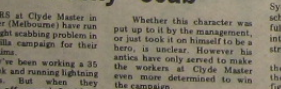
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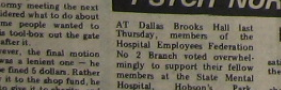
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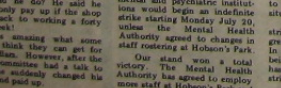
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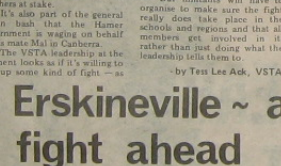
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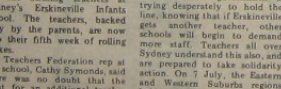
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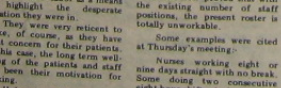
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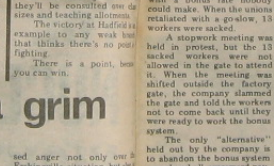
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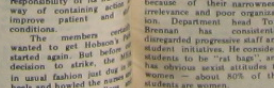
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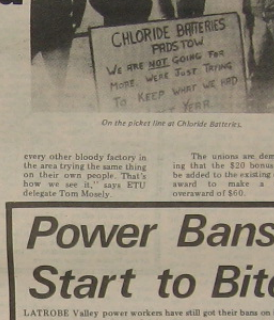
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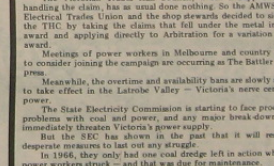
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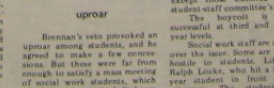
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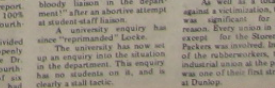
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Let's make it OUR union

ONE of the most powerful union amalgamations in years is just being finalised in Sydney.

Incredible as it may seem, the rank and file have never been consulted. No one, except the very top brass of the unions, even knew the amalgamation was on until two weeks ago.

Not even the state executives were consulted. NSW industrial law requires only the signatures of the State Secretary and three other officials for the amalgamation to proceed.

The amalgamation brings together two of the largest unions in the industry, Charlie Oliver from the AWU and Paul Calnan from the BWIU.

They are aiming to push the near-collapsed NSW branch of the Builders Federation right into oblivion.

They want Norm Gallagher out of NSW. But they would never stand in the way of unity in action against the boss.

But there's one thing for sure: The amalgamation has been prepared with rank and file in mind.

union will soon cover most building workers in NSW.

The Balfour usually supports union amalgamations, and this is no exception.

But it's been in such a way as to give the union at least possible industrial strength, because it has never drawn on the lists, the determination and the commitment of the rank and file on the job.

For Clancy, Oliver and Co it's just to concentrate in power politics.

The Balfour feels it is important to concentrate on the positive aspects of the amalgamation, rather than brood over the coup the officials have pulled.

Millions have been calling for amalgamation for years. Now we have the officials here all the way, we have to take the opportunity to organise together with our broken and sisters on the job.

We can now call for on-the-job rank and file meetings to organise the amal-

gamation where it counts - at work. We can run our amalgamation in such a way as to make it as powerful as possible.

We can begin to form shop committees immediately by drawing carpenters and labourers.

Millions in other unions, such as the Builders Labourers Federation, can begin to link up with militants already in the AWU and BWIU, to make sure they're not used as pawns in some shabby deal with Gallagher or his henchmen friends.

And we can demand that the immense power of the new union be used in the interests of the building industry, starting with a militant campaign NOW to win the 24-hour week.

STRIKING Sydney concrete batchers (AWU) have earned a reputation for being one of the most militant unions in the country.

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for an Smith

THE last gasp of white supremacy.

That is what Ian Smith's general election, called for August 31 in Rhodesia (Zimbabwe), will amount to.

More than 96 percent of the population will not be voting at all in the poll. Out of 2,000,000 Africans, only 100,000 are counted, only about 8 percent can fulfil the property qualifications for voting.

And even among those privileged few, only a tiny minority have bothered to register. They know it's nothing but an exercise in white rule.

Out of 67 seats in the House of Assembly, only 18 may be occupied by blacks. And half of these are elected by a group of tribal chiefs and head-men - all of whom are salaried employees of the racist regime.

Smith called the election in an attempt to heal the growing splits among the whites themselves. In the face of victory, the black liberation forces, whites have been to leave the country in growing numbers.

And among those who are not voting are many who are not registered.

An extreme demand that the country be stopped cooperating with the United States and the American Empire.

At the same time, the imperialist companies are the main reason for the election on Smith's compromise.

The imperialist companies form an alliance with the weak middle class, to create a government of moderate elements.

These moderate elements include the Bulawayo porters, along with the Nkomos of ZAPU, the Zambian general forces.

Recently Smith denounced them as "rabbits" - it seems likely that this is nothing but an attempt to defuse the appeal of the white extremists.

By then, however, it may be too late to salvage anything from the wreckage of the race regime.

But Smith and the Rhodesian whites are a declining force - as they are at present.

They suffer almost constant harassment thanks to the activities of a dedicated band of black nationalists.

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Report from Soweto

Barney Mokgatle, the former secretary of the Soweto Students Representative Council will tour Australia from 30 August to 13 September.

Barney was centrally involved in the organisation of the June 16th, uprising against apartheid in Soweto last year.

Since fleeing Azania (South Africa) to avoid arrest he has been active in building the solidarity campaign against the Vorster regime.

Steve Morgan

THE STRUGGLE AGAINST APARTHEID IN SOUTH AFRICA

Friday Sept 2, 8pm Trades Hall Auditorium

Wednesday Sept 7, 8pm Shannon Hall, Trades Hall

Friday Sept 9, 8pm Assembly Hall, 156 Collins St.

Monday Sept 12, 8pm, Room 53, Trades Hall

CANBERRA Contact 48 7818 for details

Put in Australia the power! full textile and clothing bill that has put the screws on Frasee to keep tariffs on these goods. Not because they worried about jobs but about their profits.

The ASEAN countries have not said their wares in a big way in Australia. Less than 1/10 of total exports came from ASEAN last year; yet a half of the imports came from Taiwan, Hong Kong and Korea.

ASEAN's performance at the ASEAN conference shows us something of the way the bosses think. The ASEAN leaders were demanding the same kind of trade concessions from Frasee that Frasee himself was seeking in Europe, unsuccessfully.

His performance also answers those who believe that the government is involved in deliberately dismantling Australian industry. If it were, it would be doing so in a way that would turn Australia into a country producing mainly raw materials.

And from Australia, they will send some of us in first time for Frasee to open the

country up to cheap imports of clothing.

To appease the ASEAN leaders Frasee offered them a package of more aid and talks over trade. But to extra \$100 million over 3 years is only a minor sweetener. Their target is still greater access to Australian markets.

In the battle for foreign markets, the weak ASEAN countries start off behind the schedule. So their economies develop late and weaker, while the rich western economies maintain their economic superiority.

Japan's PM, Fukuda, said that Japan's economic boom is "not a gift from God" but the result of their own efforts.

Yes, but some of us in first class and some of us in steerage.

MOVE YOUR GARBAGE

It is over 20 years since the South African diplomats in Canberra have been treated a badly as they are at present.

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WE WILL NOT BE PROTECTED

After carrying out mass transfers to try to smother our job organisation, the bosses on Sydney railway construction sites are trying to provoke us into new strikes.

By TONY PERERA AWU delegate

One of our greatest problems, of course, was the AWU officials.

They kept us in the dark about what was happening. The delegates couldn't work out what was going on for several minutes before the meeting.

They were trying to lead us into illusions about the officials, and they took advantage of that.

One of our greatest achievements was going on the strike meetings.

The task now is to rebuild the job organisation. We need regular meetings with delegates from all the sites.

And we need mass meetings of all the sites, rather than just fragmented site meetings.

When we returned to work last month with some gains, the bosses immediately transferred 40 labourers from Chalmers Street - previously our strongest site.

Now, after weeks of concrete batchers' strike, there is a special, in Wellington, and trying all kinds of petty harassment to get us out on the grass. But we're not going to be tricked.

"BEFORE I took this job I was the co-delegate on the Torres College site where we had a number of gains."

"Labourers and carpenters picked to get the construction manager sacked for lying about our overtime agreement. We not only won the dispute but got paid for the time we lost and for the overtime we hadn't been working when we should have."

"After three weeks of Glasnost we were finally transferred to a site where I was elected delegate and Robin Thompson, co-delegate, was elected. We were called off the site and we immediately called a meeting and scored a win of claims."

"And we said them we wanted a quick award!"

"They could and did we get a fringe, a pay increase, better and several other amenities which the neighbouring Frober Bros and Hansen and Yatchers sites were not getting."

"We also told them we'd only work with paid up members. We were called off the site and we immediately called a meeting and scored a win of claims."

CONCRETE BATCHERS

Our last issue incorrectly reported that BLK and the AWU had been excluded from the BLF elections because of their boycott of an \$8 levy.

This information was obtained from activists in the NSW branch, and it was only after printing that we learned it was incorrect.

The actual grounds for exclusion were various other technicalities, including the alleged late arrival of nomination forms.

And we need mass meetings of all the sites, rather than just fragmented site meetings.

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African townships in Capetown set fire to their shacks in protest against Government bulldozing them to clear the area. The South African administration is trying to force them to go and live in the barren Transkei, which it claims is now their "homeland".

Behind Fraser's Trade Transcendence

The papers here have been running a lot of stories lately about Australia's trade with South-East Asia.

It appears that Malcolm Fraser is getting himself into a bit of hot water, with Malaysia threatening a trade war against Australia.

What's behind it all? The wrangle at the summit meeting of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, was a fairly heated one. Australian bosses and bosses from the ASEAN countries.

The five nations in ASEAN - Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore, Indonesia and the Philippines - plus Frasee and the Japanese Prime Minister, Fukuda, are trying to extract trade concessions.

The ASEAN bosses are after a bigger share of the Australian market for their new export orientated industries. Industry built by the sweat of poverty state controlled unions and huge armies of unemployed.

elsewhere

That does not mean the workers are better off, but it does mean the bosses think they can get more if they move elsewhere.

So Japanese business is on the move again and the ASEAN leaders are developing their industries. From Japan it seems they will get big handouts and also get a big raffle off.

And from Australia, they will send some of us in first time for Frasee to open the

country up to cheap imports of clothing.

To appease the ASEAN leaders Frasee offered them a package of more aid and talks over trade. But to extra \$100 million over 3 years is only a minor sweetener. Their target is still greater access to Australian markets.

In the battle for foreign markets, the weak ASEAN countries start off behind the schedule. So their economies develop late and weaker, while the rich western economies maintain their economic superiority.

Japan's PM, Fukuda, said that Japan's economic boom is "not a gift from God" but the result of their own efforts.

Yes, but some of us in first class and some of us in steerage.

They suffer almost constant harassment thanks to the activities of a dedicated band of black nationalists.

10 YEARS OF GREED, MURDER OPPRESSION AND TRIGUÉ

In his TV series on The Age of Uncertainty, John Galbraith has set out to show that the ideas of economists, both when they are right and when they are wrong, are more powerful than is commonly understood.

This is a highly entertaining program. It's in a language that ordinary people can understand and full of film clips and cardboard cut-outs of famous people.

His facts are sometimes wrong and always oversimplified. The program on colonialism contains some thinly disguised racism.

But we'll all forget the detail and afterwards we'll be left with a feeling for the way that economic ideas have grown and changed with every change in human history.

As long as people made for themselves they didn't need economic theories. But with the growth of trade, the world became more complicated.

Prices rose and fell for no obvious reason, goods became scarce or there was a glut. It was the same with jobs. The anarchy of the market bewildered people 2000 years ago, just as the forces of nature terrified primitive tribes.

Trade gave birth to the industrial revolution. People were driven off the land into the towns, and found work in the new factories. The anarchy of the market was added the misery of the crowded tenements, and the alienation of the assembly line.

Poor farmers had at least been the masters of their simple tools. Now the workmen became the slaves of giant machines, which set the rhythm and pace of work. The capitalist, who both ran and profited from the new system, needed to find some order in the chaos of economic life. They needed to be able to justify a system which caused such misery.

This task fell to writers such as Adam Smith and David Ricardo. As Galbraith makes clear, these classical economists called a spade a spade. They called their system capitalism rather than "free enterprise", and they recognized that the

workers lived in poverty and squalor. But they insisted that the poverty could only be made worse by any well-meaning attempt to regulate the economy. The market, said Adam Smith, was guided by an "invisible hand" which kept things in order.

The classical economists also studied the problem of where wealth comes from. David Ricardo stated openly that all value was produced by human labour. This contention was directed against the rich nobles, who contributed nothing to society.

But the theory backed up by these economists of the capitalist class who Karl Marx took to studying in 1842 was the product of labour, said Marx, doesn't all the value belong to the labourer? And if that is so, profits are nothing but exploitation.

In early episodes of The Age of Uncertainty, Galbraith appears sympathetic to the Marxist view. Between his barbed wit and the cardboard cutouts of Smith and the others, the classical economists become figures of fun.

In his second program, Galbraith devotes a whole hour to the greed and gnosty of the early capitalists. We see Jim Fisk, who bought judges and even a State legislature to get control of a railway in New York State. He used it to fleece his stockholders, and became notorious throughout America.

By contrast Cornelius Vanderbilt, who "robbed his customers rather than his stockholders" became an esteemed public figure. He spent \$5 million to build a great mansion in Newport, Rhode Island and \$20 million to buy his daughter an aristocratic husband.

The third evening is devoted to Karl Marx. If Galbraith is sympathetic to the man, it is because he obviously doesn't understand him. The young Marx appears as a mild-mannered democrat, and the mature man as a moderate, never restraining his injudicious followers.



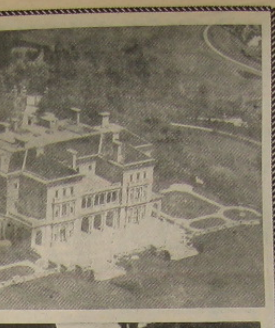
For a better picture of the young Marx, read these verses by a fellow student:
*"Grimly he strides, raving on his heel,
Foaming with rage, as if he would steel
The tent of the sky, and drag it to earth.
His fist is clenched, he rages without compare,
As if ten thousand deities had him by the hair."*

And shortly before his death he was still "the best calumniated and the most manned man of London". Galbraith would like to reduce Marx to his own modest stature, to a Harvard professor rather than a revolutionary communist. We will see why as the series unfolds.

Having seen early capitalism, we will look at Soviet "communism", then proceed to the theories of Keynes and the mixed economy. Finally we will encounter the ideas of Galbraith himself, his vision of reaching a more humane society by reform.

He believes capitalism is transforming itself. The big monopolies have created a new class of "organization

TOM O'LINCOLN
reviews the new TV series
The Age of Uncertainty
by John Kenneth Galbraith



Mrs William K. Vanderbilt in the Venetian gown she wore for a housewarming ball at her new New York mansion. The party cost an estimated \$250,000.

regulate the state. The pluton and crooks still run industry, though they are more discreet today, and the anarchy of the market has not disappeared either.

That is why we are entering not only an Age of Uncertainty, but a new era of crisis and revolution. Ask the workers in the car industry, or the peoples of Southern Africa. The new power of the multinational corporations hasn't done them an ounce of good.

The working class around the world are fighting the effects of the world crisis for

The growth of the capitalist market created debate about all economic questions — not least wages. In this article from the British "Labour Standard" in 1961, Marx's comrade-in-arms Frederick Engels explains the revolutionary socialist's approach to the idea of

'A fair day's pay for a fair day's work'

THIS has now become the motto of the English working-class movement for the last fifty years. It did good service in the time of the rising Trades Unions after the repeal of the infamous Combination Laws in 1824; it did still better service in the time of the glorious Chartist movement when the English workmen marched at the head of the European working class.

But times are moving on, and a good many things which were desirable and necessary fifty and even thirty years ago are now antiquated and would be completely out of place.

Does the old, time-honoured watchword too belong to them?

A fair day's wage for a fair day's work? But what is a fair day's wage and what is a fair day's work? How are they determined by the worker under modern society, and how do they develop itself?

For an answer to this we must not apply to the science of morals or of law and equity, nor to any sentimental feeling of humanity, justice, or even charity. What is morally fair, what is even fair in law, may be far from being socially fair.

Social fairness or unfairness is decided by one science alone — the science which deals with the material facts of production and exchange, the science of political economy.

Now what does political economy call a fair day's wages and a fair day's work?

Simply the rate of wages and the length and intensity of a day's work which are determined by competition of employers and employees in the open market. And what are they when thus determined?

A fair day's wage, under normal conditions is the sum required to procure to the labourer the means of existence necessary, according to the standard of life of his station and country, to keep himself in working order and to propagate his race.

The actual rate of wages, with the fluctuations of trade, may be some times above, sometimes below this rate, but under fair conditions that rate ought to be the average of all fluctuations.

A fair day's work is that length of working day and that intensity of actual work which expends one day's full working power of the workman without encroaching upon his capacity for the same amount of work for the next and the following day.

The transaction, thus, may be thus described — the workman gives to the Capitalist his full day's working power; that is, so much of it as he can give without rendering impossible the continuous repetition of the transaction.

Capital exchange he receives just as much, and no more, of the necessaries of life as is required to keep up the repetition of the same bargain every day. The workman gives as much as the Capitalist gives as little, as the nature of the bargain would admit.

the very last man, woman, or child of this army of reserve shall have found work — which happens in times of frantic over-production alone — until they will its competition keep down wages, and by its resistance alone strengthen the power of Capital in its struggle with Labour.

Does the rate with which Capital is not only handcarried, it has to drag Labour not only handcarried to its feet. Yet this is far from being Capitalist political economy.

But let us inquire out of what fund does Capital pay these very fair wages? Out of capital, of course. But capital produces no value. Labour is, besides the earth, the only source of wealth; capital itself is nothing but the stored-up produce of labour.

So that the wages of Labour are paid out of labour, and the working man is paid out of his own produce. According to what we may call common fairness, the wages of the labourer ought to consist in the produce of his labour.

But that would not be far according to political economy. On the contrary, the produce of the workman's labour goes to the Capitalist, and the workman gets out of it no more than he has necessary of life.

And thus the end of this unworkably "fair" use of competition is that the produce of the labour of those who do work, gets unworkably accumulated in the hands of those who do not work, and becomes in their hands the most powerful means to enslave the very men who produced it.

But let us look a little deeper into the matter. As, according to political economy, wages and working days are fixed by competition, it seems necessary to require that both sides should have the same fair start on equal terms.

But it is not the case. The Capitalist, if he cannot agree with the Labourer, can afford to wait, and live upon his capital. The workman, if he has but wages to live upon, and must therefore take work when, where, and at what terms he can get it.

The workman has no fair start. He is fearfully handicapped by hunger. Yet, according to the political economy of the Capitalist class, that is the very pink of fairness.

But it is a mere trifle. The application of mechanical power, and machinery to new trades, and the extension and improvement of machinery in trades already subjected to it, can turn out to work more and more quickly, and may be made to advance faster than that at which these improvements are made by the manufacturers of the country.

It is not the "hand" form a real industrial army of reserve for the use of Capital. If trade is bad they may starve, but they are ready at hand to expand production, and

Possession of the means of work — raw material, factories, machinery — by the working people themselves.

Frederick Engels

Between the lines

THE WHITESUPREMACIST STATE OF SOUTH AFRICA HAS THE ATOMIC BOMB

For over an year, the United States has supplied South Africa with nuclear fuel and part of the technology for

that bomb. The first "nuclear cooperation" pact between the United States and South Africa was signed in 1957.

SECS BIG STRIKE

The main argument against the Newport Power Station on the health of people in Melbourne, especially in its working class western suburbs.

Now we can see just how devastating Newport might be if the health of people living near the SEC's present power station in the Latrobe Valley is any guide.

A recent Monash University report has come up with some horrifying facts on the damage done to health in the area. For instance, the death rate from leukaemia in male migrants is 110% higher than the Victorian average.

And while we are talking about the government of the man who believes that the world wasn't meant to be easy. Do you remember the constant and well publicised complaints of Tami Fraser that the Prime Minister's Lodge was unforgivable and poorly furnished? The government has set up an "Australia" fund to allow people to help furnish official government houses. It will receive donations of cash, but works and furnishings for the Lodge, Government House, Kimbriki House and Admiralty House. The idea is to preserve historic and artistic pieces of furniture for future generations.

At a conference of 95% of Australians of this generation are not going to see those historical and cultural treasures because we don't get involved in the Lodge or Government House. But at least the Minister has been persuaded. And, finally, secondarily, issues will be greatly improved.

by DAVE NEEDHAM

The past was reaffirmed in 1974 and extended till the year 2007. It includes provisions allowing South Africa to buy "enriched uranium", the basic fuel for atomic weapons, from the United States.

Enriched uranium sales from the U.S. to South Africa actually began over ten years ago, in 1965.

That was the same year that South African scientists first announced they had the "capacity" for developing nuclear weapons.

From Lyndon Johnson on, every American President knew that the U.S. was exporting the material for a South African atom bomb.

To date, the U.S. has sold 229 pounds of enriched uranium to South Africa.

"The U.S. government set up a private corporation called "U.S. Nuclear Inc.," based in

Washington, D.C. to handle the uranium sales to South Africa. It appears less directly involved than American and Canadian firms such as General Atomics, Westinghouse and Pelindaba.

And three years after the Ford administration's official completion of the South African Atomic Energy Board.

These facts were made last year by the AFRICANA NEWS, a newsletter published by the American Overseas Union, an anti-apartheid group in the U.S.

That means the atom bomb stands ready to be defended against any rule in South Africa that might threaten the interests of the United States.

South Africa's nuclear program is being used to defend colonialism and apartheid rule in South Africa.

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Mal's ruffled everyone who has their own backyards and secret plots.

Ordinary people have to put up with insults and chiding lip service.

But for Malcolm Fraser nothing less than a full scale police hunt is considered to smooth his ruffled pride.

He has ordered Commonwealth Police and security agencies (ASIO) to identify anti-uranium demonstrators who protested their hatred of the American U.S.W. on Friday 25 August.

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THE GREAT URANIUM DECISION - NO SURPRISES AND NO BRUISES

A SURPRISE it may not have been, but the Fraser Government's decision to allow uranium mining could well be used as the issue leading to an early election.

The Liberal's tough packaging, Fraser's keenness to play the martyr at demonstrations and Anthony's tub-thumping about possible union made this crystal clear.

With everything quiet on the railways and the wharves, the money they are available for TV and newspaper ads would make a referendum campaign just as it has overseas.

No uranium referendum is going to solve the problem of where to put the waste products. No referendum is going to stop uranium mining in outback and inner cities.

It is clear that means that no referendum can stop the movement against uranium mining.

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Too ready to avoid an issue, especially uranium. Bob Hawke has got the ACTU Executive on its feet for a referendum.

This position is a lot weaker than the ALP's recent policy and would ensure victory for the Uranium Production Forum.

dominate

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STOP THESE PACISIS

TWO racist academics whose theories have bolstered anti-working class regimes around the world are touring Australia this month.

Professor Ha Jiyun and Professor Adriano Panizza's "genetic socialism" is Hitler all over again - blacks are less intelligent than whites because they're black.

Their theories are only at their academic and both have been pushed through of universities in Britain and the USA.

They argue four times intelligence can be measured by IQ tests and intelligence is inherited, black is less intelligent than white because blacks are less intelligent because of their race.

IQ tests are not objective but they do test the ability of people to handle certain situations.

The blacks have built social values of white middle class society, such as the importance of bank saving and being on time at school work.



Anti-Uranium demonstrators march on the Adelaide Stock Exchange.

IT isn't just the Reform and Mail workers who are being sold out by the Labor Party and union bureaucrats.

Ted Zaphir, the Stornes and Packers official charged by the Bieksa-Ferresen government is being hit high and dry in his fight to stay free.

The right-wing dominated Queensland ALP has been

promoting Trades Hall to avoid confronting the government to defend Ted Zaphir. Tom Burns has been urging unionists not to "take the bait" at job has been sending out.

In Trades Hall itself, a left-wing amendment from Brian Burns of the AMSWU, calling for mass stopwork meetings and rank and file involvement was voted down two to one.

700-300 Militants voted against the withdrawal because it is only on trial for two months, with negotiations after one month.

Ted Zaphir next victim of moderation

The TLC executive urged moderation on the delegates to protect the ALP's image and not spoil their chances in the state election.

During July, Bob Hawke met the Justice Minister, Lickeen, to discuss a deal dropping the original charges. Bieksa-Ferresen jumped the gun and made a statement saying the law should be enforced.

Work meetings will be held wherever there is any other reduction in penalty shifts.

Workings at the Refram Mail Exchange have stood up to the hysterical ranting of the government and won a partial victory.

They had originally threatened to strike against this withdrawal in defence of their existing roster. Australia Post was planning to charge their pickers by \$20-30 per week by changing roster as a condition

Sydney cops last in uranium

MEANWHILE, the Department of Social Security finds itself unable to help Kevin Drenell, the Glenroy (Vic) father of fourteen who finds himself unable to support his family and pay housing commitments on his factory hand's wage and who is considering leaving his wife because his family would actually get more money on the deserted wife pension than they get from his pay.

ONE of the more sinister pieces of information in the budget papers is an allocation of \$26,000 for the Commonwealth Police to be paid to the Australian National University for "development of voice prints."

Presumably the A.N.U. is engaged in research not extremely socially useful practice of "hugging" kids for a forthcoming P.D. threat entitled "How to make the charges stick after you've tapped the phone."

AND while we are talking about the government of the man who believes that the world wasn't meant to be easy. Do you remember the constant and well publicised complaints of Tami Fraser that the Prime Minister's Lodge was unforgivable and poorly furnished? The government has set up an "Australia" fund to allow people to help furnish official government houses. It will receive donations of cash, but works and furnishings for the Lodge, Government House, Kimbriki House and Admiralty House. The idea is to preserve historic and artistic pieces of furniture for future generations.

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by DAVE NEEDHAM

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PARIAL VICTORY AT REDFERN

WORKERS at the Refram Mail Exchange have stood up to the hysterical ranting of the government and won a partial victory.

They had originally threatened to strike against this withdrawal in defence of their existing roster. Australia Post was planning to charge their pickers by \$20-30 per week by changing roster as a condition

for introducing the 36 3/4 hour week.

As a result of a cave-in by the Postal Commission, most of the penalty shifts have been abolished. In return, the Postal Commission is recommending the 36 3/4 hour week to the Arbitration Commission.

The vote to accept the new deal was passed down

700-300 Militants voted against the withdrawal because it is only on trial for two months, with negotiations after one month.

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I want to join the International Socialists

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____ PHONE NO. _____ TRADE UNION _____

Clip and Post to: 18 National Strategy PO Box 46, Flemington 3031

THE BATTLE 10 SEPTEMBER 1977 PAGE 3

THE FIGHT FOR A BETTER LIFE

GEORGE Slater, head of the postal workers' union is also a Postal Commissioner.

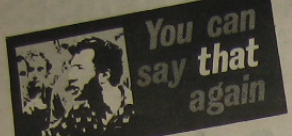
From what the workers say from the Sydney Mail Exchange, he spends most of his time trying to mother strikes.

In another part of town we find Charlie Oliver, long time kingpin in the Australian Workers' Union. Charlie recently said in the cops against his own members.

From one end of the country to the other, militant workers are meeting, fighting, hoodlums and sometimes actual scabbing on the part of their officials.

Your first reaction might be to say that they're corrupt. Some of them are, too. But many more are honest and hard working.

The second reaction of many workers is that a conservative bureaucracy is inevitable in any large organisation. Yes, Lenin's Bolshevik Party, which had 350,000 members, led one of the great revolutions of all time. Nobody ever called Lenin

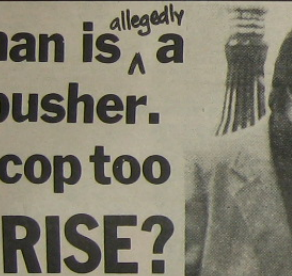


with Tom O'Lincoln

conservative! The best explanation for why union leaders become conservative may be that one offered by Sydney and Brisbane Webb, who wrote around the turn of the century. They knew what they were talking about for they were party chief with the union bureaucrats of their day.

"To the ordinary Trade Unionist the claim of the workman is that of Justice," wrote the Webb.

"But when, as (an official)



Constable Philip Bridick leaving the court.

Woodhouse allegedly said the deal in "anything from marbas to cocaine," and that he had the North Shore market in his hands.

Letchford then spoke to Sergeant Letchford of Police Internal Affairs branch and later agreed to record conversations while wearing a concealed tape recorder.

Wearing concealed recorders Letchford allegedly taped 4 conversations, the first at Fitzclarence House where Woodhouse was on guard duty.

The second was at Circular Quay where he picked up a sample from Woodhouse, and M. K.M. Walker, DM, said, "Buying the gun to shoot pig game is a pretty ambiguous statement."

The undercover policeman, John Letchford, is it is alleged that on April 29 Woodhouse said to him: "What's business take out rubbing his thumb and forefinger together.

By one day we'll change all that.

comes in" will see how he worked on Jack, the militant engineering official.

"He goes to the villa in a lower middle class and his wife changes acquaintances with the help of his new neighbours, necessarily people more of their ideas.

Predictably, our official finds himself in pre-conflict with the rank and file. While for them the struggle is necessary it seems like a lot of bother for no benefit.

Influenced by his middle class friends, whose ideas he envies, he is inclined to blame the members for the conflict.

To blame a small group of "troublemakers" seems to be the "communist" line. Even now, as Webb says, "If you look down upon them all as 'common workers'... they will not be affected by the hat and good overcoat, will smart in a bridle, curse what but deep eyes muttered upon them by members looking stony at work."

"At last the climax comes. A great strike breaks in a desperate war. Unions are dissolved by dictate for the hat and unwhimsical work what is small sympathy and man's demands, and eventually struck a compromise.

"The gathering storm breaks. At his next appearance before a general meeting of 'treachery and betrayal' raised 'Alas! it is not I, not He! Not his morality but his intellect is corrupted'."

How well the Webb wrote 70 years ago! A perfect picture of modern day officials. From their disingenuous it is completely clear that they are to be replaced by officials with "good" intentions, but with fewer staff. People are leaving every day with nervous trouble or just plain slip-up.

Three thousand more jobs are to be lost in the coming year. Fraser wants the legislation to deal with the resistance public servants may put up.

The day the legislation was passed through Parliament and the Redfern workers voted to continue their resistance, Bob Hawke worked out a peace plan with the AFU leadership members into resuming normal duties.

Fraser was delighted. He proclaimed the breakthrough in the mail dispute was due to experience has shown that Fraser would not be deterred, by lack of resistance of the sitting employees and the working class as a whole.

Members of a number of public service unions, and fire reform groups have been meeting to organise a real campaign.

The first action was to organise a student committee meeting at Torson (HQ) for third division clerks.

But unless a belated fight

FRASER'S NEW DOCKYARDS STOP IN PROTEST

THE DAY THE INDUSTRIAL LEGISLATION CAME DOWN, WORKERS IN MELBOURNE'S NAVAL DOCKYARDS WENT ON STRIKE IN PROTEST.

WE SPOKE TO GAVIN TULLOCH, A SHOP STeward AT THE DOCKYARDS.

"THE BLOKS WERE EXTREMELY ANGRY OF THE FACT BY THE LEGISLATION, NAKED THROUGH PARLIAMENT."

HE TOLD A STORY OF AN EXCHANGE BETWEEN RALPH WILKS, ABOUT SPEAKING AT AN INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS, AND GEORGE POLLOS, EMPLOYMENT GOVERNMENT, POLLOS SAID TO WILKS, "WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE BILL?" WILKS "WHAT BILL?" POLLOS: "THE BILL THAT I DESTROY THE TRADE UNION."

CURT SAID THE LEGISLATION WOULD ALLOW THE GOVERNMENT TO STAND DOWN WORKERS STRIKING OVER SUCH MATTERS AS CONDITIONS AND JOB SAFETY, AND THERE WOULD BE NO RIGHT OF APPEAL TO MASTER, LAW JUSTICE, OR ANY OTHER COURT.

ONE OF THE REASONS BEHIND THE GOVERNMENT'S MOVE IS THAT IT WANTS TO PROMOTE INDUSTRIAL ACTION AND SHIFT THE PUBLIC'S ATTENTION AWAY FROM UNEMPLOYMENT, WHICH CURT THINKS WILL REPLY BY 10% soon.

The Fraser Government is gearing up for an all-out offensive against the trade union movement.

That's the message to emerge from his latest anti-union exercise - the Commonwealth Employees (Employment Provisions) Act.

It also confirms that Fraser is presiding over the most rabidly anti-working class Government since Stanley Bruce.

Under the new legislation, Federal public servants are denied, not only the right to strike, but also the right to take any form of industrial action whatsoever.

The ferocity of the legislation surpassed even the political pundits who have been predicting for months that Fraser has been looking for an excuse to hold an early election on a "law and order" issue.

Many saw the Act as a ploy designed to bring on such a confrontation, particularly over the dispute at the Redfern Mail Exchange.

Postal workers at Redfern and elsewhere have taken industrial action to obtain the same working week (40 hours) as other Australia Post employees.

But if Fraser designed this legislation with an eye to an election this year, he also had other reasons.

Last year, public service jobs were cut by 12,000. There was a general meeting of protest meetings in the Social Security department.

It was expected to do more strikes, especially in the same working week (40 hours) as other Australia Post employees.

But if Fraser designed this legislation with an eye to an election this year, he also had other reasons.

WHAT THE ACT SAYS

7,000 rally in Melbourne

A WEEK after the legislation was passed, a mass meeting of CAGEO affiliated unions was held at Melbourne's Festival Hall.

After nearly two hours of long speeches from Hawke and the CAGEO executive, the official motion was moved which threatened industrial action if the Act was passed.

An amendment sponsored mainly by a group of rank-and-file militants called for a 24 hour stoppage if the Act was not repealed within one week.

Officials argued that this would play into Fraser's hands, in spite of official evidence to the contrary. However, when, although defeated, gained the support of about 2,000 of the 7,000.

The large vote for immediate action shows that the largely white collar workforce would have voted to strike if the CAGEO officials had not intervened. It would have been an important signal that CAGEO has never before called a strike.

Fraser would have reason to feel reluctant to invoke the Act.

Concerra

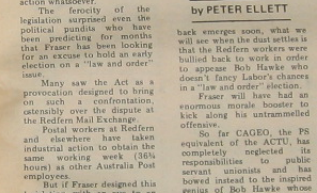
A MASS meeting of Canberra ACOA members was held in the Woden Town Square on the first working day after the Act was passed.

A number of motions condemning the Act were passed, but there was no call for action until an amendment was moved from the floor.

This amendment gave some force to the motion, speech-making that had gone before. It called for industrial action if the Act was not repealed, and was overwhelmingly supported by the 2,000 people at the meeting.

We Want Action

IN SYDNEY, a rally of public servants said a resolution demanding a 24 hour strike in the instant the new legislation is actually proclaimed. Public servants in Sydney are not content to wait and the new powers are actually used.



by PETER ELLETT

back emerges soon, what we will see when the dust settles is that the Redfern workers were bullied back to work in order to appear Bob Hawke who doesn't fancy Labor's chances in a "law and order" election.

Fraser will here had an enormous morale booster to kick along his untrammelled assault.

So far CAGEO, the PS equivalent of the ACTU, has completely neglected its responsibility as public servant unions and has bowed instead to the inspired genius of Bob Hawke whose solution, as usual, was to do nothing.

resistance

Three thousand more jobs are to be lost in the coming year. Fraser wants the legislation to deal with the resistance public servants may put up.

The day the legislation was passed through Parliament and the Redfern workers voted to continue their resistance, Bob Hawke worked out a peace plan with the AFU leadership members into resuming normal duties.

Fraser was delighted. He proclaimed the breakthrough in the mail dispute was due to experience has shown that Fraser would not be deterred, by lack of resistance of the sitting employees and the working class as a whole.

Members of a number of public service unions, and fire reform groups have been meeting to organise a real campaign.

The first action was to organise a student committee meeting at Torson (HQ) for third division clerks.



Part of the Melbourne Rally

How We're Fighting the Act

A general meeting of ACOA members at Telokong was held on Tuesday evening, the fourth in the series. The meeting was held at the Telokong Hotel. Bob Hawke himself had said that the legislation had to be made unworkable. But the official strategy was to wait until it had worked, and then fight back from a disadvantage.

This informal committee has resolved to continue meeting. At its last meeting on Tuesday last week, it decided the resolution was moved at

to support an AMSWU "street meeting" against the Act in Telokong on 12.12.30pm.

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MOR-

The Remnants that Won't Go Away

INDONESIA is trying yet again to finally crush Fretilin in East Timor.

The thousand troops are being sent for an assault on Fretilin's major positions in the mountains north of Dili. Indonesian officials can be easily seen talking about the operation made it out to be crushing of a "re-creating a new amnesty from Indonesia."

If Fretilin has been reduced to the importance of Dili in East Timor why does it need the full-scale mobilisation of 15 elephant-sized battalions to stamp it out?

The reason is of course that far from being on its last legs, Fretilin is still in control of 80-85% of the land area of East Timor.

Radio reports reaching Australia from Fretilin indicate that it is still not safe for the Indonesian soldiers in Dili to venture more than 500 yards out of the city.

That's basically been the situation since the Indonesians invaded in December 1975.

The only way they can hope to alter it is by mounting a full-scale assault on the mountains in the short dry season between September and November. Last year, even with the use of defoliants, they made little headway.

touchy

In fact, Indonesia is getting decidedly touchy about its operations in East Timor. They've officially denied the reports of the impending invasion — unfortunately for them, after the horse had bolted.

At always, Australian Ambassador to Jakarta Dock Wood has helped them out. He's pulled strings in the Foreign Affairs Department to ensure a total information blackout in both Jakarta and Canberra.

The secrecy is necessary to avoid a United Nations attack on Indonesia which could lead to further international pressure against military aid to the Jakarta generals.

An indication of Indonesia's growing isolation over Timor was the ALP's reaction to the invasion revelations.

desperate

Tom Uren described it as "A desperate attempt at a final solution to the situation by a corrupt clique of Jakarta desperate to avoid domestic unrest and international opposition to the brutal and unprovoked Indonesian invasion of East Timor."

Uren also criticised the Fraser government for not cutting military aid to Indonesia.

"How long can it keep up such a costly facade before it takes firm action against the Jakarta general?" Uren also criticised that Uren and George Whitlam was Labor's spokesman on the matter. But all that when he supported the plan of that was "a corrupt clique of Jakarta generals."

And, although the Labor Party has since changed its Timor policy, George has never given any indication that he himself has.



BARNEY MOKGATLE was the secretary of the Soweto Students Representative Council, which organised the uprising of 16 June 1976.

He fled to Botswana in September last year and is presently studying in London.

Despite his difficulties in getting a visa (Fraser attacks apartheid but some officials were a bit turned off by Barney's official "stalemate"), Barney is currently doing a speaking tour of Australia.

"The main thing is to tell the people in Australia what has been happening in South Africa. In speaking on how the black man is regarded by the white man, what has led to the demonstrations, what has led to the shootings.

"At the moment people are still dying... each moment each hour in the whole of South Africa a person is dying.

"It's a lie that the situation is very quiet at the moment. I know that the reports you get from South Africa are a person is dying, that men are being killed, that women and they don't want people to know what is actually happening in South Africa."

"...no sophisticated weapon in the world will defeat the people."

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After what he's seen in the last few years, Barney doesn't see much future for "reform" of apartheid.

"From 1912 our parents and the ANC have tried peaceful negotiations and there were non-violent protests. It was the police and the government which were using violence on our parents until 1960 when they left the country.

"When we started the rioting, the role, we found that we had to use violence to protect ourselves. The only language the white man in South Africa understands is the language of the gun because when you talk to him he doesn't understand."

"We believe that to get liberation we are going to have to fight and there will be a

Mick Armstrong talks to BARNEY MOKGATLE, exiled secretary of the Soweto Students Representative Council and a leader of the Soweto uprising.

Barney began by giving his first hand account of the demonstration in Soweto which led to the massacre of 170 black students by the police.

"The whites are quite aware that education for blacks is inferior in South Africa. Ours is the type of education that only makes us better instruments for working in the future."

"We organised a march against the Afrikaans usage (compulsory teaching of Afrikaans in black schools in Soweto).

"He organised the demonstration, but the police themselves organised the rioting... we didn't think that afternoon that some of our

friends would be dead."

"I saw a student die in front of us... I don't believe anyone knows the exact number of students killed last year... but it was much greater than the official toll of 618... there were mass graves outside the townships.

"There must have been thousands who fled to Mozambique, Tanzania, Britain etc." In November and December, alone there were

Even in exile, black students are hounded by Vontser's state police, the Bureau of State Security (BOSSE).

"They can't do it directly but three months ago a

"...at this moment, people are still dying."

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Barney expect to replace apartheid?

"Revolution changes the whole system, the whole government. Then we can change the education system, we can change everything in South Africa."

"If white people want to stay in South Africa that's fine, but we know that some people are not prepared to... We are fighting for equal rights. We don't want to oppress anybody."

"The arms the soldiers of the recent regime use to shoot at us, those are the arms we are going to use... I can't tell you how we're going to get it... because BOSSE would also be aware of the fact that we want to get those arms."

What kind of society does

PARSONS' BROKEN PROMISES

THE Ralph M. Parsons Company has a long history of broken promises and ignoring agreements on the Lower Mooloo site.

For example:

1. They told people with out even notifying the delegates.

2. Ignored seniority agreement with the AWU.

3. Constantly broke the rules in their own safety manual.

But the latest effort by Parsons is the lowest of low, and EIU members on the site are not taking it lying down.

Parsons fawn a dozen electricians from Adelaide to guard them six weeks work and return air fare.

Inside South Africa, the crackdown has been on a earnest this year, 40 bag schools have been closed. The black-proposed Soweto paper 'The World is being that down by Vontser's Justice Ministry Kruger for "inciting violence."

Barney remarked: "His government is always scared of the truth... it's a paper tells the people that the government wants them to know that it's fine."

"But now that the BEEF is starting to form what exactly happening, don't be afraid. The World is at last paper."

Despite the repression and physical extermination of the black movement, Barney has no doubt that the struggle will intensify.

"The students said themselves that no matter who will into exile, or were arrested, detained or shot... they are prepared to go on. You find nothing when the shooting are going on at the demonstrations the students are still prepared to go and do whatever they want to do."

He felt that Australia's opposition to such matter as sporting links with South Africa had certainly improved over the six years.

However he was quite definite that countries which opposed apartheid would look off all links with the 'Vontser regime'.

"Now, on this thing of boycotting trade links with the black man is the one going nothing to low... we own nothing at the moment... low are the white man."

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CALL FOR CROSSBOWS

THE building workers' general strike for a 30 dollar increase is at the crossroads.

It started out as a campaign involving major unions in the industry. Now only two are left, the Builders' Labourers Federation and the Plumbers and Gasfitters.

The tradesmen's unions — the BWU and the Carpenters and Joiners — have given up the general strike and gone into arbitration.

They've lifted their ban and it looks like the Master Builders are going to be able to settle with them for a few allowance increases amounting to about three or four dollars in all. Not a huge price to pay for quitting the campaign.

The tradesmen's unions may have been bought off and thrown in the towel. But that doesn't give Norm Gallagher the right to mouth off at them.

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BUILDING WORKERS CHARTER

IN ADELAIDE
CONTACT— Flat 5, 233 Burbridge Rd.,
Crowsnest, 5033 Phone 272-6313

have been able to retract if the campaign was getting someone.

But general tactics, while they sound militant, are mostly just irritations to the bosses. They don't stop production — and that's what was campaigns.

Guerrilla tactics are too easy to sidetrack or ignore. The responsibility for stopping a concrete pour, for example, falls on the shoulders of a few workers in the crew crew.

It's easy for the bosses to victimise them and direct the struggle into a fight for re-employment.

With the bosses currently hitting back with withholding deduction, docking pay and cutting holiday entitlements, the responsibility for stopping a concrete pour, for example, falls on the shoulders of a few workers in the crew crew.

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In fact, the general campaign really only exists in Melbourne and Adelaide.

Do building workers really have to choose between the tender mercies of Arbitration and a general campaign that is doomed for failure?

The answer is: neither alternative.

A genuine national campaign... involving not just workers at 40 major projects like the current one down — but all workers in the industry. As the campaign takes on almost strike action and is run by mass meetings instead of office desks. One that uses guerrilla tactics the way it should be used — as a softener-up instead of a substitute.

That way the \$30 campaign will be a real success. But time is fast running out.



THREE Hounded workers at the Belconnen (A.C.T.) construction site walked off the job on Friday 26 August when one of their workmates was killed.

Paul Leary, a bricklayer labourer, was electrocuted by a damaged lead attached to a cement mixer.

At the stop-work meeting the workers hit the boom, O'Connor/Costain, David Venture, with a log of safety claims.

demanded:

1. Adequate compensation for the family of the killed worker.

2. Employment of a full-time safety officer on the site.

3. Government regulations to be strictly observed.

4. A crew of licensed scaffolding workers to be employed on the site.

The workers also instructed their union officials to circulate a petition around construction sites calling for a public inquiry into the operation of the scaffolding and lifts at the Belconnen site.

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Factor at State Bank

Costains was giving overtime to some workers at the site, such as crane crew, but not to others — the Builders Labourers delegate and I called a meeting. The delegate decided to put a complete overtime ban on the site. The company claims that the Builders Labourers delegate gave them permission to use a crane crew one Sunday. Whether this is true or not, other labourers were used as well — scaffolders, for example.

When workers at the site heard of this, they met and put a demand that he be paid the overtime. They also proposed a solution for the overtime problem.

We had a sit-down strike for six days in to get the company to accept the proposition. Then the blocks got condemned in the Press.

Vince Ruffa, the BWU delegate at the site, told the Batters that the dispute began as a result of overtime.

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BACK ON THE JOB

EL JOY DELEGATE, Dave Thomason has won his job back after nearly three months work has again started on the Childers Hospital site in North Adelaide. When S.A. Weir had backed down, they said that Dave had to give up his job as a result of a sit-down strike. But when they backed down completely, after one day, work again stopped in protest against Fraser's union decision and the Foreman has now been asked to go on work.

They don't exactly *eat* their food, do they, but...

Lead is one of the oldest toxic hazards in industry.

It can cause serious illness and death for the workers at Chloride Batteries, Padstow (NSW), Lucas, Cheltenham (Vic) and all who work with it.

They know that if their lives are going to be protected it will be up to them to fight for safety standards on the job.

We talked to the Chloride workers about the job, its dangers, their worries and what they going to do about it.

"YOU'LL never see any one with rosy cheeks on the lead casting machine."

"They're all very pale. There have been cases of workers being laid off but the company tells them they're unwell, had hygiene, don't look after themselves. They don't exactly call you filthy, but they might as well."

That is life at Chloride Batteries in Padstow (Sydney). The workers, who

by **JEAN RHODES**

recently completed a six week strike in defence of wages and against speed-up, must face health hazards daily as well.

If a worker gets laid off it's because he is working in a section with poor ventilation, or because he isn't supplied with the protective gear he needs.

But management finds it far more economical to force away workers of poor

hygiene than to install an effective ventilation system or buy protective clothing. They are not impressed with workers' complaints. They figure there are plenty of unemployed people to replace those who don't accept the conditions at Chloride.

Lead is dangerous in all its forms: the metal, its oxides, salts, and organic compounds.

People working with lead are required to undergo periodic blood tests to determine the amount of lead in their body. Blood tests are performed on a regular basis according to your level of exposure.

If you're working in a high risk area you might have a test every week, and if in a relatively low risk area, once a year.

The very fact that these tests are necessary indicates just how dangerous the substance is.

It is vital to have these tests done because a person suffering from lead intoxication may show only very general symptoms if they are neglected, and exposure is



The sullen expression of a lead cast factory — poisoning causes subtle changes in character and behaviour through brain damage.

"My god, it's a brothel. All the lions you've made over the years, the conditions are shocking."

John McBeal, L.C.

continued. They can result in chronic lead poisoning.

The Chloride workers are not told that their blood lead level is. They only begin to realise it might be high when they're transferred to another section.

The workers insist that they have a right to know how much lead is in their bodies.

"What we want is a board with all the blood levels freely displayed," they say. "But the company's doctor reckons it's unethical."

It is certainly not ethical to withhold information — the doctor doesn't own the workers' bodies.

In Australia a blood level of 40 micrograms per 100 millilitres of blood is considered acceptable, and a level of 80 is considered excessive. But there is still considerable debate about whether these figures are too high.

It is standard practice for acceptable levels to be set at the maximum and not at the minimum tolerance level.

In his book *Hazards of Work*, Patrick Kinnerley says: "Individually, 40 micrograms per 100 millilitres is high enough, but a better starting of bad conditions is the average level for a group

of workers.

"If this goes above 30 micrograms conditions probably need investigating." At Chloride Batteries a worker is moved to a less hazardous area if his lead blood level is between 60-80 micrograms. He is often moved to a job which is less interesting and has lower pay.

"He gets no compensation for the loss of health he suffered whilst working in a high risk area."

Workers don't have the right, as they do in Canada, to refuse to work in a job they consider dangerous to their health.

Lead dust accumulates on overalls, which are washed by the company. Showers are supplied. But lead dust accumulates in socks and undershorts.

"You haven't brought fresh socks and undershorts because you don't know what you're going to be doing from day to day. What is the point of having a shower and putting on contaminated clothes?"

"So what do you do? It has to be in a fairly good wash, and when you get home you get all your gear off and have a better wash."

"If the company was for

"Sometimes you get a rash. Safety meetings are a waste of time. They only want to go down and drink coffee and push on biscuits. Look at a few graphs and have a friendly chat. They're not interested in the welfare of the workers. Since the strike, union delegates have given some thought to the kind of changes they will be demanding."

For a start they want respiratory equipment with an oxygen supply, for work on jobs with a high lead hazard — not just the surgical masks they have now.

They want terylene underwear supplied for workers whose clothes get contaminated.

Finally, they want changes in the shower rooms. As in mines, they want to go in one end of the amenities in their work clothes, then after they're washed and changed, they want to leave by another entrance.

unwashed

That way you don't brush by an unwashed shower by the way out.

These measures are just the start. And even these first steps will only be won through a determined strike. But something has to be done.

Some time back John McBeal of the Trades and Labour Council raised the alarm. He said he made many a trip to home, and said: "My god, it's a brothel. All the lions you've made over the years, the conditions are shocking."

Quite elegantly dressed McBeal was right. It was being left up to the ranks and led by change. Rank and file for change.

HAVE YOU GOT LEAD POISONING?

HOW does lead poison and what are the symptoms?

Every day we get a tiny dose of lead in the food we eat and the air we breathe. Most of it passes right through your gut but a little is absorbed and ends up in your blood circulating in the bone marrow.

Because our bodies get rid of lead very fast it is a cumulative poison. Just living in town or in a city is possible to have more than 40 micrograms of lead in every 100 millilitres of blood.

Doubling of this concentration is considered serious poisoning. For workers in industry this could happen readily.

When your body can't dispose of the lead quickly enough, as when exposed to air, the level of lead in your blood rises and begins to poison your tone.

One of the first effects is to poison your tone marrow, which interferes with the production of red blood cells and makes you anaemic.

It also attacks your nervous system causing a weakness in muscles and more severely, affects your brain and your behaviour.

The first symptoms of lead poisoning are a feeling of tiredness, and vague muscular aches followed by constipation, colic, headaches and paleness.

Colic is a very bad stomach pain which usually follows a few days of constipation.

Anemia from lead poisoning is not usually serious, but makes you tired or breathless.

Other symptoms are muscle weakness, which occurs after working with lead of several years. It attacks the muscles you use the most. Typically it affects your right wrist so that your hand drops when you try to hold it up.

The most serious form of lead poisoning is lead encephalopathy, which leaves the brain permanently damaged and will probably kill you. Symptoms are delirium, paralysis or numbness of parts of the body, fits and coma.

SEPTEMBER 11, 1973. The "Chileno" experiment" was dead, and a week later, drowned in blood.

Four years ago this week, the government of Salvador Allende was overthrown by a military junta, which unleashed one of the greatest waves of terror in human history.

Thousands of workers, Communists, socialists and trade unionists were rounded up and shot. Most were killed. Strikes, effective trade unions and political parties were banned.

And over the next four years, the country people of Chile have been starved and suppressed by a "Marxist" government and its laws with Castro, was nothing more nor less than a classic coup d'etat.

The "Marxist" government of Allende was elected to power and committed to building "socialism without radical class" through a peaceful, constitutional process.

Allende was the leader of the Popular Unity coalition, comprising the Communist Party, the Socialist Party and a smaller middle-class radical party.

Although Popular Unity had only won 36% of the vote, they were able to form a government, provided they made a series of promises to the country's institutions.

Allende promised to maintain the independence of the army and the Church and produced a plan for mass and education.

The program of Popular Unity was the nationalisation of companies, the redistribution of wealth towards the poor and the expansion of both local and long out agricultural reforms.

The first year of the Allende government saw a minor boom. Just like Labor in Australia. But then things got tough. The boom led to a major recession and the economy began to sink.

The government had completed its nationalisation program — in fact, the working class took things into its own hands and more than doubled the number of businesses were nationalised. Many of these were later handed back to their former owners by an embarrassed Allende.

By 1972, the economy was paralysed. The stock market was crashing, there were shortages and black markets. The exchange rate was being openly floated and inflation began to mushroom. The US had organised an economic blockade.

On September 11, 1973, the military moved. The coup had been openly planned and talked about in public for weeks. Everyone knew there was to be a coup. Yet the workers refused to be the actors.

Along with the communists and socialists, the strikers kept prattling on about treating the army as "economism" and "strike

In October, shopkeepers, lorry owners, professional men and businessmen went on "strike". The workers organised their own response. They organised distribution and production. They took over the running of the factories that the boss had closed down. They beat the first offensive.

The workers were showing a way forward. But they could not survive much longer without drastic solutions to the "problem" of socialism.

And the working class movement is still bedevilled by people who fear the workers by parties like the Italian Communists who are in a "business compromise" with Italian capitalism to run the country.

On 29 June, an impatient army officer ordered troops under his command to attack the presidential palace. They were quickly suppressed by regular soldiers. The main

promised by the previous conservative government.

By now, Chile was in deep crisis. The military was determined to get rid of Allende and was waging all-out war against him in the papers. He was pitifully downcast in his home, and his links with the Castroist guerrillas grew up.

The stippled coup of June 29 threw up a second wave of "conservative" militant workers organisations set up to resist the move. From the start, the government was determined to either take over or suppress the cordons.

Allende credited the regular army for putting down the stippled coup. He described them as "professional soldiers" who would never intervene in politics. He called them heroes.

He introduced the military into his cabinet. He promoted, newly promoted to Commander in Chief of the armed forces, among them.

The final turning point was a strike by copper miners at El Teniente, the world's largest underground copper mine. The strikers were denounced as fascists by Allende, and members of unions controlled by the communist and socialist parties ordered to return to work.

The ruling class demands a major concession and it came out supporting the remaining strikers. They came out supported in the press, by right-wing politicians. But for the most critical reason.

They were despising the division between the militant workers who were confused workers who were confused by the right-wing talk of the government. And they were seeing the seeds of instability in face of the coming coup.

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Along with the communists and socialists, the strikers kept prattling on about treating the army as "economism" and "strike

Two hours after the power, Allende was still broadcasting appeals for people to remain calm and await the "reaction of the patriotic soldier."

Instead, Allende himself was murdered, defending the factory that the boss had closed down. He beat the first offensive.

The workers were showing a way forward. But they could not survive much longer without drastic solutions to the "problem" of socialism.

And the working class movement is still bedevilled by people who fear the workers by parties like the Italian Communists who are in a "business compromise" with Italian capitalism to run the country.

On 29 June, an impatient army officer ordered troops under his command to attack the presidential palace. They were quickly suppressed by regular soldiers. The main

CHILE 4 years after the bloodbath

WHAT'S IN BRITAIN WE FIGHT THE FASCISTS and HOW

ADELAIDE WED 7 SEPT
 8.30pm. **Adelaide Women's League** (former Socialist Party) at the South Adelaide Regatta Centre. Tickets \$2.00. Refreshments. Room, Trade Hall, 8pm.

ADELAIDE MON 12 SEPT
 8.30pm. **Adelaide Women's League** (former Socialist Party) at the South Adelaide Regatta Centre. Tickets \$2.00. Refreshments. Room, Trade Hall, 8pm.

ADELAIDE SUN 18 SEPT
 10.30am. **Adelaide Women's League** (former Socialist Party) at the South Adelaide Regatta Centre. Tickets \$2.00. Refreshments. Room, Trade Hall, 8pm.

SYDNEY SUN 18 SEPT
 10.30am. **Adelaide Women's League** (former Socialist Party) at the South Adelaide Regatta Centre. Tickets \$2.00. Refreshments. Room, Trade Hall, 8pm.

SYDNEY SUN 25 SEPT
 10.30am. **Adelaide Women's League** (former Socialist Party) at the South Adelaide Regatta Centre. Tickets \$2.00. Refreshments. Room, Trade Hall, 8pm.

MELBOURNE WED 14 SEPT
 8.30pm. **Adelaide Women's League** (former Socialist Party) at the South Adelaide Regatta Centre. Tickets \$2.00. Refreshments. Room, Trade Hall, 8pm.

MELBOURNE THUR 15 SEPT
 8.30pm. **Adelaide Women's League** (former Socialist Party) at the South Adelaide Regatta Centre. Tickets \$2.00. Refreshments. Room, Trade Hall, 8pm.

CANBERRA TUES 20 SEPT
 8.30pm. **Adelaide Women's League** (former Socialist Party) at the South Adelaide Regatta Centre. Tickets \$2.00. Refreshments. Room, Trade Hall, 8pm.

CANBERRA THURS 22 SEPT
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ACCORDING to the daily papers, British democracy is being threatened by the demonstrations against the fascist National Front marches.

The Front's leaders are open admirers of Hitler. The police stupidly ignore, its terminology of Britain's black and Asian communities.

But the press tells us that the main threat to British democracy comes not from the fascist or their fascist supporters in the police but from those people with the guts to physically put a halt to this racist obscenity.

The most savage criticism has been saved for the Socialist Workers Party, formerly the British International League.

The SWP organised the successful attempt by blacks, socialists and trade unionists to physically stop the Front's march through the mainly black district of Lewisham in London.

The Age described the SWP as the perpetrators of Marxism... leading a weird coalition of radicals and hoodlums. It was again the broken brick and the bottle.

Given this description of simplified thugery, it was a bit difficult for the dailies to account for the fact that the Front is a growing rapidly not only among blacks and Asians in Britain but also amongst white workers and the unemployed.

Respectable papers might regard the SWP's resolve to physically drive the fascists of the streets of Britain as hoodlumism. And the respectable leaders of the British Labour and Communist Parties refused to engage in what they regard as rabble-rousing.

The SWP was prepared to step in and give its nationwide organisational support to the fight-back of these communities.

We have mentioned the Front's ferocious tactics against blacks and Asians, whose communities were beginning to organise a fight back in the form of local self-defence committees.

The SWP was prepared to step in and give its nationwide organisational support to the fight-back of these communities.

Fascism, they say, can be defeated by an appeal to racism.

The lesson of Nazi Germany, and the completely ineffectual opposition of the "reasonable" Social-Democratic Party to Hitler there, shows that reason is not enough to stop fascism.

Fascism, based on fear, grows on the strength of its ability to actively terrify.

The SWP by its ferocious and strike organisation has done more to convince workers of the bankruptcy of fascism than any number of its appeals to reason that politicians, union officials and Age journalists.

What can we make of the Presley phenomenon?

For pop music and culture he will probably turn out to be the most influential single performer of this new rock place at the right time - southern USA in the mid 50's.

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Have a Socialist Night Out...

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IN BRANCHES

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 Phone 33 1600

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 270 1604
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 797 0342

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 2 Pease Park Curtin
 Phone 81 7505

BRISBANE
 PO Box 111 St Lucia 4027
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THE BATTLE is edited by Phil Griffiths of 28 Pease St, west Brunswick who can be reached by phone for an election committee. Please contact Phil Griffiths at Pease St for Battle printing and publishing. PO Box 46, Flemington, Victoria 3031.

what we stand for

The International Socialists are a revolutionary socialist organisation, open to all who accept our basic principles and are willing to work to achieve them.

Melbourne Canberra

ABOUT 3,000 people gathered in Melbourne's City Square after Fraser's announcement that he was resigning would go ahead. No-one was surprised but we were all pretty angry.

The slogan "The Fight has just begun" was adopted, and the crowd listened to several speakers, including two blacks, a rank and file member of the AWU from the Naval Dock-wards and people from local MAUM groups.

After the speeches, we marched around the city, sitting down for a while at the intersection of Flinders and Swanston Streets.

It was a fairly spontaneous demonstration, with very little advance publicity, yet 3,000 people turned up. It has just begun.

Battler Fighting Fund

In the three weeks since the last Battler, we have raised \$124 for the Battler Equipment Fund. The total now stands at \$2091.08.

Thanks this time to:

Canberra IS \$40
Southern Branch, Melb \$2
Sydney \$7.50
TH \$8
Melbourne NW Branch
social night \$67.06

MAUM

THE IS in Melbourne is applying for affiliation to the Victorian section of MAUM, the Communist Party of Australia. The G.P.C. meets monthly to decide the movement's general direction and strategy in Victoria. There is one local branch of which there are already 30 throughout the State.

Adelaide

1,000 people attended a lunch-time rally called at short notice in Adelaide's Rundle Mall to protest Fraser's go-ahead for resigning.

Well over 1,000 of the

showing the capitalist system, not patching it up or gradually trying to change it.

Smashing the Capitalist State

The capitalist system has the power to create the society. It has the power to create the class. It has the power to create the nation. It has the power to create the world. It has the power to create the future.

Internationalism

A social, revolutionary cannot be confined in one country. It must help and liberate workers in other countries or it

Revolutionary Party

To smash the capitalist state, we need a revolutionary party, organised and built in the workplaces. Without a revolutionary party, the struggles of workers will be crushed.

Rank and File Organisation

Workers need their own rank and file organisations to fight the bosses when the paid officials are unwilling. We work in using these work rank and file organisations.

IS workers to build a Jewish working class should political agency by her parents and her mother's hard work all left their mark.

But she has attempted a more difficult task. She has tried to combine her personal and political experiences to show how they merge into a whole.

Unfortunately she is not very successful. For example, this is an analysis of the limitations of trade unions, written after five years of union work in a hospital.

Janey Stone reviews the new book, 'ZELDA - the becoming of a woman'

Janey Stone reviews the new book, 'ZELDA - the becoming of a woman'. The book is a frank and honest account of her life and her mother's hard work. It is a frank and honest account of her life and her mother's hard work.

Workers' Power

Workers control over the whole of society, based on workers' control of the factories and workplaces. Only the organised workers class has the power to create the society. It has the power to create the nation. It has the power to create the world. It has the power to create the future.

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He seemed more a victim than a tycoon. More a pawn than a king.

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NEED - A NEW OF UNIONS!

The bosses in the metal trades are digging their heels on once again improving our wages and working conditions.

We presented our log of claims to the employers in April this year but have been a lot of striking tactics employed. At one scheduled meeting the boss negotiator on don't even turn up. The main things the employers have offered are a minor - a 13.0% increase in Metal Allowance and Special Rates (high, best, dirt money) - an increase in the Motor Allowance from 11c to 13c, Fuel Aid Allowance to be increased from \$3 to \$4; and the Tool Allowance for apprentice pattern makers increased from \$1.00 to \$1.20.

These changes affect a tiny proportion of the industry, that's why they've offered them. On the wages here they have promised to come up with "some proposals" which probably means some type of Paid Rates Award.

claim

The wage claim is for \$20 for tradesmen and \$20 for non-tradesmen. This figure was arrived at by measuring the buying power of our wages in October '76 when we had the highest real wages since 1947.

A meeting of metal industry shop stewards on August 25 heard a report from AMSU National Organizer Jim Baird. He said that 90% of employers claim they are not

feeling any pressure from their employees on the workshop floor, and therefore are not prepared to move on the important claims.

judging by the low attendance last Thursday and the low level of activity, this is most likely true. Unfortunately, the continued depressed state of manufacturing industry is having a bad effect on members' willingness to fight.

Despite this, Big Business has been having a great time these last three years of profit recovery.

agreement

We have information that in various areas of Melbourne the employers have made agreements amongst themselves to prevent strong shops winning gains which then flow on to weaker shops.

It seems to me that the only way the unions are going to rebuild the shattered confidence of their members is to develop a strategy that can make gains during periods of prolonged recession, because that is what facing us at the moment.

This means a new type of unionism - one which builds greater unity and solidarity between workers - because it is becoming clear that the more struggles can be won on a plant basis, whether they be seeking or wage struggle.

In countries like Italy, unions have had to battle for years against reactionary governments and adverse economic conditions. Yet they've still made gains because

they've adopted different tactics.

recommendation

At the last shop-stewards' meeting, a recommendation to the National Negotiating Committee of Metal Unions suggested 'if the employer

- a. replies on September 7th are not satisfactory, that a committee of activists around the claims should include:
- b. The working of a 35 hour week.
- c. Regular stop-work meetings 'by the employer'

by Kevin Bain, AMWSU steward, Repco Unions.

WERE the elections last month in the Queensland branch of the Meat Industry Employees Union

The Meatworkers' Union major challenge to the incumbent bureaucrats. They got bent necks and file support. Mass meetings across the state located 65,000 to their campaign.

But the results showed that not only had the Reform Committee failed to win the election, but they also lost some positions already held.

New Reform Committee is challenging the election. Several unions have already agreed to help finance the campaign.

Lack of leadership, no direct consultation with members on the job, not enough spent on the job by union officials and disregard of members' views on work

discrepancies

The Committee pointed out that the present leadership had let conditions slip, failed to campaign actively, caused many losses, and allowed large discrepancies in salaries from shed to shed.

Bremer River had a tally under by four men and over ten bodies a day over the last two years, while Williams of the Reform Committee picked it up and was the only one to get a back pay.

"We had to end the union of images going there for the bosses and not the workers," said Ross. Bremer River, Northampton and Queensland stopped work and held mass meetings when Reform candidates were kept out.

Several sheds have now started to come offside and are not wanted on the premises again. At other sites, work

WAS IT ELECTED? RIGGED?

The leaders' past performance has been little better than zero," said one Hutons worker.

The Reform Committee is currently circulating a petition asking the Federal Executive to authorise a ballot among the wrong lie.

The company said his job wasn't doing his job properly. Pat asked, "Why was he put on a low wage? I'm familiar with it."

The men were wowed up in tears. "We asked them what they would do and promised to back them with action," said Pat.

Through Monday and Tuesday the foremen were called up to the office, at first together, and later individually, and threatened with loss of jobs if they didn't resign or take two days off to think about it.

So the women organised a petition stating they wanted Derek Callison reinstated as foreman.

By Tuesday night 108 of the 150 workers had signed. The petition pressured Ford

Presidents to allow steward Frank Fox to call a stop work meeting Wednesday.

He put a motion asking workers to sign a petition to strike for the day Derek Callison reinstated.

"I was wowed" said Pat, and the gate they went.

On Thursday morning management said Derek Callison would be reinstated as a leading hand. Also the workers would get paid time lost if they went back three days.

"Bigger them," was the feeling of the workers. They said until Friday morning just to make sure their point was made strong and clear.

"If management wants to be inhumane as we do, we decided it's one of those things that have to be done."

But they were so disappointed by the response, that there were spontaneous walkouts the next day and now a decision on indefinite strike.

They had no intention of waiting another 15 days for Commissioner Votri to make himself available for more talks.

Now were they prepared to tolerate a situation where the SRC "negotiation" was nothing more than manager boys for the big brass who had already made their minds up and refused to discuss the claims themselves.

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Foreman Saved at Plumrose
at Plumrose first

JOBs are scarce these days and when Plumrose food preserving company sacked a foreman, the workers didn't just keep working. They struck and got his job back.

Pat Thompson, a worker at the Plumrose factory, told the Batters what happened.

The Friday August 10 Derek Callison, a foreman, was put on a production line he said, "I was wowed."

Apparently, call started coming off the line after the wrong lie.

The company said his job wasn't doing his job properly. Pat asked, "Why was he put on a low wage? I'm familiar with it."

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THEY WERE TAKEN BY THOMPSON

Metal-workers meet at North Melbourne oval during the 1974 wage campaign. They haven't had an award for six years.

by Max Costello, TTAU Clayton Tech

The TTAU is dead right in boycotting this Government front. We want to negotiate directly with our employer.

The parallel issue, of local say in choosing principals, is just further evidence that the Tribunal must be scrapped.

This year the Tribunal went into the rubbish bin the recommendations of local committees of parents and teachers about their school's new principal or vice-principal sitting at the Tribunal.

In previous years, the Tribunal has copied the appointing body (the Classifier) and considered the local committee priorities. This year, the Tribunal decided to choose older (and often more reactionary) people to head our schools.

On salaries, we are going for 12% plus \$2,000. The 12% is needed just to restore our wages to their 1974 inflation value. (We haven't had an award since 1974.)

The TTAU put this claim to Education Minister Lindsay Thompson last year. We got no answer. Thompson tells us to go to the Teachers' Tribunal.

Lettered one's job threat

SACKINGS in the metal trades have been going on pretty viciously since August, and especially when the ruling of \$1.10.

Friday Dave Marsh, the Shop Committee convenor told The Batters there have been numerous sackings of between 50 and 100 workers, but no-one has been threatened yet.

Now Unilever workers are thinking about another log of claims to improve conditions further.

LIFT STRIKE

"We lift we've got a case. We've been passed by every other tradesman. We'll hold our bloody lift in the city stop."

This was how one member of the Lift Industry Committee responded after Sydney lift workers came up. Now they want to appoint who they like.

The workers have been out since last August, and their increase on their present wage of \$1.65. They are also after a 35 hour week.

They want support to Lift Industry Committee.

136 Chalmers St, Sydney

Bus drivers refuse to collect fares

BUS-DRIVERS in Canberra have been refusing to collect fares for a week - and now they've been stood down for doing it.

The bus drivers are employed by the Government, in the shape of the Department of the Capital Territory.

The Department on over the issue of appointment of inspectors that won. The drivers thought that

they should be appointed on the basis of seniority from their own ranks.

After a few stop work meetings where it counts were issued, in so the dispute came to a head. The Canberra public on side - after a week of stop work.

The drivers are standing firm and demanding that all

inspection, appointed or re-appointed to the job because of a meeting on Wednesday. They were told to get over to their desks in writing.

Now the bus drivers have been stood down from their jobs. The Department has said it will not pay another \$100,000 in overtime.

So far, the Transport Department has been refusing to pay for the extra cost of the strike.

It didn't take the Department long to come up with a new plan for more negotiations.

TEACHERS' STRIKE FOR \$8

EIGHTEEN fighters have taken on the world's ninth largest company - and won.

The firm at Unilever in Port Melbourne have won \$5.00 a week strike.

They needed it - Unilever was paying them \$165-90 when the area average was around \$15.

Terry Sloy, AMWSU shop steward at Unilever, told us how the company had claimed it couldn't afford any more.

"But Brian Batters, our organiser, sent me down papers from the Stock Exchange showing that Unilever was making 20% profit last year, not in Melbourne."

They're a big company. They own Boscawen Street Cream, Lipson's Tea and they're making millions. Six million dollars last year in Australia alone.

The firm at Unilever hadn't had a log of claims for three years. So they were pretty disgusted when the company refused to offer them money at first.

"It's pretty hard to get them to do their sort of work," said Terry. "It's pretty dirty place - it stinks. It's all black and white and fat. To get a bloke to go down there and stay there isn't easy."

Finally the company went into Arbitration and accepted a ruling of \$1.10.

When the ruling came, the winning strike has boosted the members' confidence enormously. It's down there then that it was.

Now Unilever workers are thinking about another log of claims to improve conditions further.

136 Chalmers St, Sydney

SA's school record not so hot!

YOU'VE probably been told about South Australia's fine record in education.

Let's have a look at the facts.

55% of the classrooms are adversely affected by heat the highest figure in Australia. How do you work when you're hot? Air conditioning is not supplied. If it were a businessmen's conference, but not for your children's learning.

21% of the classrooms get letters from other states, again the highest percentage in Australia.

On top of this there's accommodation. You always know when you've passed a school in South Australia by the rows and rows of temporary, transportable, washboard classrooms.

We have twice as many of these huts as the next highest state on a percentage basis and three times as many as most states. Have you ever noticed any of these huts in the central business area of Adelaide?

And now we hear from the Premier that we can have freedom of choice in selecting which schools our children can go to zoning is to end in the state sector.

On the surface this may sound like a good move. BUT who is going to choose the schools we have not described? There is NO choice for working people who cannot afford to transport their children to so-called 'better' schools.

They will stay in the huts and it is unlikely that the inhabitants of Emerald St, George's will want to send their children across the suburbs to these kinds of schools. End result zoning will benefit those with money.

Let's have a look at these so-called 'better' schools. They may be more free from noise, less likely to collapse and be slightly cooler. BUT what sort of education will be generated under no zoning?

How is a school usually rated from the outside? On its examination record. So, we go back to rote learning and out of the window gong learning for life!

carrot

The carrot for the headmaster is that the more pupils he has, the higher his salary. The vicious circle is complete.

This is not the sort of education we want in a socialist society but if the Liberals get back there will be even less chance of fighting for the education we deserve.

The Liberals have already shown us their intentions regarding education. The Federal Liberal Government has transferred \$14 million of education 'funds' to those private schools that least need the money. These are the category 1 schools like St. Peter's and Geelong Grammar.

We also see from the State Liberals' keen about education. They've got working class schools on the books that have been abandoned overnight.

Not only was this rubbish when the Liberals were in power, but when they had to reverse their policy quickly to get the Libs to support that.

Education is too important that to be left to politicians like that!

VAL Liscombe is a working mother.

We asked her how she felt money was being spent on education in South Australia. She gave a positive reply, "yes". Because of this she finds there is a regression in education?

This year's first budget blow has allowed for 3% increase in education spending. Since inflation is running at

10.5% this is certainly no increase. The second blow is that \$14 M will be transferred from state school funding to private schools.

To Val, this lack of money means that priority projects are on the list. These are the play groups, which cater for less children while she works, toy libraries and drop-in centres.

Without these amenities a lot of working women will

have no supervision for their children. They find it hard to get home in the dark. Lack of money also means that their children will have to attend makeshift classrooms both temporary for the first two years or more.

Libraries will not be without money to buy new books. The general leading side will be the same.

The number of children attending day care centres will increase. The ratio of students to a teacher is 1950's, 1960's, 1970's, "crisis plus."

On again, off again

WHAT WE REALLY NEED ...

by ROD PATCHING, a painter and decorator.

WILL our problems disappear if Labor is elected? Of course not.

The policies announced by Dunstan are in no way aimed at the causes of these problems — capitalism in general and the present capitalist economic crisis in particular.

band-aids

All Labor can offer are band-aids for the very system that creates the most obvious casualties of this hopeless system.

Why do they behave like this?

Because Labor accepts the very system that creates the unemployment in the first place. The very system that has thousands of building workers unemployed, massive stock piles of bricks all over Adelaide

but won't build houses or schools with them because a few people can't make enough profit.

It just doesn't make sense!

So they talk about "needed-based funding" for all schools but still give money to privileged places like St. Peter's College which has half as many children in each class as the state schools.

They provide unemployment relief work but still permit Chrysler or John Steerer's or SAMOR to sack workers at will.

We'll only really start when we solve our big problems where we get rid of this system that says you only do something if there's a big enough profit in it, and replace it with one that does things because they need to be done, for the good of the



Don Dunstan... we need more...

working people.

Just now Labor's band-aids are better than what the Liberals offer — but only for now.

ON again, off again. That's Dunstan's remedy for the housing worker.

I'm one of the lucky ones. But when we look at the whole picture, namely Mr. Dunstan, one can only cry: well, it's an even worse joke.

This paragraph of the ruling class would only modestly increase the number of workers to his crisis. What about the crisis?

Dunstan plays a double game that will employ his party and a power still available in an English translation, William Morris, socialist, artist and agitator, read it, and set about elaborating his views on the future communist society.

The result was a so-called News From Nowhere which was serialised in *Flower and the Journal of the Social League*, in 1860.

In it, Morris imagined a Victorian revolutionary like himself falling asleep and waking up in 21st century London to find it a socialist society.

The rest of the novel describes that society in some detail. It was a laugh for and fun.

muscle

What good News From Nowhere muscle is that's not just one more line of copy about false news to pass time during a wet day at the shop floor.

Rather, as most readers have noted, it was from the fact that it was

Dear Battlers, CES SLAVE MARKET

Dear Battlers,

I am an unemployed boilermaker and a member of the AMWSU. I have read about workers' struggles in your newspaper and was prompted to write.

I saw this job advertised at the CES office: MIG WELDER EXPERIENCED. 1:30 PM WORK, 6:30 PM to 1:30 AM. AWARD: REPETITION WORK. I applied for the job. The employer immediately asked

whether I was a unionist and how strong I was. I told him I stood up for my rights and that I wasn't a strike breaker.

What do YOU think? Write to the Battler, P.O. Box 46, Flimington, Vic.

The \$512 Gaffiti!

Dear Battlers,

On the Thursday night that Fraser announced his uranium policy we took to the streets of Sydney, along with a lot of other people, to paint anti-uranium slogans on the walls.

We were arrested for "willfully defacing property."

This kind of action is the only one available to us to counter the millions available to the capitalist interests. But the costs can be high.

While painting the Mayne Nickless depot (one of the most appropriate walls in Newtown) we were charged a total of \$212.

It is useful to understand how this discrepancy can come about. The police under capitalism function both to protect private property and to

support the dominant capitalist interest.

If, as in our case, the police are rigorous in filing charges, the charges will be much more serious. Our arresting officer did not give us any information to the people's opposition to the uranium lobby.

His actions were openly vindictive — he took it upon himself to canvas Mayne Nickless and ask for his damage, and unfortunately he was very successful.

distressing

A night in the cells may not be too distressing, but it is clear what our charges will mean when bail is set at \$250 each for spray painting and compensation at \$192 with \$320 fines.

But it is equally important to understand the other side of this discrepancy. The uranium issue has divided even the police force — an important fact which is easily ignored.

A number of the police who spoke to us were strongly opposed to uranium mining. If you are lucky you may be fined only \$31.

Despite this division, and given the importance of the issue to the rights of capital, it is not wise to assume that you'll be lucky.

Adam Farrar
Mark Sergeant

Donations are requested to cover these fines and future bail and fines for people arrested in similar activities. Please send for *U.S. & A.M. Defence Fund* c/o 378 Westmore Building, Sydney University, Sydney University, NSW 2006.

Socialist Revolution in the 21st century

Paul O'Flinn looks at a novel of the socialist future

THE daily papers have been crowing with glee lately at reports on the new turn in China.

The Communist Party leadership under Hu Yaobang is modernising the army and making profitability the standard in industry.

Both parties are mid-low-keyed and doing very little for the housing worker except a vote for Labor in a mild answer to our problem but we've got to do alternative methods.

The sort of ideas put forward in the Builders Workers Charter.

But there is a third alternative. The alternative of real workers power and a real co-operative society.

Indeed, in the same decade that Marx's *Capital* became available in an English translation, William Morris, socialist, artist and agitator, read it, and set about elaborating his views on the future communist society.

The result was a so-called News From Nowhere which was serialised in *Flower and the Journal of the Social League*, in 1860.

In it, Morris imagined a Victorian revolutionary like himself falling asleep and waking up in 21st century London to find it a socialist society.

And the difference between capitalist and communist societies is the difference between free enterprise and universal business, cracy.

But that's the choice we've better off with the shambles we've got. At least that's what they think.

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muscle

written for a specific socialist movement in which Morris wrote and had, as a result, defined political targets.

One of Morris's targets are the Fabians, founded in 1884. The Fabians, targeted in 1884 could be achieved gradually without the need for a revolution.

fabian

Even today, leading Labor politicians like Race Matthews and Gough Whitlam Fabians.

Fabian socialism wanted and all sorts of socialists in Morris put it, to rob us in modernising only the best one-line sharing of the economy.

In News From Nowhere, socialism in the 21st century is the only ardent at after a painful and bloody civil war lasting two years.

This breaks out when troops fire on strikers in Trafalgar Square and in the ensuing chaos, the government forces a military takeover.

muscle



revelation of all problems and contradictions arose because we have something to teach called socialism, communism.

Then, for example, two young lasses in the book, Clara and Dick, live through the sort of tensions that all young people do.

soluble

But Morris's point is that these problems are much more soluble because so many of the traditional, materialist premises that people have been at least

He then asked me to sign from the union as all the other employees did when they were up. I refused this.

He then said he'd like me to work till 3 AM, and that after 1:30 AM I would be paid cash in the hand to stop doing again into double time. It was against union policy to work this way. I didn't take the job.

I applied for another job about March and was interviewed by MIG WELDER EXPERIENCED. AWARD: REPETITION WORK. I went for the interview, passed the test and was given the job by the foreman. I started the next day.

refused

I had been working for two hours and the employer came and told me he would probably keep me for a week. I asked him for a casual rate and he refused.

I worked the week out, never touched the MIG welder apart from the test, and I spent the whole time fabricating components for the job. If I had left it may have been trouble getting unemployment benefits.

I have also been sent to one other job of similar nature to this government. I think they should check their jobs out a lot more thoroughly and find out what sort of work you undergo before sending anyone out.

I feel they are using CES as their little slave market.

Lindsay Jones,
Norman Park, Qld.

Pointless?

ALAN BRIGGS, an apprentice fitter from GMM, Woodville, told us what he thought about the elections—

41 THINK it's just as pointless to expect real change with Labor as it is with the Liberals. They're trying to introduce token changes but they won't have much effect.

Liberal supporters think like compulsory unionism but won't legislate for it in private industry. They've got working class support but feel they need the middle class vote.

They introduced legislation to give women equal employment rights. But the government hasn't got the power to say who's employed anyway.

Apprentices are not allowed to strike although one shop steward said that some

were 800 applications for 50 jobs. No women got jobs.

I am under contract to GMM for 4 years. They guarantee to employ us but we have to work for them to go to the Apprenticeship Commission.

Apprentices are not allowed to strike although one shop steward said that some

apprentices stopped with the Midbank strike.

When there was a stop-work over the sickings after training centre. There were no union notices put up and the union had to ring the leading hands to let them know what was going on.

Apprentices are in the union (AMWSU in my case)

but there's no shop steward and no training centre.

There's no union power. — The only way we've got through rank and file action from the shop floor.

Both parties are concerned with propelling up capitalism society rather than social change.

A Chance to Stop the Libs SA Elections

S.A. Election Special

The Battler

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

A CHANCE TO STOP THE LIBS

inside-p14

A WORKING MOTHER TALKS ABOUT EDUCATION IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

WHAT DOES THE ELECTION MEAN TO A G.M.H. APPRENTICE?

SOUTH AUSTRALIA'S SCHOOL RECORD

A CHANGE to stop the hash... that's what the South Australian elections are all about.

Tonkin and the Libs are in for the kill. They've got their own industrial policy on top of Fraser's IRB.

They want to destroy closed shops and compulsory unionism. They want to legislate against compulsory union membership in government enterprises and appoint an industrial ombudsman to hear complaints from 'conscientious objectors'.

scabs

This not only means that scabs like Noel Latham have a separate court but anyone who

by
MIKE GREWCOCK.

tries to stop them working can get jailed.

Tonkin also wants to cut back on workers' compensation payments. This means you might only be half fit before you have to return to the job.

This is all part of a planned attack on our Trade Unions being waged by Fraser's Federal Government and by each Liberal and National-Country Party state government.

Fraser's IRB is an attempt to ban industrial actions that have been legal for the past 50 years.

In Victoria, the Liberal Party have introduced the Vital States Projects Act in order to build Newport Power Station. The unions had blacked the station because it would add to the pollution of the working class western suburbs of Melbourne.

In Queensland, Ted Zaphir is facing jail for carrying out his duties as a union organiser.

And in WA, 21 workers went to court for the 'crime' of picketing.

If Tonkin is elected the same sort of things will happen here.

Naturally enough, Tonkin and Co. are also committed to the mining of uranium. They're trying to con us with the same bullshit used by Anthony and Fraser that they'll

provide all the necessary facilities for waste disposal.

profits

All they're really concerned about is guaranteeing investment profits for their big business buddies.

And the kids of business tycoons are going to get a fair go too. The only mention made of education in Tonkin's election speech was that there would be further subsidies for private schools!

A vote for Labor will stop Tonkin. But it won't stop the attacks on our rights and living conditions.

Large demonstrations helped to change Dunstan's mind on uranium and a massive stopwork and protest rally saved the Fremantle pickets. This is the type of rank and file action that officials usually won't lead.

But organising resistance on the shop floor will be a lot easier with Labor still in power in South Australia.



Stuff your ban, Bjelke...



WE'RE MARCHING!

The Battler
PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

ISSUE NO 39 1 OCTOBER PH (03) 334142 20 CENTS

THE thin veneer of democracy has never looked more transparent than in Queensland right now.

That fringes crusader for Christianly anti-communism and unbridled exploitation — Job Bjelke-Petersen — has just stripped away one of the few democratic liberties we have.

On September 4 he announced:

"Don't bother to apply for a march permit. You won't get one. That's Government policy now."

"The day of the political street march is over. Anybody who holds a street march, spontaneous or otherwise, will know they are acting illegally."

A mere eighteen days later, Brisbane's King George Square found out just what he meant.

As soon as they tried up to march in Parliament House to protest against Bjelke's announcement, the 700 police — one-fifth of Queensland's police force — moved in and arrested the leading ones.

At the same time, Special Branch agents speared through the crowd began picking out people and arresting them.

In all, 31 people were arrested, including Angles, a mother with her baby — and an undercover Special Branch agent who the cops

grabbed by mistake! The shirt protestant appeared in court next day. Four of the five women arrested were stripped, not once but twice, in full view of passing male cops and made to squat naked on the floor.

The official government line has been to stress the "disruption" that marches cause to traffic. But both Bjelke-Petersen and his supporters have made the real reason clear.

It's to clamp down on left wingers in general — and especially the rapidly growing union movement.

ADMITTED

As Bjelke-Petersen himself announced in Parliament, "the direct result of this ban will be turned into a forum by the Communist Party or anyone else."

Bjelke admitted on September 5, "It was wanted that anti-union demonstrations like the one in Sydney today were being planned for Brisbane."

That's why this action has been taken. Bjelke-Petersen's intentions are perfectly clear. The

thirty arrests are just the latest in a long line of repressive actions.

Actions that include the conviction of Ted Zaphir, the Cedar Bay police rampage, the prosecution of the Socialist League on behalf of Utah, police banning of student demonstrations and blacks, and the refusal to pass on Federal funds to Queensland women's groups.

Bjelke isn't just some strange Queensland peasant headed for obscurity. He's acting as front man for Malcolm Fraser.

If Bjelke-Petersen gets away with it in Queensland, Fraser will soon be trying it nationally.

Together, they're out to smash all struggle against the bosses and their economic oppression.

They're out to wreck any movement we can build before it gets off the ground.

Well, we've got uses for who can't afford to just sit back and trust in his tender mercies. There's too many of us who have no alternative but to fight the degradation of the system in its moments.

There'll always be more of us to take up the fight — more than Bjelke's prisons could ever hold.

But all you like and arrest all you like, Bjelke-Petersen. WE'RE MARCHING!



BJELKE-PETERSEN mobilised one-fifth of the entire state's police force to "defend" the streets from the "threat" of anti-union demonstrations. These thugs-in-blue loved every minute of it.

INSIDE — How we won the right to speak in the '30's.

ON AGAIN, OFF AGAIN
... LIFE IN S.A.'S
BUILDING INDUSTRY

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Getting the Back and Tile Together

You can say that again

"FROM one end of the country to the other, militant workers are meeting footlocking, meeting footlocking, and sometimes actual scabbing on the part of our officials."

We discussed the grim reality last time. But what can be done about it? A look at the building and construction industry shows what organized rank-and-file workers can do.

In 1975 Norm Gallagher organized a massive action operation in N.S.W. In collaboration with the employers, he destroyed the militant State branch and imposed his own rules. With the union shattered, conditions were eroded on most sites.

But there were some exceptions. On a number of Sydney building sites the leaders had built job organ-

ization, formal or informal. On these sites, such as Sherras and Bondi Plaza, conditions were defined and Gallagher's demands were kept at arm's length.

democratic

The Site Committee at Bondi Plaza included a delegate from each trade. Mass site meetings were held weekly and democratic decisions taken. One of the Committee members, Dave Rimball, has

written that many union officials "appear afraid of job organization" which involves their members. The committee was undeterred.

Nor did they restrict themselves to head-and-butler issues. Political discussions were organized every week and usually with about a dozen workers along. And when anti-sugarcane racism broke out, they knew how to handle it.

The issue was discussed at a mass-meeting. Delegates took a solid stand against

with Tom O'Lincoln

racism and for unity of all the workers. The outcome was instructed to apologise by over-whelming vote.

At the ACTU Congress there was a building site that was hard to sell out. But meanwhile workers were active on nearby railway construction jobs.

The ATU union organizer only appeared to sell union tickets. The labourers were divided from the carpenters, and divided among themselves by language differences. Conditions were miserable.

A group of militants set out to change things. They formed an unofficial Action Committee which visited all the sites.

Mass meetings were held, both unofficial, and all groups were in the action. Union members on all sites could do nothing.

Massification

By the middle of 1976 the Action Committee was to wage a major fight for the week strike and on the union to endorse the action.

The Public Reference Commission will never be the same again.

Throughout industry there are any number of workers like those railway concrete sites. The union is unable to work them again.

But there are any individual militants. Essential is to organize individuals. As a public can transform a situation.

The form and of rank-and-file groups vary.

In the Union Secondary Teachers Association, the Women's Sub-Committee is an unofficial body but membership demand the committee is open to members' demands.

Women's Liberator has shown how to mobilize a group for its struggles against sexism in the union and in Education Department.

By comparison Teachers Action Group Sydney has mobilized and trained teachers and a small group for actions, such as a rally in Education Department in defence of wages and teachers and demagogues against the recent Phillip Eyreack.

Whatever their form, and the organizations have essential feature: the demilitarization of occupational union officials. The union official is the system in economic trouble, it cannot even organize the distribution of food products.

A few unions and some unorganised homebased officials can't perfectly fair under this system can throw the drive market, plans to chaos and put the most basic necessities out of the reach of millions of families.

This, then, is the system we must destroy.

Executive ~ lies to away another day

BOB Hawke's solution to the economic crisis is to hand out band-aids to the bosses.

At the ACTU Congress he urged a "planned economy" calling on the Federal Government to establish a commission of experts to draw up a national economic plan for Australia.

He said it was urgent and a commitment by "all major groups" was essential to overcome Australia was "just as mad and just as pressing as in times of war."

"We are not seeking a confrontation with the Government on the economy but consultation aimed at restoring full employment, reducing inflation and stimulating recovery."

But confrontation is built in. On one side, the wages and living standards of workers families are being cut. On the other, the profits of the bosses are up 30% this year.

The Federal Government is a government committed to a "recovery", not of wages, but of profitability.

The ACTU call for joint committees with employers to set industrial targets and have these targets referred to "experts" to determine if feasibility is not just utopian, but suicide and a betrayal of movement.

What will the "experts" do?

We know from the history of the depression in the 1930s that a commission of experts then recommended the cutting of wages and the repayment of Australia's loan debt to London banks and the non-consideration of the unemployed.

Robert Menzies, said, "I would rather see every man, woman and child starve than Australia default on its loan 'repayment'."

Today's experts would be no different. They are all hacks of the bosses.

Probably they would recommend "cutting the cost of production" (ie our wages) and "rationalisation" (ie our jobs) (more machines, less jobs).

It's all very nice to have big fancy industries and we can't see a "very economic" market solution to the "not efficient industrial recovery" of the bosses' profits, but new jobs, better wages and conditions.

LAY down and die, that's what Bob Hawke told us to do when he opened up the ACTU Congress.

The Fraser Government has introduced drastic measures to shackle trade unions and is planning more to come.

But our leaders rejected any strategy of taking Fraser on and opted instead for "passive resistance" in cooperation with white collar unions.

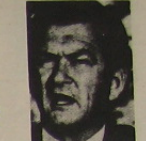
This is the same as the official motion passed at the giant public servants meeting held in Melbourne last August. No action will be taken until Fraser actually uses the legislation. Closing the gate after the horse has bolted.

And true to form our leaders threatened a national strike if the legislation is used.

But their timidity is plainly obvious to the Federal Government.

George Slater from the Australian Postal and Telecommunications Union said the Government was warring "a big stick" and we should not take the bait in order only to be closed.

The thing is that Fraser is already using the stick to thump us. Our real wages are going down and the new union public servant meeting is being crushed any fight that does break out.



servants meeting giving Fraser one week to drop the legislation or face nationwide 24 hour stoppages was proposed by a third of the meeting.

As the ACTU Congress an AMPSU amendment calling for national stop work meetings for when industrial action was defeated.

White Fraser is calling all the union's "threatening" an election on union banning. Bob Hawke's reply regarding unity and solidarity in defeat amongst the union movement. The only unity worthy of speaking about is unity in fighting, and now that the ACTU is going to do nothing, it will be up to us on the shop floor.



WHY ARE WE BEHIND THE SUGAR DOLLAR BARRIER BLOCKADE

SIXTY-FIVE million dollars worth of sugar lies tied up in Japanese ports.

The Japanese sugar purchasers are refusing to have it unloaded. They are trying to renegotiate a sugar-buying contract with Australia.

And behind the fight over sugar is a story that shows us just exactly what's wrong with the capitalist system.

In 1974, there was a sugar boom, in much the same way there's a coffee boom today.

A manipulated shortage of sugar and speculation on the world's sugar markets lifted the price of raw sugar from under 10c a pound in 1973 to over 50c a pound a year later.

At its peak, the price was fifteen times the average price a decade earlier.

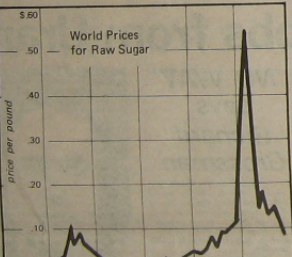
In the early 1970's, sugar stocks began falling as sugar consumption slightly exceeded supply. But with the run-down in stocks, the market was vulnerable.

In 1974, the American beef crop dropped and a "security problem" gripped the market. Natural disaster in Poland led to the tearing up of its export contracts.

panic

As an immediate result, the Paris Sugar Exchange collapsed and panic set in.

Commodity dealers began hoarding, refusing to sell unless the price soared to the levels of a year earlier.



as much as one or two cents per pound every day.

The more people hoarded, the more the price rose, the more the panic deepened.

There has to be a limit to this kind of madness and it came in late 1974 when the American sugar monopoly, Amstar, bought 100,000 tons at 65 cents a pound. That's about 2 1/2 times the average market price in Australia, and for sugar that wasn't even refined.

At one point, reports of a typhoon on the Philippine island of Mindanao (Philippines) led to a sugar exporter's panned harvest, apparently some

traders until they discovered that no sugar grew on Mindanao.

The high prices started having a reverse effect. More sugar than people ever realized began to surface as hoarders moved to cash in on the windfall prices.

The price started collapsing. The Australia-Japan sugar agreement was signed in December 1974, at the peak of the sugar boom.

At the time of the open market, but the Japanese agreed to buy at that price for several years.

However, within months,

the world price had fallen from 65 cents a pound to 9 cents a pound and the Japanese buyers were up in arms.

Australian consumers were largely shielded from the sugar boom because Australia is a sugar exporter. But other countries weren't.

chaotic

The people who lost during the boom were ordinary people of many countries who couldn't afford sugar at \$1 a pound and more. They were forced to go without because a chaotic group of wealthy speculators and hoarders had tied the market up in panic.

Not as if there wasn't enough sugar to go around. In fact, in 1974, the year of the boom, consumption was less than production. And it rarely differed by much.

The refiners also made windfall profits and factories making artificial sweeteners also had a boom.

But now the industry is languishing again. The sugar group is in a bind, world, who made little out of the boom, are now faced with prices too low for them to make a living.

What's the problem? The system in economic trouble, it cannot even organize the distribution of food products.

A few unions and some unorganised homebased officials can't perfectly fair under this system can throw the drive market, plans to chaos and put the most basic necessities out of the reach of millions of families.

This, then, is the system we must destroy.

together

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Welfare Workers.

The agenda was accepted by the majority of the executive, fearful that some centre unions might defect. After a long debate it was passed.

The agenda called for the 12 month debate before the referendum is put. It made the ACTU acceptance of the referendum conditional on the Government funding both sides of the debate, and the result to be binding on all parties.

Charlie Fairbairn of the

The executive resolution moved by Bob Hawke demanding that the Federal Government call a referendum of face union boycott was handed by an agenda moved by the ACTU.

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During the 12 months debate the ACTU would have the support of the executive, fearful that some centre unions might defect. After a long debate it was passed.

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For a proposal of uranium mining was overwhelmingly defeated.

The left vote could have been stronger except that a section of the left broke ranks. The Miscellaneous Workers Union, which involved cover union workers in the Northern Territory if mining went, wanted two both each way and voted for the executive resolution.

However, the executive resolution is meaningless. The result of the executive resolution is meaningless. The result of the executive resolution is meaningless. The result of the executive resolution is meaningless.

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Bert Lance — fingers in the till

JIMMY Carter's closest political friend and advisor has been dumped.

A new Reagan-style assault is already rocking the American government.

But since we are Jimmy Carter's Director of Budgets, a job similar to that of the Treasurer in Australian politics, we have to have a say.

Lance was in Georgia, in 1974, he ran an unsuccessful campaign to become Governor after Carter.

A House of Representatives inquiry that found that Lance was involved in illegal banking practices and that he turned one bank into a political machine for his own campaign.

He has also been found out giving Jimmy Carter illegal campaign contributions, including the free use of a bank aircraft.

Lance and Carter became friends in 1962. In 1966, Lance suggested Carter in his unsuccessful bid to become Governor of Georgia when



Bert Lance

Carter won in 1970, he made Lance the head of Georgia's Highway Commission.

Road construction was booming. Banks could make a lot of money buying highway bonds. Two of them, the Calhoun and the Fulton National, are reported to have

Lance borrowed large sums of money from the banks, on little or no security and with a flimsy credit rating, to finance his campaign for

Governor. Likewise, Carter also broke the stories about Lance's financial problems. Lance was able to pay the loans back. Lance didn't.

New Jimmy Carter, who came to power as the man to clean up American politics, is defaming his friend a rogue, a thief and a scoundrel.

But the American ruling class isn't happy. They have already seen Richard Nixon damage the credibility of the President's office. They want for Jimmy Carter because he had people believing that all they needed was an honest man.

And behind it all the ruling class is worried about Carter's economic policies. They are worried about Government spending cuts and they know Carter is losing the ability to pull the wool over people's eyes.

They want him to clean up his own house and change his economic policies. That's why it was reported from the New

York Times, rather than the underground papers, that Carter broke the stories about Lance.

Now this paragon of virtue is being shown up as a person who appoints crooks to Cabinet, and then defends them when they're exposed.

The man who promised Americans jobs is cutting government spending and reducing the number of jobs available. The man who promised a fair deal for blacks has gone against his word and cut a number of welfare schemes. He has also gone to water on the beating of black children at "white" schools.

While attacking the Soviet Union for the suppression of dissent, he has entertained General Pinochet from Chile and is now claiming that his human rights crusade has been approached "practically".

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Tempo of the Philippines

FIVE years ago on the 12th September 1970, President Marcos declared martial law.

His intention was to self President to make himself a dictator.

With Martial Law, the liberties of the people and all unions not certified by the companies or the government and mass actions have been banned.

enforced, telephonic calls are monitored, public meetings are banned, and curfew is imposed.

Why?

The plight of people opposing the government is similar to Chile. Many people suffer arbitrary arrest and "disappeared".

There are more than 500,000 political detainees according to the Association of Major Religious Superiors, a body which is doing work in the political prisoners.

They have more than seventy well documented cases of torture. Torture is a standard procedure in the interrogation of prisoners.

In spite of the danger, thousands of people continue about human rights and may request a more just economic system in the Philippines, as prepared to get into the slow and noisy state of oppression.

Why?

The IS helped and supported the demonstrations against Eysenck and Jensen and we support the militant tactics used.

Eysenck and Jensen are racist and their theories are an important element in the efforts by different governments to end special educational programs aimed to help poor, black people.

They argue that most of intelligence is inherited. Therefore there is little the government can do to overcome the low educational standards of black people. They claim to have found their stand on scientific research and IQ test scores.

But their research is rubbish. They deliberately ignore the fact that "objective" findings were used to justify the worst excesses of

Why?

On May 1st, 1977 more than ten thousand people demonstrated in Manila. They were arrested, some 800 were taken to prison. At the end of August, during the "World Peace Through Law Conference" in Manila, thousands more demonstrated and were arrested.

On September 21st it is expected that in spite of the repression more than 100,000 will demonstrate.

Manila has used martial law to provide conditions to encourage international capital and manufacturing to be set up. Already 41 Australian companies have moved to Manila.

Many firms from Japan, Taiwan and the U.S. have set up operations in the Philippines. The conditions are an obedient cheap labour force, many profits, and even the government paying the cost of setting up.

Many workers are paid less than \$1.00 a day.

One major supplier of jets in Australia, AMCO, has a sizeable operation in the Philippines. It pays workers between \$1.50 and \$1.00 per day.

Andrew Young is touring South Africa in an attempt to derail the black liberation struggle.

Young is going to negotiate an end to the war in Zimbabwe and to the black regime come to power. In the process the position of the white settlers as the major property owners and employers will be maintained.

Young is trying to use his credentials as a black Democrat and supposedly outspoken supporter of African freedom to sell President Carter's Africa

policy.

The following quotation from an interview he gave after talking to Rhodesia's Prime Minister, Ian Smith was really stans.

"Oh, Ian Smith would be as bad as folks here."

"I can't imagine a more difficult almost impossible man and I can't imagine people having trouble with him through the years."

I would like to see him arrested.

Why we stopped Eysenck and Jensen

THERE has been a raging controversy in the press over the demonstrations against Eysenck and Jensen, the two racist psychologists currently touring Australia.

BY Phil Griffiths, Editor

And one "scientist" — Sir Cyril Burt — who provided the basis for many of their claims, has admitted his racist and experimental results and experiments were fabricated.

Lies, Untrue. That is the admitted scientific basis of one of Jensen's books.

The importance of their theories is that they try to explain differences between people on the basis of their race. They give extremely valuable views to those who seek to divide the working class, to weaken as in the common fight against the rich and capitalist.

Their arguments have been directly used to justify ending a series of positive discrimination programs that American blacks forced out of their government. Four days after the publication of one of Jensen's books, the Ku Klux Klan were already in print quoting him.

The papers say that even if they're wrong, you have to argue against them. Wrong Hitler claims that "Aryans" were racially superior to others. He even had scientific proof it for him. We're supposed to argue against that.

At the turn of this century, there had already been a major scientific school devoted to proving that blacks were inferior because they had smaller skulls than whites.

The people who did this were called the "objective" findings were used to justify the worst excesses of

schooling and a whole host of cultural factors — including the bias of IQ tests themselves.

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only threaten blacks) and may become useful some time.

Like all the other racist theories in the past have become useful when ruling classes want to turn one oppressed group against another?

Are we to allow this to go unchallenged?

One of the greatest mind boggling brought up by Jensen and Eysenck's defenders is the issue of free speech and academic freedom.

After years of hounding the Labor Party with slander and distortion, after their history of calculated mass campaigns against students, and in view of the ripple effect which these monopolies had on the industry, the bowling of the Australian press about freedom of speech looks a little sick.

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THE RIGHT TO WORK

WE'RE marching for the Right to Work Hurrah, hurrah

We're marching for the Right to Work Hurrah, hurrah

We'll occupy well nationalise

We won't believe the bosses' lies

The Rank and File will organise

To fight for the Right to Work

Song of the Right to Work Campaign

UNEMPLOYMENT is now over 1,600,000 in Britain. Hundreds of thousands of young people have never had a job. They're attacked "Social Security scroungers" and left to rot in the dole.

Hundreds of thousands more have been made "independent" — "retired early" or just "blacked".

But Britain has a Labour Government. So the officials of Britain's Trade Unions have come easy on Labour.

They're agreed to pay people who have cost the average British worker \$30 a week. And they've done nothing to fight for jobs.

But the Right to Work Campaign in Britain has built a network of black resistance committees throughout the country. It has supported trade unions fighting for jobs.

Right to Work Campaigns have occupied dole offices, picketed factories and brought the militant unemployed together.

Last week, they organised a lobby of the Trades Union Congress in the seaside resort town of Blackpool. They marched for four days to tell the union officials to get off their benches and do something for the unemployed.

But this was no ordinary march. They passed through some of the highest unemployment areas of Britain. They picketed dole offices on the coast and inland, picketed lines at the Lucas factory in Bolton.

They got a different reception from the officials. Most were sympathetic. They were told that the unemployed had organised to lobby them. Presumably they were meant to suffer in silence.

But the most sympathetic came from Jack Jones, leader of the British Transport and General Workers.

A spokesman asked him what he was going to do for the unemployed. He answered "Nothing".

THE murder of Steve Biko, leader of the Black Peoples Convention, has sparked a further wave of revolt in South Africa.

Massive crowds of blacks marched in solidarity to the funeral and in response the Vorster regime has made thousands of arrests in an attempt to smash the protests.

The apartheid regime would like to prevent this. Biko died in prison from the

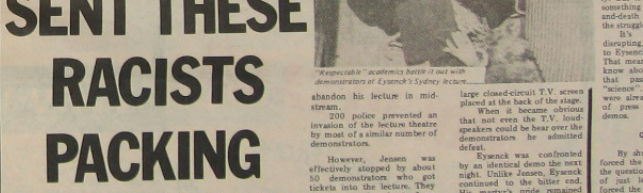


Steve Biko's family picket black power rallies after his murder.

effects of a week long hunger strike. But independent witnesses have testified that his body and skull bore the marks of severe beating.

Biko was one of the founders of the "black consciousness" movement which was a major force behind the recent growth of black resistance in South Africa. He now joins dozens of other black militants who have been murdered in Vorster's jails.

The apartheid regime would like to prevent this. Biko died in prison from the



UNIQUE SENSITIVE PACKING

Lectures at Melbourne University.

Jensen, who spoke first in a rough reception when they gave their Fink Memorial

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Recent Condemnation of Meatworkers' Union

MEATWORKERS employed by the big Queensland company, T.A. Fields, are on strike.

Working conditions had been in the past by militant action in the Bremer sheds under attack.

"Housing books" on the shelves and waiting time books situations when the company doesn't provide an extra day of work. For 15 months, there's been a verbal agreement that no workers lose pay for these holdups in production. But now the company has gone back on its word and refused to pay. Fields were smart enough to never agreeing to put this and other conditions on by the sheds into writing as the Meat Award stands if future the boss. They can even stand down workers for part of the day, but still force them to stay on the plant!

The workers in the sheds claim that it is the company's responsibility to provide them with work while they are on the plant. They're not going to stop going without pay for something the company is responsible for.

The Struggle in the Queensland Meat Industry

As one of the boners said at the strike meeting, "This is one of the best conditions we've seen. We can't go back on this one. Who knows what they'll try to turn on next."

Election

MEANWHILE, the challenge on the recent union ballot continues. Latest developments include publication by the present officials in the union journal of a report from the Returning Officer.

This version carefully leaves out some incriminating statements in the original report.

In the unsecured report, for instance, the Returning Officer states he conveniently had repeatedly changed my signature. This made a check on the validity of the ballots impossible.

The NCC has only supported the Maxwell/Lette group, which was responsible for the deal in Rockhampton. In the recent elections, the Groupies also praised the Labor Party for leading the union of ALP unionists and threatening to expel members of the ALP involved in the Reform Committee.

As the Reform Committee leader says, "Groupies like to see Groupies win." On the job it's a different story. New Evans, from the Maxwell/Lette group, was

selected State President in the elections.

But he was kicked off the shop committee at his own works, Huttons, in favour of a Reform candidate!

One of the Reform workers summed it up: "It's all a bit of a joke."

Rockhampton

IT SEEMS that moves are afoot to smash the strong rank-and-file organisation in sheds where the Meatworkers Reform Committee is strong.

At Rockhampton, Fields' other Queensland meatworks, the company recently filed the plant down on the flimsy grounds that "industrial disputes had made the works uneconomic."

The real reason was that Fields had to carry out maintenance on the sheds. While this was going on, they worked out a deal with the State Executive of the AMU (Meatworkers Union) on the conditions under which the Rockhampton workers would

return to work. Five weeks later, the workers returned, thinking their conditions had been protected. But they were found to have been actually meant the law of conditions they've previously and that some militants weren't being met.

The State Meatworkers' officials made it clear that the boss' award deal and the deal they had made on any rank file would be voided.

The Rockhampton workers then held a stoppage and Fields immediately ended them.

When Bremer learned what had happened, they were in solidarity. Obviously the company was trying to put the boot in, and they refused to let that defend themselves. The Rockhampton workers together, they moved a resolution to support any action the Rockhampton workers took. "Barkey was out, Bremer was out."

The Rockhampton workers got reinstated, but they didn't forget the big boys they got in support of Bremer's present struggle.

Even though Bremer was going to return to work while Fields was slapped another stoppage on the Rocky workers. Clearly the company is manoeuvring to keep the sheds out to divide them and weaken the rank and file and

THE threat of jail is still hanging over the heads of eleven Vehicle Builders Union militants sacked from Chrysler, Tomley Park, in July.

The South Australian branch of the VBU is still preparing a writ for charges against the eleven for supposedly "assaulting" officials at the wild meeting on July 12.

The case has been adjourned to October 17. It's still at Darwin Court House, well away from the city to make it hard to hold any demonstration.

Who are the officials who are pressing these charges? Gary Hill, a libertarian socialist and a member of the Chrysler Rank and File Group who was sacked, writes about their record.

THE Vehicle Builders Union tries to maintain a left image by feigning to support the denouncing Fraser, making donations to Amnesty International, denouncing the use of Australian officers in Ireland.

- 1. Consistently refusing militants the right to attend union meetings.
- 2. Rigged elections and a retail ballot with more votes counted than possible.
- 3. Supplying the "advertorial" (paid reliable information and writing anti-militant articles for that paper, which has a consistent record of far-righting activities and rabid anti-unionism).
- 4. Harassment of individual militants on the shop floor.
- 5. Accepting gifts from the unions, eg a personal gift of a car to Dominic Foreman, VBU State Secretary.
- 6. Standing aside when the state police union members Peter van Arndt and Will Hume were being taken off for a couple of days after the stoppage and lose a day's pay in the process.
- 7. Attempting to bring in reactionary "schemes" in this they were opposed

THEY'RE NOT GOING TO BE ACCOSING!

by the ALP state government. Don't let them strongly favour this type of compromise!

8. Siding with the Liberals and other righties on many issues at union meetings.

9. Recently overturning the ban put on against Chrysler by the use of 3000 members at the July 12 meeting.

many issues at union meetings.

The right for the workers are those on the shop floor—not those in Trades Hall or union officials who only there to control and control workers' struggles.

The only organisations that fight for the workers are those on the shop floor—not those in Trades Hall or union officials who only there to control and control workers' struggles.

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But the workers Latham surprises had different ideas. After all, they actually have to put up with the bastard. When Latham showed up for work, all 84 of them walked out.

So now while everyone else works day shift, Noel Latham is working afternoon shift - all by himself!

A TALE OF TWO SCABS

Scab number two is Tony Dear - a teacher at Ashwood High School in Victoria.

Dear is also a member of the Workers' Party. He's their endorsed candidate for Henry at the next Federal Election.

It was very worried that the Victorian Secondary Teachers' Association annual general meeting has reaffirmed the union's commitment to compulsory unionism in the schools.

With the VSTA membership now well over 50% of secondary teachers, he can see the writing on the wall.

Dear has sent a letter and a poster to all Victorian principals. The poster says: "Unionism - whether you want it or not - and he wants the principals to put it up on school noticeboards. Surprisingly, 'Dear doesn't complain about "Unionism conditions - whether you want them or not."

But here's the punchline. In his letter he threatens that, if compulsory unionism comes in, he'll (gulp) shock! horror! resign!

Now it's time for one of the best arguments ever for compulsory unionism, what's that?

When he refused, Latham doxed him into the boss and he was sacked. Then Latham refused to go to the fine imposed by the Barrow Industrial Council over the incident. Instead he took the BIC to court.

The BIC had come to a compromise with him after an anonymous donor had paid his \$50 fine. Latham was going to resign.

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SPECIAL PROMS AGAIN

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Who are the officials who are pressing these charges? Gary Hill, a libertarian socialist and a member of the Chrysler Rank and File Group who was sacked, writes about their record.

THE Vehicle Builders Union tries to maintain a left image by feigning to support the denouncing Fraser, making donations to Amnesty International, denouncing the use of Australian officers in Ireland.

- 1. Consistently refusing militants the right to attend union meetings.
- 2. Rigged elections and a retail ballot with more votes counted than possible.
- 3. Supplying the "advertorial" (paid reliable information and writing anti-militant articles for that paper, which has a consistent record of far-righting activities and rabid anti-unionism).
- 4. Harassment of individual militants on the shop floor.
- 5. Accepting gifts from the unions, eg a personal gift of a car to Dominic Foreman, VBU State Secretary.
- 6. Standing aside when the state police union members Peter van Arndt and Will Hume were being taken off for a couple of days after the stoppage and lose a day's pay in the process.
- 7. Attempting to bring in reactionary "schemes" in this they were opposed

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If you can't win the vote

~ just shift the meeting

BLF delegates from three VSTU building sites demonstrated at Trades Hall on Thursday September 23 to demand a special branch meeting. The last branch meeting had been shifted from Sydney to Newcastle at the last moment, preventing any rank and file discussion of the national campaign.

Sydney BIA are demanding that the rank and file be consulted. The campaign is virtually dead in Sydney and costing the members money. Yet Gallagher continues to run the campaign as a union-man ego trip.

If the demand for a special meeting is refused, the militant building sites will consider organising a stoppage and mass meeting themselves in the near future.

consult

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RECORDED

IN our last edition (30.8), an article on PD entitled "How are we fighting the Act?" gave the impression that a Section Committee meeting at the Trades Hall on Thursday 22nd September was organised by a group of rank and file activists from a number of public service unions.

This is not the case. The meeting was organised by the Telecom HQ Section Committee. PCDA and the media were invited in to raise the question of a 24-hour stoppage at the CACCO time made possible by the new legislation.

It's the only one we've had an indefinite strike on - with demonstrations and sit-ins.

members of the Classification Committee (which does the actual promotions) around corridors.

Who was on this one before, and provided the leadership down to go walk in the know, we can't go back.

WHERE does the campaign go from here? Every strike meeting has to answer that question, and the TTVV stateside stoppage meeting being held as we go to press will certainly have to.

The stoppage meeting will consider a proposal on rolling stoppages on the two weeks of wages and principal appointments. My fear is that many may not be encouraged to start out the campaign right now.

If there isn't, we need to set up regional groups to organise action on all three issues, including unemployment.

We need to do this anyway. We have to broaden the campaign, dig it out from its union cocoon, and get it out and in the air. We need the support of every teacher can prove its ability. This is the only way to win the fight of all.

B's show Watts

What's what

SEVEN hundred construction workers on the massive E.A. Watts Collins Place project in Melbourne are still out after six weeks.

The strike is over safety issues - though it's a bit more complicated than that.

The workers at Collins Place were part of the building industry's campaign for working days. The facts of taking an afternoon meeting were working very effectively there.

Workers would finish lunch, add go as slowly as possible up to the top of the building (Collins Place is a 50 storey).

By the time they got to the top, it was virtually time to come down again for the afternoon smoke. Then they'd repeat the process, and it would be nearly time to knock off.

As a result, E.A. Watts was getting virtually nothing done after lunch.

One afternoon, it was too windy to work safely, and the job was declared unsafe.

But one particular foreman thought that money was more important than safety. He ordered his men to finish a concrete pour that was in progress. He also did work himself which wasn't his.

So the unions on the site decided that if Watts wanted a fight over safety, they could have it.

Workers stayed in the sheds for four and a half days while officials went over the whole site to find out what was wrong. They found 610 individual safety violations. A lot were petty matters.

There were plenty that weren't. They were cracks and holes in planks on scaffolding. There were kickboards missing on the edge of the building. And that if a worker accidentally

Rail Claim - Lets get serious

by ARU member, Melbourne goods yard

IT appears that the "leadership" of the Railways and Trainsworkers in Victoria are determined to sensibly exhaust the means industrial strength through a series of 24-hour strikes.

The major effect of these short strikes is to set worker against worker, since these strikes mainly affect commuters.

Short-term stoppages hardly affect business. Rail freight is only held up for a day. And rail workers have to take their own off for the couple of days after the stoppage and lose a day's pay in the process.

Far more effective tactics are available such as prolonged strikes, or prolonged work-to-rule and go-down campaigns. Only these unions workers get their wages, and thus play part in the destruction of the great wage-industry.

Go-googlers 'rescue' rapir

EVEN if Bjelke Peterson is ready to take on the union movement, it seems there are quite a few bosses in Queensland who aren't.

Ted Zaphir was fined \$100 in court in Brisbane this month. But before he even had a chance to pay - or rather, refuse to pay no fewer than seven people had tried to pay his fine "for the sake of industrial peace." All anonymous, of course.

Two of them actually got to pay with their money. This was knocked back at the court. But before he even had a chance to pay - or rather, refuse to pay no fewer than seven people had tried to pay his fine "for the sake of industrial peace." All anonymous, of course.

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Which way now for TTVV?

by Chris Crockett, Clayton TTVV

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THE BATTLE

July strike pays off

Railway construction workers in Sydney have won their wet weather allowance. This is a breakthrough of historic importance. The wet weather agreement reached last week with the Victorian State Electricity Commission (SEC) is a landmark. The 32 hours was one of two central demands of a strike held last July. Some gains were also made in other demands such as increases in wages and in the number of days off.

The Battler

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS
ISSUE 40 22-OCTOBER 1977 20 CENTS

MARCH AGAINST URANIUM MINING SAT 22 OCT

SYDNEY — Assemble 10.30am Belmore Park (Opp Central). March to the Domain. Rally and Festival 12 noon. March also leaves Sydney University 9.30am. MELBOURNE — Rally City Square 12 noon. BRISBANE — Rally City Square 11am. RALLY TO FOLLOW WHETHER BIEKE LIKES IT OR NOT. CANBERRA — Rally outside Parliament House 12.30pm — 1.30pm Oct.

LIFT maintenance and construction workers in the Eastern States have broken through and won \$11 to \$12 after staying out four weeks.

The lift workers mostly work for three companies — Olin, Elevation and Johns and Waygood.

Bob Smith, an AMWSU shop steward at Elevation in Melbourne, told *The Battler* how at Elevation, the construction workers had started pushing for a rise two weeks ago.

"We started off having meetings on our own, to try and get more money and better working conditions to bring us in line with the builders."

"We work on the same sites as the building blokes. But because we're under the metal trades union, we're about \$30 to \$40 a week worse off than them — and we're all skilled tradesmen."

"The unions told us we'd have to bring together John & Reynolds, Olin and ourselves before we could do any good."

"So in April this year we held a joint meeting at the Trades Hall, and drew up this list of claims which had fifteen items."

"First of all, we wanted a rise. It sounded ridiculous, but we put in for a \$50 a week rise. We were sure we wouldn't get it."

Four months before the employers went wanted to know anything about it. "They knocked back thirteen of the lot of claims, and wouldn't even give an answer on the other two. What they were really worried about was that while we're on strike all the profits that we're making go to the employers' state."

years
"If we just went ahead and fixed them all up, we could be in dispute for ten years and you wouldn't bloody know it. We wouldn't get anywhere."

"It's a common fact in the lift business that when we are in dispute — which is not very often, the last major one was three or four years ago — we fix up 'breakdowns' in hospitals, old people's homes,



Melbourne SEC workers at mass meeting

continuity

"We were trying to get continuity of representation — which meant if a person went from, say, Elevation to Olin, the time would accrue on Tool allowance, travelling allowance, night money — which all the people on the construction sites get but we don't."

"We supply all our own tools. We want a five dollar a week tool allowance, because you drop them from the building, down the lift shaft, and you're always buying new tools. It does cost a fair bit."

"With each pay, we get eight days a year, but you don't want to have to produce a doctor's certificate if you're on travelling time — we get eight cents a day, but the builders get \$2.20."

"It took about three or

APTU 'wins' shorter hours

POSTAL workers got the 36½ hour week now — just like white collar public servants.

But it is the massive breakthrough that it appears to be. There is one major catch.

The shorter week was not what it was bought. The Industrial Union of Marine and Shipbuilding Workers of Australia (IUMSWA) and the Australian Postal Union (APU) have agreed that there will be no loss of production as a result of shorter hours.

That means an 85-bow productivity per worker.

To achieve it, Australia Post will probably need measures such as the mass changes which caused to recent Redfern dispute.

There are some dangers, however, for Australia Post. If they introduce the nine hour week by using a nine day fortnight — like Telecom did with the technicians — that probably get a reduction in absenteeism.

The following piece from the July issue of "Communist Action", the bulletin of the Communication Workers Action Group in Victoria, illustrates just one way Australia Post can actually profit from the new deal.

"There once was a man who started on the job on 1-17-75. On 1-17-76 he was due for his annual leave and received 20 days. On 1-17-76 was due for his annual leave and was given 20 days."

"But he worked until Easter to have his holiday leave and was only given 18 days annual leave."

"The Telecom Commission and the union said that he was only entitled to 18 days of leave. He was given two more days off under the 36½ hour working day fortnight agreement."

"What they had forgotten was that he had guaranteed to increase his productivity 85% to 'make up' for his shorter hours and therefore all he had 'gained' was a reorganisation of his working hours. What the Commission had gained was two days pay from the firm — one confused and paid member."

CONTRIBUTE TO THE BATTLE! SEND YOUR WORK-PLACE STORY TO The Battler PO Box 46 Flemington Vic 3031 or ring us at 33-4142 33-1606 (24 hrs) DEADLINE for next issue — Thursday 13 October

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PAGE 16 THE BATTLE 1 OCTOBER 1977

\$109 A WEEK — IT'S A DISGRACE

HOW YOU CAN HELP

OCTOBER 18, 1977 will go down as one of the blackest days in Australian working class history.

It will go down as the day that 330,000 a year judges told Victorian SEC Trade assistants had to make home pay — five dollars below the poverty line.

The day that they told SEC tradesmen they had to be content with \$40 less than men doing exactly the same work for private employers.

It was the day when Arbitration tore off its mask of 'neutrality' to spit in the face of workers whose only crime was to ask for a little wage justice.

The SEC workers did the only thing people with any human dignity could do.

Despite the fact that they had been out nine weeks already, despite the fact that most of them were reduced to food and south and deep in debt, they turned to their employer and said "We won't take this any more."

For this, they are being vilified and threatened with their jobs. The Hammer government is already diverting for scab labour and promising

mass sackings unless they cave in. Police are being moved into the Latrobe Valley to maintain "law and order".

And Malcolm Fraser is, with total cynicism, setting the stage for a union-busting Federal election. With half a million workers stood down, Fraser hopes to use their suffering for a game of electoral manipulation.

PRESIDED

The man who presided over the greatest stand-down in history — the permanent unemployment of 330,000 workers — is going to try and present himself as the champion of the right to work.

And both Hanes and Fraser are going to count on Bob Hawke and the Labor Party going weak at the knees like they've done so many times before.

They're going to count on Labor's obsession with its "electoral image" to ask the power workers to go back to work.

We can't allow that to happen. The whole future of "wage indexation", the whole future of the wage



"JUSTICE" LUDECKE — He can afford to say NO. He is at stake right now. If the power workers lose, it will be the signal for every boss in the country to go on the attack.

They are fighting for simple justice. But fighting for simple justice these days means fighting the boss, fighting Arbitration and fighting the government itself.

That's why the power workers need our support.

SEND THE SEC strikers a donation.

They've been out nine weeks now, and most of them are at least a thousand dollars in debt. Take up a collection at work, from your friends, in your local shopping centre. Send donations to: AMWSU, 14 Hazlewood St. Monwell, Vic. or to The Battler, PO Box 46, Flemington, Vic 3031.

SUPPORT mass union pickets if Hamer tries to strike-break.

Don't let him use. Take part in any pickets the Latrobe Valley workers organise if you can. If Hamer uses the Army, or fines or jail strikers, demand immediate action from your union in support of a general strike.

WIDEN the fight for decent pay.

The best way to help the campaign is... join it ourselves! Wage indexation has been cutting our wages for the last 25 years. It's time all unions followed the SEC workers' lead against the Liberals' wage-cutting strategy.



SUPPORT THE POWER WORKERS

LABOUR POWER STRIKE ATROBE VALLEY POWER STRIKE ATROBE VALLEY POWER STRIKE

ON THE PICKET LINE

A FEATURE of the strike was the picket against coal trucks. It was one of the first pickets ever held in the valley. But it was not without success, imagination, and flair.

The S.E.C. was trying to ferry coal from the Yalloom area to Melbourne, ten miles away. But they got frustrated, a trucking company, to do the job.

They then hand-picked 20 men who generally work as labour drivers job such as others.

The strike made good use of Charles Reid (CB) as a help to lead the coal coach. Ken Waring, an FIA member at Yalloom, told us how they did it.

"Right from the start it was a quarter to one on Monday, when the picket went on the Number Two gate, we had the CB's out. At that particular time we were trying to stop Transport from carting the coal."

"We had them parked out in different sections - covering the open cut, the ring road, etc. We had one pulled on Hermes Hill and he could see all over the open cut and watch the movements."

sit down
"When the SEC started sending the coal trucks through it was through the CB that we were able to get down to here, and sit down on the road."

"Although the CB that wouldn't have happened, because it's a 25 mile radius we're trying to cover. It was on strike, blocks can't afford petrol, they can't be running anywhere."

"With the CB we were able to place them at strategic points and keep an eye on everything."

"At a quarter to one yesterday round about five o'clock we had three men here on the Monday afternoon, three



THE COWLEYS: "The SEC couldn't give a stuff about starving kids."

would have been three to four hundred men at the Number Two gate. After while, they worked out a route.

"The different shop stewards took particular times. Some people volunteered for particular times, but a lot of people just went on. For instance, I volunteered from eleven to two, but I got there at nine o'clock and went right through till 4:30 in the morning."

"We had a lot of that. People didn't volunteer for any particular time, but came and stayed ten hours, three hours, four hours."

"The shop stewards have been back and forwards to Melbourne most of the week with the conference, and the men have more or less taken it into their own hands to do their bit. You'll get blocks coming, they'll stay two or three hours, then they'll be a couple of hours."

"They'll say, 'Here's a couple more, I'll shoot off and have some lunch.' They'll go away and I'll lunch, then come back again."

"At one particular stage yesterday round about five o'clock we had three men here on the picket line. But by ten

o'clock last night there was about two hundred, I'd say, with their cars double-parked all the way down the road till around the bend, which is about 200-300 yards.

"We had a lot of men's wives and children out here. Since Tuesday morning, the men have more or less organized themselves."

"During the day, the scabs were able to drive the coal through under heavy police protection. The cops were there in force - they even had a medical centre. Sixteen cops were sent in from Melbourne."

"Apparently they were worried that the local police wouldn't be ruthless enough with the pickets because they knew many of them personally, from the football club and so on."

The scabs were able to get through during the day because of the police guard. But at night it was a different story.

raids
Under cover of darkness, strikers made guerrilla raids. Scab trucks in a compound had paint thrown over their wind-screens. Nails were strown along the road used by the scabs - and the next day, eight police cars got flat tyres!

One ex-convict used his grade-4 blow-owing experience to blow the scab conveyer. (He scored a broken wind-screen.)

It was these night-time attacks that seemed to demoralise the scabs more. A mass meeting of the Transport Workers Union in Yalloom voted to end the conveyer, and the scabs gave up.

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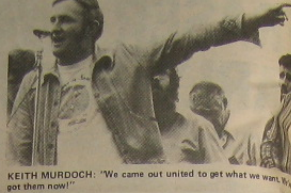
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KEITH MURDOCH: "We came out united to get what we want, but got them now!"

'It's better to die on your feet than to live on your knees!'

WITH these stirring words Sammy Armstrong, secretary of the State Electricity Shop Stewards Committee summed up the feelings of 2,300 maintenance workers.

Their strike had almost kicked in the rotten wall of Wage Indexation, causing the greatest industrial crisis in 30 years.

The response of the Hameer government has been predictable. Some of the most vicious anti-union legislation on the books has been whizzed out to try and bludgeon the workers to submission.

But equally predictably, the ruling class has held back from using it. The sting of the 1969 thrashing over penal powers is still hot on their cheeks.

justice
The Larrobe Valley workers have held out longer have held out longer than any other group of workers in Australia so far. They have been driven forward by two things - the justice of their claims and the powerful rank and file organisation they have developed.

The main claim of the SEC strikers is for a \$40 wage rise. Most of them are about \$20 behind equivalent workers in the NSW and Queensland power industry. Many are \$40-60 behind equivalent workers in private industry.

Trades assistants in the SEC are taking home \$109. That's \$5 below the poverty line

any take-over by China. It was quite obvious that most people signing Darby's petition were the strikers' side of the story.

When the I.S. members arrived at the city square was a megaphone, there was a group of five people waiting to sign Darby's petition, and he was getting several signatures a minute.

But as soon as we started speaking and giving the arguments for the strike,



GEORGE WRAGG: "The Arbitration Commission is a bosses' court... it rubber stamps what it matters in the employing class tell it."



MAX STRONG: "We've gone back every time in the past and every time we've lost. If we go back every time, we'll be back here in future."

for a family with two-and-a-half kids on that pay.

We asked the strikers at their wives how they see the claim, and they say we're picket, it's getting pretty tough. Glen Cowley: "When it gets to the stage when you have no picket, it's getting pretty tough. The SEC couldn't put a staff about starting pickets."

"We'll need two years to get out of financial hardship, but we're fighting for what we believe is right. Women won't go into industry if we've had to cut down on food, and we're not able to go out."

"I've got two kids under the age of six. My wife doesn't work. It's cost us over \$600 the week and I look after the two kiddies. I've lost over seven weeks over a thousand dollars in wages."

"I'm not a militant socialist under normal circumstances, but this time my family's suffering so I feel I've got to do something to try and break the deadlock."

Margaret and Arthur Makins: "Indexation's all right if it gets it - but we don't get it. They're only ever given us one full indexation, that was two years ago."

"We've that far behind the eight ball it doesn't matter."

Blakes here have lost a lot of money. "We've just been battling along. We've got two youngsters here, we're buying a house, and we've just got to go along at it."

"We didn't foresee this coming on. It's cost us over \$600 the last eight weeks."

"Everything's got to be paid back and it'll take a lot of weeks a long time. But I understand that, because we're going to help us try and get ahead. We're just down the drain on this strike. I don't know how long it'll take."

"We're after a worthwhile cause. We're working alongside people who are earning \$40-\$60 more a week than us. Anyone who knocks the strike, they wouldn't work in the same conditions."

Darby in the City Square

How Hamer tried to break the strike

VICTORIAN Premier, Dick Hamer, held off using repressive powers at his disposal for nine long weeks.

Instead, he embarked on a course of bluff and counter-bluff to try and break the strike.

Hamer knew that the ALP and Bob Hawke were desperate to avoid a head-on confrontation. He knew that the ALP was more worried about its electoral image than supporting "embarrassing" strikers.

Hamer also knew that John Halfpenny, like many other people in the Communist Party was scared of being "isolated" from the ALP.

Story: Alec Kahn
Photos: Steve Morgan

The first time Halfpenny got no support whatsoever. The second time, he convinced one man, Sammy Armstrong, a fellow Communist Party member. Since Armstrong has enormous respect amongst Larrobe Valley power workers, this was an important shift.

And Bob Hawke, who is hated in the Valley because of his seltens in 1972, managed to cook up a deal where the strikers returned to work for three days while the Full Bench of Arbitration was "annulled" case.

But Hamer's undoubtedly hoped that Arbitration would give a deal where the five or ten dollars so that the strikers could be split and got back to work.

But Hamer and the Arbitration board were looking for compromise and deals. They wanted nothing less than total victory.

And they took the manoeuvre of Hawke and Halfpenny for what they were - signs of weakness.

That's why they figured they could get away with offering nothing and threatening mass sackings.

NOW, FROM THE PEOPLE WHO BROUGHT YOU NEWSPORT

The Victorian State Electricity Commission has a world record in the Larrobe Valley. Not just industrially, but in polluting and poisoning the environment in which its employees live.

The SEC destroyed the old townstead in Yalloom to get at the coal underneath it. Despite repeated warnings from residents and experts that the coal would be so good, that they could get better coal by digging in a different direction, they went ahead.

They built hundreds out of their homes and built a shiny new power station to burn the coal. Surprise, surprise. The coal wouldn't burn properly. The SEC had to use oil as well to get the steam produced by improved productivity per employee by 32%. But it has recently refused to bring in the \$35 hour wage.

If the SEC wrecked the environment for its employees, so they at least had some of the gains produced by improved productivity per employee by 32%. But it has recently refused to bring in the \$35 hour wage.

The scab that came in from the cold

YOU might have noticed the highly publicised petition addressed in the Melbourne city square against the power strike by a young "businessman" named James Darby.

Darby was most suitable person to do this. He is a scab. His particular business happens to be an escort agency. We understand for the Federal Elections he is going to organise a group group called National Forum for Males.

James Darby as a member of the notorious night-wing Darby family.

His dad, Douglas Darby, is a Liberal MLA in Sydney. His record in Parliament is gross enough but he's best known as the head of the anti-communist Captive Nations Association.

His most famous gesture was an attempt to teach the Taiwanese to pick cricket. He said that signing a bit of the British Empire in their blood would act as a bulwark against

any take-over by China. It was quite obvious that most people signing Darby's petition were the strikers' side of the story.

When the I.S. members arrived at the city square was a megaphone, there was a group of five people waiting to sign Darby's petition, and he was getting several signatures a minute.

But as soon as we started speaking and giving the arguments for the strike,

Darby's support dropped to a trickle. It was quite obvious that most people signing Darby's petition were the strikers' side of the story.

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FACTORY WORKERS STRIKE AGAINST FASCISM

LAST week, millions of Italian trade unionists struck in protest at the growing fascist terror in Italy.

Three nights of fascist terrorism culminated in the murder of Walter Rossi on the night Paolo Cianfrani and Maureen Bruce were sitting with a group of friends outside an underground station when a masked youth walked up, pulled out a pistol and aimed into the group.

shot

Paolo was shot in the groin, the bullet caused a dangerous haemorrhage which the doctor succeeded in stopping with some difficulty. Maureen was wounded in the foot.

In Piazza, Ives Elena Pacinotti, was gravely wounded when three fascists pulled up in a car, fired and sped off. These were the most grave attacks in a long list of beatings and assaults on left wing offices, the most grave that in the world Friday week ago.

Walter Rossi, a member of the revolutionary socialist group Lotta Continua had gone to demonstrate outside the local fascist din in Viale della Repubblica (CNR, from where most of the attack emanated.

Nobel Peace Women

THE Deferred 1976 Nobel Peace Prize was awarded by the "peace" women of Northern Ireland, Betty Williams and Mairead Corrigan.

Newspapers around the world have been filled with praise for these women. They are supposed to represent the hope for an end to the violence in Northern Ireland.

But they don't. The civil war in Ireland is caused by the approval of the Catholic minority. Young Catholics have been forced into terrorist activities by the lack of jobs and by the terrorism of the British Army.

Since the British government sent the army in to "keep the peace," they have suppressed the Catholic resistance at the same time as allowing a free reign to Protestant terrorism.

Why? Because it was the rulers and bosses of Northern Ireland who initiated the religious divisions and who instigated them for years with deliberate discrimination.

They're not. Some are Australian. Here is a report from an American Transporter (truck driver), about the activities of an Australian multinational exploiting American workers.

Reprinted from the American newspaper, "Socialist Worker".

holidays

"When we punched out at All Trans Express in Los Angeles on Friday, September 2, we were only worried about the heavy Labor Day traffic. The 40 of us — Transporter drivers and dock workers — were thinking about the holidays.

But, on Saturday, one of the trucks was coming home from vacation loaded with company trucks heading for San Francisco on the freeway.

A group of 15 to 20 fascists were outside the building along with the police in a perimeter circle which slowly moved down the road towards the group of demonstrators 100 yards away.

The fascists followed behind. As the police was approached the fascists ran forward in front of it and a tall blond youth pulled out a large caliber pistol, knelt down, took aim and killed Walter Rossi with a shot in the neck. He also wounded a 45-year-old petrol pump attendant fighting nearby.

Only an hour later did the police act fit to take any action against the fascists, going into their den and arresting 15. But of course by this time there was no trace of the assassins.

That evening, as the news was spread by the revolutionary radio station, around 3,000 comrades gathered and marched to the fascist building.

By now it was heavily protected by police who started firing tear gas.

Saturday morning strikes were called in most schools in Rome and other cities and at the university.

strong

In the evening there were two demonstrations, one about 4,000 strong and another which marched to join it. By the end of the march, there were 20,000.

In other Italian cities demonstrations were held on the Saturday and a one-hour general strike was called by the trade unions in Rome on the Monday.

These acts of terrorism by

fascists conducted with the complicity of the police have been well orchestrated and obviously have the support of the Christian Democrat Government.

They are an attempt to provoke the student movement into using guns, giving the government the scapegoat it so desperately needs.

To defuse the aims of the government to repeal the events of March when the University was occupied and subsequently cleared and when armed provocateurs gave the excuse for the banning of demonstrations.

To defend the aims of the government and the fascist bloc through the movement must spread the struggle into the factories instead of resorting to the blind alley of armed retaliation. The one-hour strike is a start.

These acts of terrorism by

fulfilled

"I feel I have fulfilled my duty by supporting the liberation of all peoples."

The prosecutor read his court extracts from her diary. It is unbelievable that such sentiments were expressed.

He censured the crowd and went to join the boys (militia) fighting. If that's what you would join the boys.

"I don't want to go to Europe and plead for solutions that would sacrifice the armed struggle."

US and Canada.

The company kept the more strictly secret, didn't even inform some of the managers. His cell phones had been switched off, the freight was all off the docks.

switch

The reason I was asked to switch the work to a union company, Intercontinental Container, which uses operators to handle its freight.

They had tried this before in 1961 and 1970, but in 1981 and 1970, the workers won the right to work the freight.

Now there are 40 of us. We must look for a job, knowing well that the unemployment figure will be any which way. Freight companies in Australia, New Zealand, Brazil, the

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Nun Speaks Out For Armed Struggle

IT is not often that Theological students of the Catholic religious order, last week an American nun before the courts in Rhodesia that deserves admiration.

Sister Jane McGhee faces charges of "obscenity and blasphemy" instead of hiding behind technicalities, the stand right her conviction that armed struggle against Rhodesia deserves the support.

In the context of the rule in Rhodesia, Sister McGhee's resolution is necessary, said "I support liberation, support the need for church society, support those who are fighting to bring the

fulfilled

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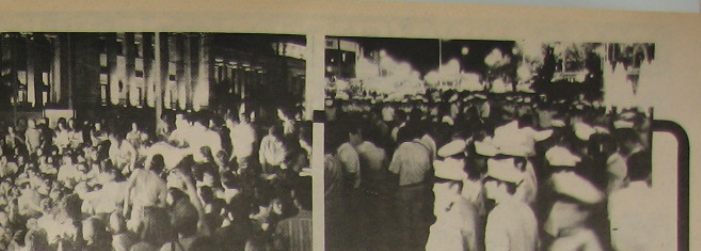
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They take more than Cops to stop us, Joh!

LAST week, on Wednesday October 12, up to 500 students and others marched from the University of Queensland to King George Square.

This was the third attempt to conduct a march in defiance of the Queensland government's ban on "political street marches".

The marchers, who had lined up to march to the Executive Building, Job's workplace, twice asked permission to leave the Square. Both times, they were refused, but the second time

the footpath.

The Square, when reached was surrounded by 700 police plus numerous members of Special Branch.

The marchers, who had lined up to march to the Executive Building, Job's workplace, twice asked permission to leave the Square. Both times, they were refused, but the second time

the marchers neither broke up nor dispersed, which resulted in the police keeping the streets blocked and the traffic held up for a similar time. This is the very situation the ban on marches is supposed to prevent!

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George Square has at last brought the TLC out condemning the removal of the right to speak in a public place and in order as public in condemnation demand the restoration of the right to march.

But many ALP, CPA and union bureaucrats persist in urging workers not to "take the law into their own hands" to make that be a taking with explosives, not with a rod and stone.

The degree to which the bourgeoisie, in the name of working class parties have failed to respond to these attacks has been major factor in the absence of such a mass offensive, to date.

SA Executive ducks for cover ... again

FOR the second time this year, the VSTA Executive has called off a strike at the last minute and left an offer from the Education Department.

Last week's strike was called over a number of issues, the right to strike, inspection and staffing. In July, the VSTA's biggest strike ever, put on the first spot.

Some weeks had been spent negotiating for the October strike, but at 6:30 pm the day before the Executive called it off.

But was the Department's offer too good to refuse? It's true that the strike has been removed, and the Department has more or less accepted our right to fight for conditions. Promotions have been suspended for three weeks so that the inspection issue can be discussed. The staffing issue was not mentioned.

Actually, the whole deal is pretty much of a bluff. Dr Shean (Education Director General) has removed the strike but, and in return the prospect of a full-scale union struggle over staffing and inspection has been postponed, probably till next year. Since Shean got on his knees, it's primarily to get himself a reputation to negotiate with, he does quite well.

Executive simply accepted it on our behalf without going as far as to consider it. The kind of thing is becoming a trend in the VSTA. Very few other actions would be taken.

While Shean is quoted as saying that the VSTA has "backed down completely", many VSTA members are claiming a victory, which is a pretty weird state of affairs.

But regardless of how good the agreement will turn out to be, at this time, particularly, the membership should have been consulted about it. Our Constitution does not give me unlimited power, but at least our opinion could have been canvassed. As it is, we don't have to sit back until they decide to put the boot in again. And they will.



Barbara Hall - candidate for Southern Metropolitan region

VSTA ELECTIONS

Vote for

Barbara Hall - candidate for Southern Metropolitan region



Teo Lee - candidate for Western Metropolitan region and Trades Hall delegate

debateable

Many teachers seem to think that the agreement is a good one, perhaps the best we have hope for. That is debatable, but the point is that it hasn't been debated. The

Coststore Workers Frozen Out

COLD STORE workers at Empsons meatworks at Dinmore (Qld) have been getting a raw deal for a long time.

We get \$147 - forty dollars below living allowance and full family allowances, and we handle twice the amount of meat! The Cold Store delegate told us.

"We had a claim about this for five years and we had five years nothing but lip service. A couple of months ago, we had a meeting with the Federation, the Union Party, and we were told they'd give us a meeting."

So last week, the Dinmore cold store workers walked off the job and demanded \$300 more than the rate they were being brought into line with other laborers in the shed.

A man managing decided to bring the struggle into an indefinite strike for a live wage increase which included a \$25.

At their strike meeting two days later, they had passed the AMU's new law. We said to the organizers, "We need to be organized."

These officials maintained the AMU's support for the cold store strike. They said it was the union's loss of claims and

outside the award - we were forgetting that other sheds have won award conditions for the cold store. The cold store workers top this and walked out the shed.

The officials refused. They ordered the meatworkers back to work and walked out. The cold store delegate attempted to speak but the microphone had been turned off. The cold store workers top this and walked out the shed.

Most of the workers stayed in the shed and they were going to stay there until we got what we wanted. We couldn't go back to work like that, could we?"

In the face of the rank and file stand, the officials drew the direction back with wages and told them to listen to us.

"What I'm worried about is that we've got a strike that will be the end of it. Each week we're getting a strike that will be the end of it. Each week we're getting a strike that will be the end of it. Each week we're getting a strike that will be the end of it."

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the next day at lunch-time the cold stores again had a meeting to decide what to do. They voted to call a mass meeting of the shed but were told by the works representative that the union wouldn't support them, that they had

WE ARE STANDING FOR THE VSTA CENTRAL COMMITTEE

because education in Victoria is under relentless attack from the Liberal government, and the current Committee is not fighting back hard enough.

Education funds have been slashed - which means shortages of staff, buildings and equipment in schools. Teachers are coping big per classes and higher teaching loads - which means poor education. We are fighting for conditions this year, our right to strike has been threatened. Now they want to put inspectors back in the schools!

It's all part of the Liberal union-bait. But it's not only students who suffer. It's students - and mainly working class students. The VSTA cannot afford to compromise on these issues - it's it has been doing so far. Teachers and students need a militant union to defend their rights. We also need a leadership that is prepared to contest the rank and file. Twice this year, the VSTA Executive has accepted a Department "offer" and called off strikes at the last moment. The membership has not been given any opportunity to express its view.

If elected, we will fight for a militant and democratic union committed to resist attacks on education as strongly as possible.

AMU splits shop assistants

A dog-eat-dog fight continues to rage for control of the N.S.W. shop assistants.

When the NSW branch of the AMU announced amalgamation with the BWU, a split developed in the BWU, an amalgamation of the AMU and BWU had carried out an earlier meeting with the AMU in this State.

Now the power of right-wing officials in the AMU formed a breakaway union. The BWU is traditionally run by the NSW branch of the National Civic Council, but was taken back by the AMU and now Barry Egan broke with the Group and began leading his supporters in the SDA and AMU slowly towards the "new" union.

Now the NCC at State and Federal level is not to smash Egan. Backed by the NSW Trades Association they obviously wish to repeat NSW

to go back to work. Outraged by the latest offer, the cold store delegate walked out.

The second regional stop-work by the Sharncliffe and Frankston regions was brilliant success.

The strikers deliberately kept the details of their planned action under wraps until the day itself.

They decided to visit Lindsay Thompson - but they went to his office in small unobtrusive groups.

Before the Minister (and the right hand) saw them, 200 teachers with banners in hand.

They didn't get to see the chair, Thompson said, but they saw one of the other "top" bureaucrats.

And they found Lindsay's corridor quite convenient for holding a TVAV meeting - there was had a division - and for collecting money for the SEC, strikers. Thankyou Lindsay.

The two hour sit-in hammered home the TVAV demands - for direct negotiations to salaries, and a say for local parents and teachers in choosing school Principals.

The second regional stop-work by the Sharncliffe and Clayton area schools turned out a more low key affair - here all the doors in Treasury place were either locked or guarded.

But we still held a march on Parliament. When we get there, we need to delegations to deliver our claims to various Ministers, to be met in our local area and in the city streets, and to press releases to the media.

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should not be surprised when his opposite play on fear of "Communist manipulation".

However, there are substantial numbers of shop assistants who oppose the right-wing splitters. Strikers take place in Wollongong and Sydney against employer's stand-over tactics. A mass meeting with the AMU assistants on the South Coast voted by a two thirds majority to remain in the existing union.

However, some Egan leadership, it remains the fact that the NSW shop assistants work under a better award than their counterparts in other States. Egan could easily, if he were prepared, mobilize his members for a strike which would threaten his bureaucratic style of leadership. He will probably only largely on legal and organizational matters.

As a result, the danger of a permanent split among shop assistants remains a great

Tram Drivers Fight for Equality

NSW tramdrivers are taking on the Public Transport Commission in defiance of a wave of hysterical press distortion. Tram drivers never won the demand.

The train drivers who work on suburban trains are demanding simple equality with tram drivers who have the same qualifications and who do essentially the same work.

In a successful campaign some years back, the loco-

otive engineers' union (AFU-IL) got most of their drivers upgraded from Class 5 to Class 6. But while loco and interstate drivers and hysteric press distortion, tram drivers never won the demand.

upgraded. They are now demanding to be upgraded which could mean an additional \$3.90 and a first class interstate train on holidays.

The press set out to whip up hysteria from the start. They libeled a split between tram and loco delegates, writing that the men had "renounced their union" of industrial action.

But since then, he's been waiting to write to decide on it.

Finally, the drivers decided to act if there was no change within six weeks. They announced their action, and following Monday (October 17).

The drivers welcome the action, but will only be in their industrial action. That after all, the only way to force their hearing in the first place.

"Come out and say, wherever you are."

The rolling strike campaign by Victorian technical teachers has got off to a flying start.

We aren't just striking - we're changing Education Minister Lindsay Thompson in person to make sure he can't ignore us.

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investments.

For example, there were teachers on the march on Parliament who had never seen a demonstration before. A set-piece mass meeting only above 1% of unionists to take direct part but the regional day-day stoppages are proving important for everyone to do something.

We probably won't win a salary increase, but we will get a restoration of local democracy in principal appointments though.

And we are laying a solid foundation for the future in two ways - a strong and sustained trend in the long battle for direct negotiations and salary justice, and a more important, a more aware, confident and linked-up membership.

That we must now do is build on that momentum.

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Reefern Campaign in trouble

THE fight for a shorter working week is running into difficulty among Sydney mail sorters.

During the last strike on October 10, a meeting at Westmead had more than 200 workers. By comparison, the Mail Exchange normally draws more like a thousand.

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ship involvement to fight the proposed staffing cutbacks.

That means not only building a regional union structure within the TVAV but also linking up with primary and high school parents and school unions to broaden the struggle.

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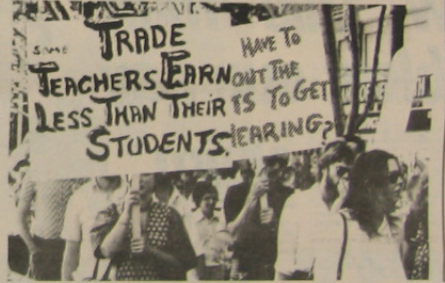
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an amendment proposed that the mail sorters' strike only begin working a 7 hour 21 minute week. Call that a very narrow lot, and many thought it should have been done in a more direct way. A division was ignored.

But this week, the struggle will be hard to keep going. Many mail sorters are not about when we get the shorter working week, in fact.

What is missing is a solid organization to reach the militants. At the meeting in Sydney, we had a variety of incompatible resolutions. If a group of them could meet regularly, they could be transformed.



DUNLOP WORKERS ACE THE BOSS

AFTER a five week strike and picket, 150 maintenance workers at Dunlop in South Melbourne have scored a partial victory.

They collected a \$1.50 rise in their overaward pay. And they now only need to do eight hours a week to get their fortnight instead of ten without any loss of pay.

On 18 September they set up pickets with two shifts of 10 hours each.

The company took it fairly cool, but at first they got pretty hot, especially as starting contracts as life's new not working and the main down couldn't be denied.

"We went out indefinitely because they had a good electricity of \$17 more than anyone else, and that was a leading hand over all the others who have here.

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The former set staff walked - and two of them got what they deserved. The maintenance using a tractor tire machine they were not used to, and they were in a hole when their work started out over them.

The strikers got support from the Melbourne's other Dunlop plant at Bayswater with a \$200 donation of a truck. The strikers relief fund and another \$700 from a \$15 a head fund.

The picket was very successful. Meetings were held every Friday for the last two weeks.

"The picket has increased with time because everyone has had another \$15 a week. We've got it in the last 3 years," said Phil.

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AGGREGATE!

The Battler

The deadline for industrial stories is Thursday 3 November.

WEST Australian Minister for Labour and Industry Bill Grayden forces himself as a bit of a boxer.

But it's the State Liberal Government that's looking twitchy and punch-drunk after taunting yet again with striking Transport Workers Union drivers.

In the Liberal Heaven, every soul is in business for himself, and the big companies are the Anshahs. But this time their heaven is here hell! The strikers are long distance co-ordinators, and they know how to fight.

For years trucks have been sicked in by the dream of "being great over head". Now they know what that means to the ordinary person — big drives and shitting on your mate, while Bill & Bramley laugh at the way to the bank.

As striker Terry Henderson said: "The trucking industry has become such a cut-throat business that some operators were prepared to accept lower rates just to get the job."

They've still got the debt, but now they've learned what wage-workers know. You've got to stick together to fight. The situation had become so bad that drivers were getting less new for interstate runs than they were four years ago.

They've learnt about "independence" under capitalism — and they've learnt about "law and order". P.J. Oort, Director of the Road Traffic Authority (rope) says: "We cannot tolerate the present situation where property and lives are being put at risk by dangerous driving." Sounds good.

You'd think that bloke was talking about cracking down on scabs who crashed through picket lines, and who



Wives of striking truck drivers march on WA Parliament.

Truckies k.o. Libs for 18%

from Tony Home in Perth

fight has inspired the employed men on federal grounds to vote at a mass meeting to strike in sympathy — and of course to settle a few accounts left half-finished when the Fremantle 21 were arrested.

Now the drivers have won an 18% rise by June next year. They got tremendous support from their wives and other workers — were right behind them.

The Libs have taken a punting, and they should be a pushover for the next group of workers to put up a fight.

Now this man blew our pay claim



by David Shaw, BLF

from the start. On-the-job grievance tactics were easily contained by the bosses, and the wackie job either took no part in the campaign or dropped out after a week or so.

The rank-and-file were never consulted to discuss the claim, and most of the state branches of the BLF never held any mass meetings during

the campaign.

On top of this, the Federal officials "forgot" to apply for the May indexation rise. This incredible blunder sets the pattern for what has followed. The courts and the employers have refused to pay any indexation rises to builders' labourers ever since.

BLF's have paid the penalty. We are now \$12-\$16 behind every other worker in Australia. For all its militant talk, the BLF leadership has cost builders' labourers hundreds of dollars each.

Builder workers want fight, a proper national campaign. But we don't want to become involved in the sick job that the \$30 campaign has been.

We still haven't got any indexation rises, but it seems likely that we will get them

soon. Only twenty weeks late and not backdated.

More and more builders' labourers have had a gutful of their leadership. In NSW, workers present at the monthly branch meeting in October passed the following motion unanimously —

"We move a motion of no confidence in the NSW Branch Executive for its close of the branch meeting and other undemocratic practices for its stage cost labourers thousands

of dollars, and for their slanderous attacks on those members who have dared to express the widespread anger in the union at the leadership who have led the union into such a sorry position."

Notably, the branch officials walked out when this motion was put.

We've had enough of Gallagher's grandstanding. The BLF needs to get rid of these officials once and for all. Then we can really have a decent campaign against the boss

AT LAST, the BLF's futile wage "campaign" is over.

The campaign for the \$30 rise had died in the area long ago, but now it's official. The Gallagher leadership has lifted all bans and limitations and put the claim into Arbitration.

BLF members have been preparing for the union to do this ever since the other other construction unions put the claim into Arbitration nearly two months ago.

The BLF's wage campaign has been a hopeless failure

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The Battler

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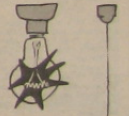
The team that brought you ... the Kerr coup the Medibank levy

... social welfare cuts ... Uranium exports ... the IRB ... and 370,000 unemployed



... now bring us the chance to turn off their lights

THROW THE BASTARDS OUT!



"Excessive wages leading to reduced profits are the cause of Australia's unemployment and inflation crisis"

Wages Frasser? Gough Whitlam!

JANUARY 1975

THE Australian economy is in crisis.

Everyone agrees on that. Malcolm Fraser came to power promising he'd fix things up the hard. The economy has simply got worse. When Fraser was elected, unemployment was 4%.

strike

Gough Whitlam and Bill Hayden are losing the country by insisting that all this economic strife is the fault of government. Liberal government under Malcolm Fraser.

Yet mass unemployment started under Labor. It was in 1974 that the mass struggle began that led to the current situation. It was Labor's Minister Clyde Cameron who started using the term "dole shucker".

pick up

In 1974, we were told that things would improve in 1975. That's over two years ago now. In 1975, we were told things were expected to pick up mid-1976 when the US economy got moving.

There was a brief boom in the US, but we missed out on it. Now most respectable economists are telling us that it will be 1980 before there is any improvement.

We've told the economy has turned the corner, but in fact production is still growing less than the work force. Simple terms, how do you get more out of what's behind it all? Clearly it isn't simply paying up under the Labor, just as it now under Labor.

It isn't the strength of the unions. In the US, that unions cooperate with the government. The unemployment rate is 8%.

Hong Kong, the unemployment rate was up to 20% at the end of 1974. And their definition of unemployment is different. Anyone working less than 15

hours a week. Yet in Hong Kong, you need to work 60 hours a week to survive.

In Germany, where the unions sit on the boards of directors, and we are told how peaceful it all is, there is record unemployment of 6%.

In Britain, it's about 5%, despite the fact the unions have compiled with three years of Labor government wage-cutting.

Inflation and unemployment are world-wide. They are part and parcel of the same economic crisis the world over. No government has escaped.

Not the police state in the Philippines or Hong Kong, not the Liberal democracy of Australia, not the Labor governments in Britain, nor the workers' participation of Sweden.

The economic crisis is world wide because world-wide capitalism is in crisis. The whole economic system is in trouble and there is nothing that either the bosses nor the governments can do about it.

RETRENCHMENTS

As of next Friday the following workers in the section will no longer be required but feel bad W.S.



Why

THERE ARE several reasons for the crisis.

Since 1960, there has been a tendency for the RATE OF PROFIT to fall in the western economies. The rate of profit is the amount of profit a company makes on its investment.

Although some fabulous profits from very little investment, in truth they are not typical of the whole system.

While BHP's 1974 American General Motors' \$2,000,000,000 a year seem unbelievably large, they are invested in these companies.

No matter that the entire profit is stolen from the sweat of the workers. Or that it goes to a smaller group, already fabulously wealthy. No matter that the entire profit is stolen from the sweat of the workers. Or that it goes to a smaller group, already fabulously wealthy.

The simple fact is that in a period of inflation, the bosses are not happy to see

their Rate of Profit decline. So they stop investing and start speculating.

And we all know what happens then. No investment less steel is built, work for engineers, architects and so on. It means factories, which can't buy their raw materials, fewer cars, fewer goods sold to the workers and so on.

The investment strike by the wealthy of the world is the only "legitimate" strike

in our society. When investors strike, when the rich refuse to invest, the papers are full of headlines telling the workers and the government to do what they demand. Lower taxes and cut wages.

Falling Profit

THE FALLING RATE

REPORT Phil Griffith

THEIR SOLUTIONS - AND OURS

THE LIBERALS: "LOWER THE REAL VALUE OF WAGES."

It is absolutely true that if real wages were lowered in Australia by, say, 20% or 30%, that investment would pick up and there would be jobs for more people. For a while, that.

Lowering wages raises the Rate of Profit. For a few years, until you have the problem all over again.

The higher accumulated profits would then require higher and even higher profits for Profit Rates to be maintained.

In fact, the only way this solution can work is for wages to be continuously lowered. This is what the bosses try to do all the time.

The only problem is that after a certain point, people can't afford a place to live or food to eat. And the system collapses.

As a top economist once said, "The real crime of capitalism is that it cannot afford to even lead its slaves!"

THE LIBERALS: "CUT TAXES"

If you cut taxes, you "have to" cut government spending. This means you end up cutting government jobs and hence the amount of money workers have to spend.

The economy stays in recession. Businesses that rely on orders from government departments go broke, or sack employees.

It's true that it means more money for business still operating, but the effect is towards recession.

Labor says: "INCREASE GOVERNMENT SPENDING A LITTLE"

The only catch here is that it means more inflation. Inflation hurts businesses as much as workers. They get fatter and refuse to invest unless there's a killing to be made.

They use their money to speculate against the currency, as happened before

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THE BATTERS: "THE ONLY WAY WE CAN GET RID OF UNEMPLOYMENT IS BY MAKING A SOCIALIST REVOLUTION AND TOWARD THE CAPITALIST SYSTEM ASIDE."

Capitalism takes improvements in technology and uses it to sack workers. A socialist society would use technology to reduce the working week and improve the conditions of work.

Because a socialist enterprise doesn't have to compete, doesn't have to make a profit, doesn't worry about "capital," the banks and investors, we can decide what's needed and produce it.

disgrace

The ultimate disgrace of capitalism is when these use empty factories, unemployed workers and the bones we use their millions to speculate on the commodity markets.

But and we win a socialist society, these things we can fight for that will help.

A 35 hour week would see the end of most unemployment. There would be 60 hours and have a fellow worker out of a job. The only problem with this is that some bosses would be "uncompetitive" by current capitalist standards.

benefits

And nationalization of the bank. And both would provoke the most dramatic changes by the bosses. Just as it did in 1947 when the Labor government under Chifley moved to nationalize the banks.

The High Court declared it illegal. Naturally, its job is to protect property. The bosses made sure that the new Liberal Party under Menzies had all the money and manpower it needed to smash Labor in the 1949 election.

Neither of these are socialism. And both would provoke the most dramatic changes by the bosses. Just as it did in 1947 when the Labor government under Chifley moved to nationalize the banks.

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Bind this crisis - a system of crisis

Of the suit into them, just the cap's cranked as sale. By 'n' ago? twenty years ago, the capital system, by an 'n' government. For twenty years ago, the capital system, by an 'n' government.

borrowing. It leads to inflation. Less useful goods are produced for the money. The government prints money and creates a terrible inflation.

But by getting out of the money. The ones we're in on now. So there's a gain of trust in the bosses' demands for less government spending. But they always want less welfare spending.

for more military money, even though this is at the heart of the problem. Military spending propped the capitalist system for 30 years. Finally, the handoff can continue. Now we have a repeat of the 1920's and 1930's all over again.

was either in the armed forces or in military. paid

But when America got out of Vietnam, there was a new problem. It didn't need to spend as much on arms, so they started to wind down. They sacked workers and closed plants. They cut salaries.

sacked

But when America got out of Vietnam, there was a new problem. It didn't need to spend as much on arms, so they started to wind down. They sacked workers and closed plants. They cut salaries.

the collapse of the speculation and their stock markets. But it has been coming a long time.

In Australia, unemployment reached 23%. One every three workers was unemployed, and the dole was a pittance.

In fact, they were caught between the devil and the deep blue sea. If they continued the war, there would be inflation and jobs. Inflation itself causes instability and investors want more profits to compensate for the risks they take with

the 1920's, they tried

to solve it by seizing the markets of their rival capitalists. This led to World War I. In many countries, the entire 1920's were marked by recession. In Britain there was a general strike. In Germany, inflation caused government after government to fall.

rescued

Indeed, apart from the peasants of Vietnam and Korea, the working classes were lucky to experience one of the most unusual periods in world history, the ten years boom after World War 2.

Vote Labor? YES! BUT IT'S NOT ENOUGH!

THE BATTLE ARE YOU HUMAN?

Dear Battlers,

NEITHER Labor nor Liberal governments can solve the unemployment problem. Both are committed to raising the capitalist economy as efficiently as possible. And that means being on the side of the investor and speculator.

However, we're voting for Labor. Why? For the Liberals, unemployment is a weapon to be deliberately used to discipline the working class. The Liberals don't give a staff for the unemployed. They're not the ones who, if they thought they could get away with it, in fact, they already have.

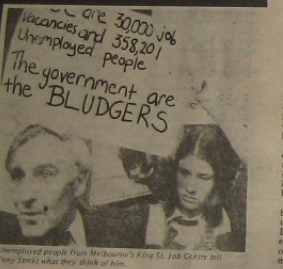
The dole is now taxed. This means that if you are unemployed for six months, chances are about 20% of your dole money will end up back in the taxation department. You have to wait six weeks to get on the dole if you left your last job voluntarily. You have to wait a week before becoming eligible for benefits. And now you have to wait two weeks more before you get your first cheque. That's a total of nine weeks before any financial relief. It used to be just a week.

Labor is dead set against unemployment. Yet it refuses and fails to propose any meaningful steps to cut unemployment because these mean attacking the bosses and their power. They could make it better.

They could employ thousands of unemployed people in projects to improve the quality of life in our cities. But instead, they are cutting back on welfare promises because the business has told them so.

For Labor unemployment is an unfortunate by-product of the crisis. It's trying to solve it, but it refuses to go outside the bounds of capitalism. It is helpless to do any thing. It is hopeless and patetically unable to fight. Last time round, Whitlam increased the dole to over double what it was in just two years. But he won't be doing that this time.

To stop the blatant pro-business attacks on the unemployed, we say, Vote Labor. But voting Labor is not enough. We need to organise ourselves to fight unemployment.



Unemployed people from Melbourne's King St. Job Centre tell their story what they think of him.

Here's how we can fight back...

Workers in Britain fight the sack by occupying their workplaces. Here, they walk up the factory steps.



We can do our bit against unemployment. We can support the struggle for the 35-hour week. We can refuse to allow our own demand that staff levels be maintained; that there is no natural wastage.

This is what the International Socialist Group for Why not join us?

Unemployed metalworkers in Newcastle have organized a committee to lead the fight for jobs.



Malcolm's war to end all war

WHAT'S Malcolm Fraser's answer to unemployment? Job Cuts of course, logical isn't it!

First there was the attack on government spending and welfare projects. Money was cut from the public service and thousands told their jobs. And not just office workers.

Hospitals squeezed for money cut the number of cleaners and nurses. All for the cause of reducing unemployment, you know.

There were fewer teachers, all in the interests of a balanced budget and economic recovery. Fewer schools, less government building, and a massive cut in workers on the Labor government's urban programmes.

But then, he also took his advice to private enterprise. He called for an "investment led recovery" - meaning replacing workers with machines. And machines did. In workplace after workplace, there were no machines and fewer workers.

All in the interests of solving unemployment, you know. Sounds like the war to end all wars to me!

Dear Battlers, I came across "THE BATTLE" could you print the following letter and reply in one of the issues of your paper?

Since the anti-Vietnam days, I have been put off left wing political groups because they do not seem to care about human beings, but are so obsessed with slogans and so forcing human beings to align with dogma.

Question what do you do with those of us people who have been brain-washed into capitalist competitive aggressive, destructive, exploitative, follow-the-dogma/leader learning attitudes?

Do you can ask us at the individual level? Or are we prepared to do it, all together, those who can't adjust?

Question: Are human beings in your movement allowed to be less than perfect, to have personal idiosyncrasies, and yet be accepted?

And you so idealistic that you can't accept me and ordinary people?

Yours Viv Beng Glebe (NSW)

EDITORS REPLY - Frankly, if we insisted on our members being perfect, we wouldn't have any! 15 members are just like me. I'm a bit of a mess. I'm not that good at early in the morning to start Battlers. They get less as well as in any one of being asked to stand up to the boss, or getting into a row and making a mistake.

Many like football and music and TV and books and all the things other people like - and they get irritated at the way the media politics interferes with them.

We figure that the only way anything will change is if the individuals, being hurt the most

the workers of the world, do something about it - together. We figure that in the struggle to change society, we will change ourselves.

And we'll care a hells lot about how it turns out with acquiescent parasites of human beings that so many of us are.

The Real Challenge - the 'average' class

Dear Battlers, Over the last weekend, Professor Harry Measell became the latest academic to jump on the "school knocking" bandwagon.

In a reply, I invite you to consider some of the changes in schools which have taken place over the last decade.

1) During the 60's, and early 70's 11 and 12 students were compelled by university requirements to take maths, physics and chemistry (They had no other choice).

Today students can be taken almost from a range of about 12 subjects offered in their schools. Physics and Chemistry students have their schools. Physics and Chemistry students have their schools. Physics and Chemistry students have their schools.

Medicine and Dental schools tend to take the "cream of the crop" - the above-mentioned have no other choice by far to fall back on science or the arts.

3) During the 60's, the students were "sorted" into classes of bright, average and slow.

streaming. The bright classes always had the best teachers which meant for both the teacher and the students.

Today there is no streaming on the basis of IQ - instead the teacher today feeds classes of 25 or more containing several ambitious, bright children and a equal number of very slow, frequently uncooperative children.

For teachers, the odd certainties have disappeared and the teacher now faces the dilemma - "How to challenge the talents of the bright child

and at the same time ensure the slow learner achieves satisfactory literacy and numeracy skills".

During the sixties we were urged by the prophets from the ivory towers to churn out "white kids" to meet the challenges of the space age. To do this the attention is to be paid with uncertainty in a rapidly changing world.

Teachers are urged by all and sundry to satisfy the demands of the bright, ambitious student (and his/her parents), the migrant child, who has difficulty reading and writing English, the 14 year old who can't read well, meet the needs of the short-ones in our schools, cope with TV addicts, and the child who leaves school, books and teachers.

All of whom often make up an "average class". Climb down from your ivory tower, Professor Measell! You can't read well, meet the needs of the short-ones in our schools, cope with TV addicts, and the child who leaves school, books and teachers.

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An anti-cut demonstration at Adelaide, S.A., protesting against the diverting of money to the wealthy "elite" schools. Professor Measell is to be seen.

Poor Schools Baffle Police

FOR over two months, Aboriginals in Sydney's outer Western Suburbs have occupied 50 acres of traditional Tribal land at Lindland.

BY MARTIN HIRST

Black land rights have been in the news lately

associated with Fraser's Uranium policy, but the struggle at Lindland has not received as much media coverage.

The fight is also a direct result of Fraser's political economic strategy for Australia. In this case, Aboriginals unable to find work in the heavily populated Western Suburbs, are being evicted from their substandard, but expensive accommodation.

When the Liberals out funds for migrant education, teachers and students in NSW swing into action.

Now that we have won some concessions, we are planning a protest rally with a "Yes to the 35-hour week" banner.

The day before 11 busloads of protesters were expected in Canberra, Senator Currie announced he was giving \$2.3 million to migrant education. But that was for all of Australia. Actual migrant education in NSW was to get a grand total of \$150,000.

The houses, procured to Canberra as planned, 500 people allied to the House of Parliament. When police tried to march them away, teachers told them the students couldn't understand their orders - a well-planned manoeuvre whose object was to shift the police away from a minimum of publicity and disturbance.

Few parliamentarians were prepared to meet the protest. Malcolm McKellar said there that if they didn't like things in Australia "don't come here".

A mass rally is planned at 4.30 p.m. at the Anzac Memorial, Hyde Park, Sydney, 12 November at 2 pm.

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The police were reacting out a well-planned manoeuvre whose object was to shift the police away from a minimum of publicity and disturbance.

through the White Bay gate to the terminal at 5.30 a.m. Not even a note as to the violence NSW police are notorious for.

The ease with which this uranium shipment got into, and out of, Sydney shows that demonstrations alone will not stop uranium.

Black bans will be demonstrated in the streets and on the wharves by the anti-uranium movement do have the important effect of showing rank-and-file wharfies and rig-workers that they have support for any ban that they enforce.

MAUM has few worries if it can show these workers that it is also capable of organising a well-planned campaign (e.g. financial support for other anti-uranium and anti-uranium movement besides uranium).

What's On - the grobe alley - how we organised support

MELBOURNE MON 13 NOV
South East Branch open house
Lecture from Dr. Malcolm Fraser
at 7.30pm. Free admission. 200
Glen St. Meeting of U.S. women

MELBOURNE TUES 14 NOV
North West Branch open house
Lecture from Dr. Malcolm Fraser
at 7.30pm. Free admission. 200
Glen St. Meeting of U.S. women

MELBOURNE SUN 20 NOV
Revolutionary music day
at 2pm. Free admission. 200
Glen St. Meeting of U.S. women

MELBOURNE MON 20 NOV
South East Branch Business
Meeting. Members Only

MELBOURNE TUES 21 NOV
Branch business meet. Members
Only

CANBERRA TUES 15 NOV
Meeting of the sections and
U.S. Women. Victoria St. 7.30pm
Free admission. 200

ADELAIDE SAT 26 NOV
International Women's Day
at 10am. Free admission. 200
Torrens Parade Ground

THE SMALLEST JOB AD IN HISTORY!
The Battler has a vacancy for a woman to join our report staff in either Melbourne or Sydney. Salary, miserable, but every one gets the same. Full details on the inside of the Editor, PO Box 46, Melbourne, 3001 V.C.

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The Battler is edited by Bill Griffiths, who also has responsibility for an election committee. Write to Bill Griffiths, PO Box 46, Melbourne, 3001 V.C.

what we stand for
The International Socialists are a revolutionary socialist organisation, open to all who share our basic principles and are willing to work to achieve them.

"I've rung up the AMWSU five times but all they could say was: 'We're sorry, we can't seem to contact any body - can you ring back later?'"

That was what we were told by a friend in Melbourne, desperate to arrange a job meeting with a shop steward from the Latrobe Valley but unable to get much joy out of the biggest union involved in the strike.

Fortunately, the I.S. was organising job meetings and we were able to help.

One worker contacted the AMWSU office in Dandenong and asked, "Have you got any leaflets about the power strike?"

The organiser thought for a moment and replied, "Yes, there's this one here, by the Battler." The AMWSU had not even got around to producing its own leaflet supporting the strike!

Finally, in the last week of the strike, the AMWSU got out a leaflet and set up a strike support centre at its office.

Unfortunately, with Communist Party and ALP union officials embarrassed by the strike, it was largely left to the smaller left-wing organisations to try and rally support.

Members and friends of the I.S. took up collections and distributed 10,000 Battler "Support the Power Workers" leaflets in their workplaces and local shopping centres.

IS members in Adelaide, Sydney and Canberra also distributed leaflets in support of the power strike to car factories and other workplaces affected by the strike.

Over \$200 was raised in Sydney for the strike fund.

George Wragg (AMWSU) addressed meetings of workers in the centres at Seafair Terminal and T.E.I. members at the Preston Tram Depot.

Most of the trammies at the meeting were all in support. But one who voiced liberal came up with the suggestion about "union is the answer" and "I read that you're all getting over \$200 each."

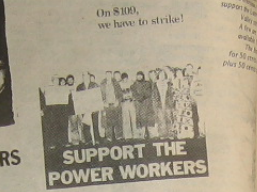
When George Wragg explained just how much more private contractors were pocketing and exactly what the "trammies" had done to the strikers, the Liberal changed his tune. "Er... well, I am just here to see you deserv."

Some activists from Sydney and Melbourne and Adelaide (Union Mining) have been speaking at workplace meetings and helping to set up workplace anti-union groups.

Over the past month, and especially in the week before the October 22 mobilisation, meetings were held among the workers at Chullora, Clyde and English. Printers at Parkdale, Waterboard workers, AMWSU stewards, Clyde

International Socialists

the battler the power workers



Battler Fighting Fund

As soon as Malcolm Fraser announced the election, we opened up the Battler Election Fund.

This year, we'll be organizing thousands of special Battler supplements to explain the case for throwing Fraser out along with posters, badges and leaflets.

We'll be holding meetings and rallies. And we'll be spending a lot of money to pay for this work.

We're going to need to raise over \$1,200 between now and December 10 to pay for it all. So we're appealing to you, our supporters.

Take up a collection at your work or amongst your friends, help sell tickets in our special Battler raffle, or just send us a donation to:

The Battler Election Fund
PO Box 46, Melbourne
Victoria 3001.

- DB \$20.00
- MP \$20.00
- MP \$37.00
- Uranium Bridge Sales \$80
- Elvis Party \$30
- Brisbane \$8.60
- Melb Nook Greek Dinner \$80
- Sydney Cakes Stall \$41.15
- Sydney Film night \$70
- Sydney Film night \$55.00
- Total \$395.75

Front Line (just over 50 cents from your Battler after 50 cents from I.S. Branches).
Strike Fraser Out (over 90 cents from your Battler, after, or 130 cents each from I.S. Branches).

Revolutionary Party
To smash the capitalist system, we need a revolutionary party, organised and built in the workplaces. Without a revolutionary party, the struggles of workers will be crushed.

Full Equality and Liberation
For women, blacks, migrants and all oppressed groups. Racism and discrimination against migrant peoples are all pillars of the capitalist system. We are opposed to the social destruction of homosexuals.

Rank and File Organisation
Workers need their own rank and file organisations to fight the bosses when the paid officers will be defeated.

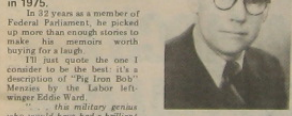
-Me...

and Daphne

by Janey Stone



We cannot live by Fred alone



Many of us have laughed at Fred Daly's jokes especially during the demonstrations that followed the sacking of the Whitlam government in 1975.

In 32 years as a member of Federal Parliament, he picked up more than enough stones to make his memoir worth buying for a laugh.

I'll just quote the one I consider to be the best: it's a description of "Pig Iron Bob" Messias by the Labor left-winger Eddie Ward:

"The military genius who would have had a brilliant military career had it not been for the outbreak of the last Vietnam War."

Humour and sarcasm which make the bones and their papers look ridiculous are always a big help in politics when they lighten the tension while still making the point.

Labour's use of troops during the 1949 Coal Strike, the Communist Party dissolution referendum, the Labor Split of the 50's, Vietnam and November 67.

But mostly it's all very brief and we're usually left up in the air over how strongly Daly fought for his point of view or sometimes if he even had one.

His main comment on the military genius which has destroyed more than just the Whitlam Government in the past few years is that by 1975 "reaction was galloping like a handcart rickshaw."

We get some idea of Daly's ideas when he justifies smashing the Coal Strike. He supported Chifley's line that it was a Communist conspiracy.

He said that it was "the only way to a better life for those without wealth, power or influence" and that everything was to be achieved through parliament.

From then onwards he seems to have spent 40 years firstly looking for a safe seat, then organising pre-election "election campaigns" (Census hallois, Parliament "pains" and so on).

And after 40 years of "getting the numbers" doing it all behind the scenes supporting the old White Australia Policy and that he had something to do with a re-election Whitlam was planning.

Of course, in the 1970s the Labor, Bank Nationalisation, and the Whitlam Government sacked.

Only for a short time when talking about the defeat of Bank Nationalisation by the

defeat of Bank Nationalisation by the

defeat

Only for a short time when talking about the defeat of Bank Nationalisation by the

"Me and Daphne" is the first non-documentary film I have seen which dramatizes film at work.

It's based on a short story by Lillian Elliot, about her experience in a Brisbane plebeian canteen. No ordinary canteen would allow the film makers to use their premises so the story was transposed to a chicken factory.

There is a film plot: the film is rather a series of impressions of the everyday life of working women.

Lillian and her daughter, Daphne, go out to work because the electric light bulb came on. At work, they meet migrant women. The women in the "cage", where

they kill and pluck the chickens, go on a language difficulties cause misunderstandings and confusion.

But the characters and stories are not developed. They are introduced by a series of impressions. In between the incidents we keep coming back to the factory itself, the noise, the endless line of dangling chickens, the water, the cold of the danger from the machinery.

It is almost as though the factory was the living illness and death dominating the lives of the humans who must communicate with the controlled rhythm of machines.

The right I was there, the production and middle-class audience was shocked at that thing - the speed you have to work, to keep up with the line, the noise and the dirt, the sheer overwhelming boredom - an "normal" factory.

Although not a documentary, "Me and Daphne" does use some reporting and interview techniques. It was shot at real factories and many of the parts are played by the women who actually work there.

None of the characters are glorified or romanticized. For instance, Lillian's reaction to the migrant women is that "initial reaction has all the jobs" ("Me and Daphne" is not about workers. Those that are usually considered the most "interesting" time spent away from the workplace).

The right I was there, the production and middle-class audience was shocked at that thing - the speed you have to work, to keep up with the line, the noise and the dirt, the sheer overwhelming boredom - an "normal" factory.

"Me and Daphne" represents a breakthrough in that it gives an impression of the day to day life of ordinary working women.

LEFT: Fred Daly in 1943. His election slogan was "Give us the old Dalis". Fred Daly was the sort of politician who expected from a politician a "socialist".

RIGHT: Fred Daly in 1976 with a friend, Sir John Gorton, which was a "socialist".

private backs does Daly realize who really calls the shots in Australia.

I have never witnessed such a vulgar campaign of legislation, and to threaten Port Kembla wharves who refused to load pig-iron shipments for Japan's war effort. Yes - it's Pig Iron Bob. Sir Robert Menzies himself.

Others in his super cabinet include such friends of the working class as Sir William McMahon, Sir John Gorton and Sir John McEwen. The introduction is written by Jan Eklie, well known Labor Party leader.

At the end of the book Daly says a "Super Cabinet" of Australian politicians during his time in parliament.

He had no real politics; his sole interest was in winning winning, winning, winning government, making the Labor machine in Parliament.

The last thing is that the International Labor Party is a "socialist" party.

Two of Daly's "supers" are Sir John Gorton and Sir John McEwen. The "Me and Daphne" is a "socialist" party.

Tony Roberts reviews Fred Daly's new book

Political sackings: picket line

THE Royal Exchange Hotel in Brisbane sacked two girls after they were arrested in the anti-urbanism rally.

The girls told 300 people outside the courts the next day and the meeting arranged a picket. The girls tell their story.

"I've been working there since Easter. I've taken time off to go home, but I asked for extra work over Christmas the day before I got the sack and they said yes.

"And both of us were sacked at the same time. I was OK working there although it has been strictly fairly. Now when you have a tea break you can't have a drink. Before you could.

"I think the picket's good. There are a lot of people at the Regatta (the oval pub) but looking for another job. It's pretty hard.

"Julie: "I've been there for eight months. I was sacked because I was sacked."

"They said I was unreliable. I've never missed a day's work never taken a sickie."

"Kerry had someone ring them I got on well with everyone. It's just because I was arrested."

"The manager's son told me 'Do you really think you're going to get a job somewhere else?'

"The Sunday night sacking was really good about 80 people. There just aren't as many people in the pub there usually are."

"The sacking was a personal vendetta. I just want people to realise you can get sacked for your beliefs."

Later four nightingales were released.

"The Education Stakes"

THE "Education Stakes" had its world premiere when parents, students and teachers from the north-west of Adelaide held a march on a major shopping centre on October 22.

Organized by the Parker School Cols Committee, we converged on the Adelaide shopping centre to make the community aware of Fraser's cuts in education and affecting their schools.

More than three hundred people watched street theatre depicting the Education Stakes—a pre-determined race where the successful came from the upper class. Students played the major role in the rally by handing out leaflets and speaking to shoppers.

One six-year old girl spoke very convincingly about the need for smaller, class-based learning and teaching, a wider variety of courses to broaden the choice of careers for the students under the Fraser Government and their policy of cutting education funds, none of these will occur.

A parent and a teacher also spoke of how the education cuts affected them. They explained how the underprivileged are becoming more disadvantaged under Fraser.

We left a photographic showing people of the community which will soon be re-audited.

Although the Fraser were invited, some allowed it to be there that we are to facilitate this.

attacked

drinks first-based the Friday night picket with a hose they got from inside the hotel when we tried to get it away from them they turned very violent and attacked some of us.

The police included plain clothes ones (tuning up them)

refused to do anything and broke up the picket. One said "You deserved to get holed if you can't take it go home!"

But we're going back to protest against political intimidation and to show they can't scare us away.

FOOTNOTES: There was a rumor that the school had cut one. But the Liquor Trades Union officials would take no notice. They said the rumors were only "sensational employees."

THESE MEN ARE VICTIMS...



... OF THE AMARANTH CAPITALISTS

THESE men are victims of the march of capitalist production.

Their employer — Horwood Bagshaw in Mannum (SA), manufacturer of agricultural machinery — made a record profit last year. But in the last six months, 313 of them have been sacked.

With the last lot of 198 sacking only eight days notice.

Bagshaws blamed the drought and claim that farmers aren't buying their implements.

When the Battler approached a worker he said: "I think... The company... had the opportunity to do outside contracts but put them off. They concentrated on still got 55 sitting on the hill."

So now the workers are paying for the incompetence and greed of their bosses.

When we asked about the union, we were told things like "we're as weak as pigs. It's no wonder when you have 36 leading heads and foremen and only one shop steward that the

Shop assistants fight short-time

SHOP Assistants employed by John Martins SA recently picketed and closed down the company's Amalite store.

They were protesting the having of the working week for slack hours for 100 employees.

Unfortunately the action didn't spread beyond Amalite.

At the Saturday picnic, the mood was militant. We were told that "our wages will be about \$50 per week. We'll be better off on home for the weekend and forget about it. The people left will be overworked... there's only one supervisor and one staff member... By Monday however, a mass meeting accepted a union... that they return to work and that the company would 100 jobs are still in the balance.

happen again if you keep this up. And we won't be around to protect you so you'd better not come back."

But we're going back to protest against political intimidation and to show they can't scare us away.

FOOTNOTES: There was a rumor that the school had cut one. But the Liquor Trades Union officials would take no notice. They said the rumors were only "sensational employees."

REJECT THIS FRASE

AS the Battler goes to the Victorian Secondary Education Association branch meeting on September 27th, we will be on hand to help you to play to reject this franchise to high schools.

The Department will hold a "survey" to accept or reject panels, with the support of the VETA branch. We will be on hand to help you to play to reject this franchise to high schools.

VETA branches should tell the Department to go to hell with their panels. We shouldn't do our employer to do our union policy with their surveys. And we should make any compromise to our union's greatest victory the last ten years.

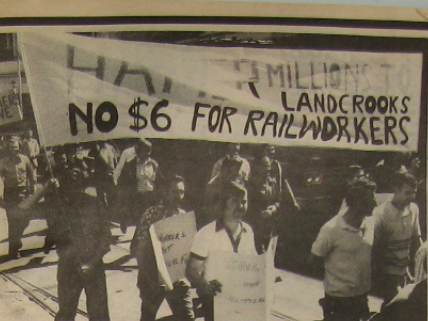
15 Trades Union

Metal Trades

METAL workers will hold a series of stopwork meetings in Sydney in the week ending November 18.

The progress has not been spectacular. The unions had made some gains on issues like a pro-rata leave loading in which workers lost less than 40 months in a job and took 40 working double time after two hours overtime. However the employers are not prepared to negotiate over the 10-week, and this will go to arbitration.

According to AMTU organiser Jim Baird, employers appear willing to grant some wage increases to tradesmen. But the bosses are unwilling to increase unskilled workers, especially women workers.



Public transport workers on the march through the streets of Melbourne.

Public transport workers ask: WHO'S BUCKING THE "UMPIRE" NOW?

ONE thousand rail and tram workers marched through Melbourne last week in protest at the State Government's attempt to \$6 a rise.

The hypocrisy of the State Government has been lambasting. They took the case to Arbitration. Then when Commissioner Walker awarded a \$6 rise to catch up with public transport workers in NSW, the State Government launched an appeal.

When one State Government was asked why they weren't prepared to accept the umpire's decision, they tell workers to be repaid that Walker is only a boundary umpire.

The march was angry and militant. One railway worker commented, "I was worried when they said they were going to hold the rally in the City Square. But it's been good. I'm glad so many people have tried once, very successfully, not collecting force. You could stop the train at different times. Just for an hour, without announcing it. The rank-and-file have been successful."

ATEA officials settle for second best

TELECOM technicians have just recently won a partial breakthrough in their fight against the threat of computerization.

But now their union is throwing away their position of strength and the chance to win more.

The Australian Telecom Employees Association had been on a strike for 11 weeks. Now the bans have been suspended with only a guarantee of no redundancies for ten years. But the introduction of the ARE 11 and AXE systems contains more threats than that.

Threats of fewer promotional opportunities, less job satisfaction, and transfer to distant exchanges.

unresolved

None of these has been satisfactorily resolved — yet the ATEA officials have had their members into throwing away their position of strength from which to negotiate.

At the Victorian meeting at Federal Hill, state secretary Ken Ferguson admitted he doesn't claim to be absolutely enthusiastic about the (compromise) document, nor does he claim to be absolutely enthusiastic about the Federal Executive recommendation. But he did moved the recommendation to lift the ban on membership with other members.

Women workers scape-goated

ALL over Queensland, shire councils are announcing plans to sack married women workers.

Rockhampton, Townsville, Townswood, Laidley and Pine Rivers have all indicated that their married women are to go.

The response of shire councilors is to increase economic hardship in the home as they increase attacks on the workforce and divide it.

Married women don't show up on unemployment statistics as they're not on the dole. They're a nice reserve pool of labour that can be pushed back into the home when it suits their change.

Or can they? The sackings have provoked widespread opposition. The Municipal Officers Association has taken up their fight to work, and supported her at an Arbitration hearing on 13 October.

The latest shire councilors to announce sackings of married women workers is Laidley.

The latest shire councilors to announce sackings of married women workers is Laidley. It's necessary for the rank-and-file opposition to widen its organization with regular meetings and regular bulletins to members, to continue to explain what is wrong in the union and increase membership.



"Well boys, I'm not a boss any more." — ATEA Federal Secretary Ken Ferguson in a mass meeting that he's no longer one of the Telecom Commissioners.

strength we did have. We're now back to where we were a month ago.

"After having contacted a lot of people to vote in a meeting that they'd normally consider a bad idea, we've thrown it all away."

"We've had to where we were with the base off, and going on past performance I think Telecom will attack our new and send us home."

The vote went decisively the officials' way — by at least

we were... stopping for the railways. The fall will be... At the end of the... Transway Union officials... Shooter got up and admitted that membership feeling was against this, and promised that next time they'd go out for twenty-four hours too.

In fact, there was quite a bit of criticism of this way the campaign was being run. One worker from Brunswick Tram Depot told us, "I think it's been dragged on too much. All the extra instrumentalists should be involved — it'd be every one's benefit!"

frightened

"I think the problem's not with the rank and file but with the union leadership. They're not in their skins. I think the establishment, they're frightened to try any new form of struggle."

Tom Gordon, a member of the Tramways Rank-and-File Committee at Preston Depot, felt similarly. "One tactic we

gratuitous

It's not likely too many workers will heed the "dozens" glib advice. Last time railway workers had a wage campaign was in 1975 at the time of the Federal Elections. They backed their struggle for the duration of the election campaign, and it never receded. They ended up getting virtually nothing.

As Jack Kennedy, Tramways Union delegate at Kaw Depot put it, "For thirty years tramways work behind me. If I work behind me, I don't work. I take home \$118."

"I'm a member of the Labor Party, but I don't think it's relevant to our claim. No matter what party it is, power railway workers and tramway workers are still going to want a wage rise."

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DEMONSTRATORS and riot police by the thousands clash violently during attempts to storm proposed nuclear sites at Brochdorf in West Germany (left) and Grays-Maiville in France (right). A demonstrator was killed in Mayville.

The world-wide struggle against Nuclear Power

IT'S MUSHROOMING



THE Uranium Producers' Forum has been busy telling us that we have to mine and export Uranium because the people of other countries demand it.

Rubbish. Just look at the power of the anti-nuclear movement right around the world!

Germany

THERE are now some 3,000 anti-nuclear citizen groups in Germany with a membership of over 2.4 million.

At Wyl, West Germany, farmers occupied the building site of a nuclear power plant for months defying it with tractors against police attacks and thus

forced the local administration to withdraw the construction permit.

In October 1976, 8,000 people attempted to occupy another reactor site at Brochdorf. A month later, 45,000 people surged around Brochdorf.

And in late September this year, thousands of anti-nuclear demonstrators were confronted by police armed with machine guns and riot gear.

Sweden

THE attempt to develop its low-grade uranium ore at Ranstad provoked a demonstration of 10,000 in May, 1976. Several months later, the Swedish Labor Party's 25-year rule was ended at the polls because of its pro-nuclear policy.



At Seabrook, New Hampshire (USA) during May, over 1,000 demonstrators who had invaded the site of a proposed nuclear reactor were arrested.

U.S.A.

DURING August, 1,500 people marched against nuclear power in California. There were 34 orders placed for nuclear reactors in 1974. Last year, there were only 4.

Spain

IN the town of Bilbao, 100,000 people marched on a reactor site in early August this year.

Japan

THE largest Japanese Trade Union confederation, SOHYO, is opposed to nuclear power.

Although, in a survey during 1974, some 74% of Japanese were supposed to support the peaceful uses of nuclear power, only 20% were prepared to allow a plant to be built in their neighbourhood. There have been major demonstrations halting up the building of nuclear power plants.

Japan has drastically revised its estimate of nuclear capacity for 1985. Originally it was 60 million megawatts. Now it is less than 27 million.

The Japanese anti-nuclear movement held five days of mass demonstrations from 24 to 29 October.

France

IN August this year, 30,000 people tried to march on the site of a fast-breeder reactor at Grays-Maiville.

They were attacked by 5,000 heavily armed police. One demonstrator was killed and another had his hand blown off by a tear gas grenade. Another 100 were put in hospital.

The Battler

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

NUMBER 42 26 NOVEMBER 1977

PH (03) 33 4142

20 CENTS



THE fight against education cutbacks moved to Ingle Farm (SA) shopping centre last Saturday. A rally called by the Northern Suburban Code Committee featured the rock band Stray and street theatre. The rally was called to highlight the high youth unemployment in the area and the worsening conditions in local schools. The committee was formed a few months ago by teachers, parents and students in the area and can be contacted through John Hill, Park Vista High.

WE'VE WAITED TWO YEARS FOR THIS...

There are 30,000 vacancies and 358,207 unemployed people. The government are the BLUDGERS

US JAPS

FEAR 1941

Unemployed workers and Party Street what they think of him



THROW THE LIBERALS OUT!

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... a piece of Palestine for you, and a peace for me

EGYPTIAN president Sadat's visit to Israel proves that things have changed dramatically in the Middle East in the 1970's.

Since the 1949 Israel and the Arab States have appeared locked into an endless series of wars. Each side was backed by one side in the cold war and no compromise seemed possible.

For two forces have been working beneath the surface of the Middle East: the world economic crisis and the other the inconspicuous strategy of the Palestinians.

The economic crisis of the 1970's has devastated Egypt, forcing it into a growing dependence on the United States.

In 1974 Sadat expelled Russian advisers and opened the window up to the world economy. Today Egypt is hard work in the United States.

Meanwhile the world economy and resulting oil price increases have driven into a powerful force in the region and they have shown interest in political stability as not produced.

In the late sixties and early seventies the Palestinians came

into conflict with one after another of the Arab regimes. Their example of grass roots struggle against oppression was an infectious example for Arabs everywhere, who freed themselves under repressive governments Amman, Damascus or Amman.

The Arab governments tried to exploit the economic crisis of the Palestinians rather than to exploit them. In September 1970 (Black September) King Hussein of Jordan ordered a massacre of Palestinians.

After that the guerrilla who did most harm has been to Lebanon.

When you see books out in that country here are some questions that left wing Muslims have raised with respect to intervention and control of the Palestinians.

The result has been a strong trend for Arab states to come together with Israel in a common front against the approaching day of US intervention.

The trend has also been encouraged by the growing militancy of workers through

out the Middle East. Egypt has been shaken by repeated strikes and disorders, while Lebanon has seen general strikes in several places.

Arab workers on the West Bank have had strikes as well, and even Israeli Jews are growing increasingly prepared to stop work.

Under these conditions the ruling classes of the region are more prepared than in the past to moderate their differences.

But the differences have been shaken by repeated Syria's successful intervention in Lebanon and the psychosis of both Egypt and Saudi Arabia. The Saudis cut off their aid to Syria and have themselves begun to replace the Saudis as the main supplier of aid to the right wing in Lebanon.

And now Sadat has taken a dramatic step. He has begun to feel without consulting anyone - not the Palestinians, not the Saudis, not even the White House.

Clearly he is trying to occupy the middle position in the next round of diplomatic

negotiations. He has taken a dramatic step. He has begun to feel without consulting anyone - not the Palestinians, not the Saudis, not even the White House.

Clearly he is trying to occupy the middle position in the next round of diplomatic



Sadat (left) and Begin - Palestinian refugees can't get the

mutual chairs, at the expense of the Arab comrades.

In particular it is the Palestinians who will be the losers.

Sadat is moving toward accepting the present Zionist regime and the status quo in the region. That means accepting the Zionist right to the land stolen from the Palestinians and the occupation of the West Bank.

Many militant demonstrations have broken out in protest against Sadat's aid. But more than demonstrations will be needed if, as seems likely, we are seeing the beginning of a long-term alliance between Cairo and Tel Aviv.

THE WORKERS in Buenos Aires answered the call back in March of 1974. An Argentine military swooped on the country.

There was a general strike as they physically acted not just all opponents but sign of independent thinking.

Within a few months, a new regime had become a trend for "liberalism" notorious as the "Shining Chile".

Thousands of workers' round the globe, moved by the sixties' "Don't Cry For Me Argentina" and "The People's Choice".

After 19 months of military rule, with strikes being trade unions directed by officers, the workers had rebelled.

They had no choice. Wages have been frozen. The generals took price increases out of us on a running at over 100 per cent.

The railways would lead. They had been through with 100,000 workers. The nationalized industry management solution making continuous loss.

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Labor in Parliament

What can they do?

GUY Fawkes was the only person to enter parliament with honest intentions.

Think a clever line, but far from true. More than six sincere socialists have managed to get elected in the course of time. It's just that their honest intentions haven't got them very far.

The idea cherished by the ALP left is that if a genuine socialist majority could be elected to parliament, the machinery of government could be used to introduce socialism. Many of the same beliefs are shared by people calling themselves Communists.

The assumption is that the state is neutral, and can be used either for or against the working class, depending on who is in government. But the state is nothing resembling neutral.

smash

"In reality the state is nothing but a machine for the oppression of one class by another, and indeed in the democratic republic no less price increases are on a running at over 100 per cent."

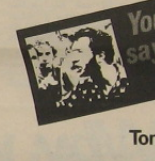
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with Tom O'Lincoln

By rule, and traditions which fellow MPs refuse to break. If you get a majority in parliament and dabble in reform, John Kerr will kill you. If you dabble in what bigger reforms the army will kill you, as they killed Labor leader Salvador Allende in Chile.

What will they do to you if you try to introduce real socialism through parliament?

TO your workmates, your friends, in the local shopping centre, anywhere in fact! We can arrange a regular bundle every issue for you. Most copies of The Battler are distributed in this way. For Battlers or details, contact your local I.S. Branch.

Write for it

Many of the articles in this issue were written or contributed by people like YOU - workers, shop stewards, housewives and working women students and unemployed.

You can contact your local I.S. branch (use page 12 for directory), or write to PO Box 48, Flemington, 3031 or ring ring in 24 hours a day on 33-1600, which which is connected to an automatic answering service.

But perhaps we're getting of ourselves. How will the genuine socialists get a majority in the first place?

The Murdoch newspapers nearly deposed Whitlam as ALP leader in 1976. What will the press do to really radical people?

There are gerrymanders to keep the ALP out of office - so what tricks will they use to keep out real socialists?

Staffing ballot boxes. Intimidating voters, resorting the dead to vote in droves and the capitalists law the resources to do it!

That's why the International Socialists call for a revolutionary seizure of power by the organized working class. The employers must be expropriated, and the capitalist state replaced by democratic workers councils.

Beyond parliament, there is the Civil Service. Its heads, secure in their permanent positions, affluent and proud of their public school backgrounds, can sabotage parliament's decisions at will.

They probably went to school with the Governor General, who can sack your Prime Minister. The Governor is, in turn, a part of the same social circles as the chiefs of the armed forces. If he feels threatened, he'll be happy to use a few tanks to help him.

So revolutionary, too, are in favour of electing candidates to parliament. Our aim is just a little different.

We can see what's wrong with parliament, but a majority of workers are not yet convinced by our arguments. Before they give up on parliamentary reform and adopt our revolutionary strategy, they would like - not necessarily - some hard evidence.

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The Murdoch newspapers nearly deposed Whitlam as ALP leader in 1976. What will the press do to really radical people?

There are gerrymanders to keep the ALP out of office - so what tricks will they use to keep out real socialists?

Staffing ballot boxes. Intimidating voters, resorting the dead to vote in droves and the capitalists law the resources to do it!

That's why the International Socialists call for a revolutionary seizure of power by the organized working class. The employers must be expropriated, and the capitalist state replaced by democratic workers councils.

Beyond parliament, there is the Civil Service. Its heads, secure in their permanent positions, affluent and proud of their public school backgrounds, can sabotage parliament's decisions at will.

They probably went to school with the Governor General, who can sack your Prime Minister. The Governor is, in turn, a part of the same social circles as the chiefs of the armed forces. If he feels threatened, he'll be happy to use a few tanks to help him.

So revolutionary, too, are in favour of electing candidates to parliament. Our aim is just a little different.

We can see what's wrong with parliament, but a majority of workers are not yet convinced by our arguments. Before they give up on parliamentary reform and adopt our revolutionary strategy, they would like - not necessarily - some hard evidence.

So revolutionary, too, are in favour of electing candidates to parliament. Our aim is just a little different.

No justice at Justus

FOR fifteen months miners at the Justus mine in Stearns, Kentucky, (USA) have been on strike as they fight to unionise against the wishes of the Blue Diamond Company which owns the mine.

The men wanted the company to admit that the mine was for increased benefits. Workers Union contract called for a new set of mine safety standards. They point to the recent deaths of 26 men at Blue Diamond's Scotia mine to support their allegations.

Since the struggle began in June 1974, the mine company has employed armed guards (mostly Vietnam veterans) to "escort" the mine from the striking workers.

Last month state troopers claid in riot gear waded into a picket line of striking miners. They arrested 120 miners and they swined and injured 15.

Then a judge, in a vicious attack on the miners, sentenced 11 of them to six months in prison for contempt of court. Another 68 were fined guilty but released on \$1,000 bonds each.

The miners had assembled to stop the Blue Diamond Company from bringing scabs into the mine. The week before they tried to stop state troopers from escorting scabs across their lines.

In Stearns, the world of the worker is simply divided into those who own the mines, the few and those who work them, the many.

As one of the strikers' wives said: "These men are not going back to work - they ain't got nothing to go back to."

The workers' movement under the leadership of the ary Party has fought back courageously with strikes in the industrial centres. However EPIP have led it to put off the fight for socialism to the distant future.

As a result, it has difficulty making clear the differences between its politics and those which the regime claims to stand for.



Cops attacking a picket line at Stearns

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THE BATTLE FOR YOUR PAPER

Read it Sell it TO your workmates, your friends, in the local shopping centre, anywhere in fact! We can arrange a regular bundle every issue for you. Most copies of The Battler are distributed in this way. For Battlers or details, contact your local I.S. Branch.

Write for it

Many of the articles in this issue were written or contributed by people like YOU - workers, shop stewards, housewives and working women students and unemployed.

You can contact your local I.S. branch (use page 12 for directory), or write to PO Box 48, Flemington, 3031 or ring ring in 24 hours a day on 33-1600, which which is connected to an automatic answering service.

We need your help NOW. For this

The Battler needs your bikkies

election, we have prepared special supplements on unemployment, the economic crisis and posters, badges, bumper stickers, and T-shirts.

Help us carry the message of socialism, the fight against the bosses, into every workplace and home in Australia. Contribute to the Fighting Fund (see page 12) and take up a collection yourself.

THE BATTLER 26 NOVEMBER 1977 PAGE 5

What's What's What's to the crisis?

UNEMPLOYMENT, inflation, speed-up — society is a mess.

And more and more people are beginning to see that none of the established political parties has any answers.

A lot of them are turning to the Chippewas and protest — they don't even have any politics, let alone any real answers.

These days more and more people are agreeing that the problem lies in capitalism itself. But what are our answers? How would we fix things up if we were in power?

Let's set one thing straight at the start. Unlike Liberals, Labor or Chipp, we are not a party that says "Vote for us and we'll fix things up." We are a party that says the workers themselves have to take power and run things.

Our politics are radical ones, which will meet fierce resistance from the employers. Only the direct involvement of millions of workers will give us the power to carry out — socialist policies.

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by
Ron Flaherty

FULL AND FAIR WAGE INDENTATION

Any system of wage indentation run by the existing state is going to be raced against the unions. But indentation runs by themselves would be a different story. The unions would adjust the CPI so it really reflects the cost of living. Indentation rates would be our right. No court cases, just automatic raises. And that would not mean any restriction on wage claims to get workers ahead of inflation.

NATIONALISATION OF BASIC INDUSTRY

Key industries would be placed in the hands of the workers' government — without paying compensation to the parents who own them. This would allow real economic planning for the first time in our history, and prevent sabotage by the employers.

EQUAL RIGHTS FOR ALL WORKERS

All jobs would be open to anyone who can do them — male or female, black or white, migrant or Australian-born. Apprenticeships would be open to girls as well as boys. Discrimination in public life preferences would be ended — your sexual would be up to you to choose.

REAL SERVICES — SOCIAL FIRST TIME

Child care, health care and social security would be made freshly available to all who need it — not as a charity, but as our right.

35 HOUR WEEK WITH NO LOSS IN PAY

The additional work that would create work — no unemployment immediately.

NO NO — THEY'RE ALL PULLING TOGETHER!

money and their support try to divide us on the basis of race, religion or place of birth.

beat

The organised working class had the rulers and we need two things.

We must be prepared to make a revolution to sweep away and replace the existing system.

And in the meantime...



Two years ago, Malcolm Fraser appeared for an eight month led recovery, to cut unemployment and boost the economy.

Instead, we got swollen tax packages, Evans lost advantage of the government rate rebate for capital expenditure to create labor saving machinery.

And workers became more productive, they the answer unemployed.

SOY LAD YOU'LL HAVE TO GO, YOU'VE DONE ALL THE WORK!



Let's recognize first that not left wing covers the same. That is why there are so many of them. With the possible exception of IS, they do have one thing in common.

Their speeches and propaganda portray political reality as a special crusade — the world is a dirty, wretched place, the workers are oppressed, there is injustice and human degradation everywhere.

Yes, the revolutionaries are qualified to change it! (Because

of their

eliminating

By eliminating war, we could be working on self production, or on providing decent social services to all workers.

None pretends that we wouldn't have to work under

There's no need to pay

benefit of the majority.

And to make a revolution, we need a powerful organization, a revolutionary party made up of the militants in society and all who support workers power.

A revolution comes a long way off in Australia right now. We must be prepared to make a revolution to sweep away and replace the existing system.

LIBT — a mountain of lies not brought to you by an anarchy of capitalism.

Last year, French destroyed two million tons in order to keep the price of wheat high.

While the American farmers cut the wheat crop by 10%.

CAPITALISM



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Dear Battlers!

Dear Battlers, When there is so much that is excellent in "The Battler", I think it is a pity you spoil it all with the front page headline "Throw the Bastards Out."

The use of the word "bastard" as a term of opprobrium is a direct reflection of four property relations of class society.

The Individual and Socialism

Dear Battlers, Vis Beng's letter in the last Battler reminds me of the attitude that I used to have toward left wing groups — they were apparently "bashed with dogs" and uncaring about individuals.

Their clearly wouldn't accept ordinary man. This attitude arose from particular causes. The editor's reply shows how wrongheaded people get pushed off for good reasons.

our hearts are so pure. That is the type of ideology that tends to surround any activity from bureaucratic wanking to sincere hard work. It's very shocking.

And it's wrong. There are good selfish reasons why you should be politically active. Many people serve drink, laugh and are brainwashed enough to accept capitalist society. But the fact is it doesn't work that well.

It's a little too hard to serve, drink more and enjoying it less, too tense to laugh or to brainwashing makes you feel like you're being raped daily, etc. then you'll react in some way.

You can't just drink more, walk for leisure, surrender, or try something more overtly political. A thousand arguments against that last step. But if you take it, whether you are outside class or working class, you should take it for yourself.

I've joined IS, I still serve, drink, laugh and have friends (mostly not in IS). I can't think of a decade it's not worth it.

The man is learned in the ways of human error — based on the cause and effect that can place a wrongdoer in the predicament he finally finds himself in.

He takes into account if the human being is to be crushed beyond redemption — as some members of the police force insist — fit the nature of his crime.

It is as a mother, could understand those people who cry, "Crucify him!"

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Dear Battlers!

Dear Battlers, I have an interesting item on the ABC a few days ago. An RSPCA member was agitating to improve the conditions of hens in egg factories. Each hen is held in a small cage where they cannot stand up, spread their wings or even turn around. All they can do is lay eggs.

I made the obvious remark that the hens used a union. Better conditions or we stop producing! This would be very difficult to organize, given the power of the boss in the adjoining front chook factory, the hens on being upside down on a conveyor belt and meet a nasty death before being gutted, etc. When the boss interviewed he said the hens don't feel pain. Well, not much, anyway.

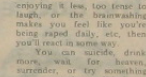
There must be a moral in this story. Despite their humane intentions I don't think that production must be maintained and in the present Economic Climate we must show restraint and there's nothing as simple as a few chickens. But I hope anyone who sympathises with the hens also supports the efforts of workers to win slightly better conditions for themselves.

Specially when they don't even get a favourable mention on TV.

Eric Petersen
Sydney.

This is your page

Write to The Battler — PO Box 46
Flemington Victoria 3211



Catherine Faure (left) with husband Neil and X's wife's... (caption is partially obscured)

WE PRINT BELOW an appeal we have received from Mrs. Catherine Faure for her son, Keith Faure, 26, has been sentenced to twelve years jail for shooting Constable Michael Pratt during a bank hold up.

The Judge ordered that Keith serve nine years of this sentence commencing with two months' sentence. He currently has a total sentence of nineteen years.

Now, under pressure from the Police Association, the Government is appealing against the "leniency" of his punishment.

Tea and Yellowcake

Dear Battlers, "Vengeance is mine" says the Lord.

It is a hard man of much experience in dealing with wrongdoers — from prison from legal counsel. He sits from these plea which measure of leniency he will impose.

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Here's how we're fighting for jobs

UNEMPLOYMENT today is the worst it's been in Australia since the 1930s. Politicians, social workers and trade union leaders are all talking about doing something, but bigger all has happened.

In Hobart 14 weeks ago a group of unemployed got together and did something. They formed an unemployed workers union.

It now has 200 members and branches are being formed around Australia, in Western Australia, in Adelaide, in Canberra, and in Queensland.

Some then the UWI recruited 200 members in Hobart and 13 around Tasmania, with branches in Launceston and Devonport.

The union has had fantastic success in involving unemployed people in fighting for their rights and getting a better deal out of society.

won

They have won transport concessions for all unemployed on public transport, gained concessions at theatres for union members and have organised a food cooperative.

The Battler spoke to Melbourne recently to help form a branch of the Unemployed Workers Union (UWI) in Victoria.

Paddy had been instrumental in forming the union in Hobart. He and some others from unemployed without groups spent two weeks organising a meeting and distributing leaflets to kids in the city, the CBS offices, parks and so skating rinks.

"We had about two hundred kids promise to come and we got 35 young people under 25. Also another 25 people, social workers and others involved with the unemployed."

"Employment is so bad that it's almost impossible to find a job. I was thrown out of a company moving from Victoria to Queensland. For 18 months he worked odd jobs but has been on the dole now for 6 months.

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THE BATTLE 26 NOVEMBER 1977

A food co-op has been "a fantastic financial success paying for the running of the co-op in many ways but most important has been the social success.

"Unemployed people have become socially acceptable in the community - they are no longer a bunch of ragged, a bunch of hole-baggers."

They went to Melbourne and bought \$2,700 worth of bulk coffee, shipped it to Hobart and packaged it themselves. In the supermarket a 100 gm bottle sells for \$2.50. The UWI sells to members at \$1.50.

Another time they took a truck to buy a tons of potatoes. "We sold those goods at 20 cents for 2 kilos. In the shops the cheapest price was 70 cents for the same grade."

The union has had support from the ALP and the trade unions but not as much as it would like.

"From the metal workers union we got good support, from them we actually received \$75 even though we had them a letter."

"From the ALP branches we had several offers and received \$100."

"We got off without trade union backing but it would be preferable in other states, they do it with trade union support."

key issue

Paddy sees transport concessions for the unemployed as a "key issue" around which an unemployed union can be built in other states.

"One of the things we analysed was the economic, social and emotional problems of unemployed people. We realise the futility of leaving energy, resources and materials in a campaign we couldn't win, and we've got to look at it within the system we can win."

In the dole-drums

Tom is 55 years old, single and unemployed since last May.

"He was thrown out of a company moving from Victoria to Queensland. For 18 months he worked odd jobs but has been on the dole now for 6 months.

"Employment is so bad that it's almost impossible to find a job. I was thrown out of a company moving from Victoria to Queensland. For 18 months he worked odd jobs but has been on the dole now for 6 months.

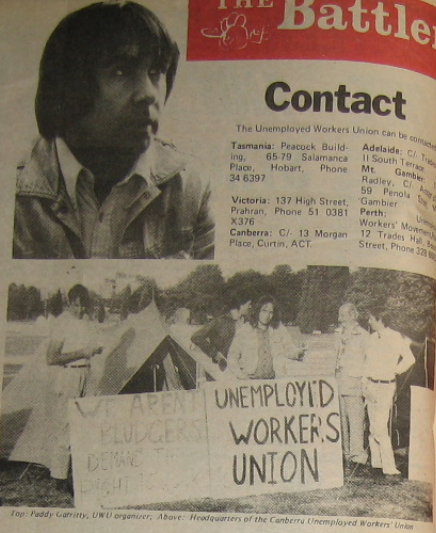
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Top: Paddy Garrity, UWI organizer. Above: Headquarters of the Canberra Unemployed Workers Union.

"You do need a source of finance. It takes quite a bit of energy raising the finance but at the same time it involves unemployed people in doing something."

Just the pure simple logic of transport concessions for unemployed people who receive exactly the same as old age pensioners to some can deny.

"We've got a telegram from Don Grimes, shadow minister for Social Security stating that the ALP will abolish the existing penalties against unemployed people if it wins office. That means unemployed school leavers will automatically be eligible for benefits."

But Paddy hasn't any illusions about the coming election and what it holds for the unemployed.

"If we are going to trust the politicians of Liberal or Labor we're bloody fools because they don't know what

"She was forced to leave CBS for health reasons and she's had virtually nothing since in over a year."

"The CES office hasn't helped me. They've only sent me for three or four jobs."

Meanwhile she's gone for over 100 jobs on her own initiative.

"I was just so determined to get a job. I went out at one in the morning and returned at 2 o'clock."

And everywhere it was the same. "Sorry, you're too old." At nineteen?

Not all the unemployed are teenagers. Robert, another of the people we spoke to in Melbourne, is 31.

"This election is important. If the Libs win they might cut the screws on harder."

"If Labor wins there won't be much difference of first. But they could bring in more direct job creation schemes, something like the RFD scheme but more permanent."

"You start to wonder if there's any hope for you. I'm 31 years old but soon I might be 40. I can't keep it up all the time."

"It was as a fruit packer at Colac. It was the only job that could offer me. They said 'You can take it or leave it.' I said 'I'll take it.'"

In that time he's applied for general process work and eight of the rubber and oil goods factories near Richmond (Vic.) have been time the response was the same. "No work here."

"If the Libs win they won't be getting any more work on the rights to work together like they've been doing. They'd be getting a shock with all the training schemes that have been developed."

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\$1.5 million in 3 weeks

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THIS IS AUSTRALIA BEFORE URANIUM MINING!

THREE DIE ON RADIOACTIVE STREETS



AN anti-uranium activists' nightmare has come true in Sydney.

In the heart of suburbia a long forgotten nuclear waste dump has been "discovered", threatening the lives of residents.

The peak North Sydney suburbs of Hunter Hill and Woolwich are built on the tailings (trash) of a radium processing plant which operated from 1910 to 1918.

Many local roads are made from the tailings. The tailings are emitting a radioactive gas, radon, which has killed many uranium miners in America.

cancer

Already a number of people have been killed. Ten residents have died from stomach cancer through eating home grown vegetables cultivated in the contaminated soil.

Another person in the same house died from suspected bone cancer, a child has been born with leukaemia, and the next door neighbour has chronic lymphatic leukaemia.

These startling revelations were made by Tom Uren in Sydney on 1 December.



LEFT - TOM UREN has exposed the Sydney uranium scandal.

Who is going to share the responsibility of cleaning up the contamination and paying compensation for health and property?

Hunter Hill is the heart of the electorate of Liberal treasurer John Howard. Howard was the man who tried to sell uranium to Europe but failed.

Tom Uren claims that the France government hasn't offered any assistance. He said that it was a federal issue and the government should accept responsibility.

One house will have to be demolished and the site excavated. Overall, at least 5,000 44 gallon drums of contaminated soil will have to be removed. Rumours are that it will be dumped outside Sydney head.

Let those affluent residents don't seem to be upset over the issue. One told The Battler, "I haven't been seriously hurt but I know of some problems."

She said the man's about to move? Like the position. "We've got a lovely view."

However she was concerned that officials "passed the buck" when questioned and that "even though Adelaide's been explained."

The Hunter Hill tailings dump is the third to be discovered. In the last year, others have been found in Victoria and South Australia. Just how many asbestos waste dumps are there?

LEFT - One of the radioactive streets in North Sydney.

How many more uranium dumps are there around the country?

How many more uranium dumps are there around the country?

How many more uranium dumps are there around the country?

inside **WHY LABOR LOST** p.3

What's going on in Melbourne?

"I do!"
the other
land scandals

Sunbury-Pinmore

THIS was the deal that blew the lid on the whole schemer. In May this year, Hamer announced a joint project worth \$10,000,000 between the Housing Commission and a company called Pinmore.

Pinmore is a \$2 company owned by Prier Stirling, for six years a personal adviser to Mr Hamer, and John Hylop, a real estate agent.

Pinmore have never built a house. The project was for a huge mixed public/private housing estate on the old McMahon farm at Sunbury.

Pakenham Park

VALUED in 1969 at \$260,000 by Pakenham Shire. Sold to the Housing Commission for \$2.1 million, or \$2,000 an acre.

The Housing Commission bought it before they received their engineers report. It turned out the land was flood-prone and still zoned rural. In 1973, Jennings had withdrawn an offer for the land because they estimated it would cost \$1.3 million to drain the site.

The area had been flooded just two years earlier and a pond on the site was the major source of illness for Melbourne's florists!

BOB DILLON was bought in and only to sell this property to the Housing Commission.

As with the Sunbury deal, the Housing Commission were given an excuse to pay a high price when a proxy option was brought up.

According to the Housing Commission, there was an option held by LOMAR INVESTMENTS to buy Pakenham Park for \$2 million. An investigation since proved that Lomar Investments simply did not exist.

They say their information came from BOB DILLON. In their remarkable valuation of the land, the commission's value ignored better land nearby being sold for \$1,800 an acre. And there's a housing estate being built on this land now!

Stainton (Pakenham)

SOLD by auction in October 1972 by Lenworth for \$123,000. Bought by the Housing Commission for \$372,000 in December 1973. GRAHAM HILL made \$42,000 on the deal.

AND we do know that he had intervened in the buying of Melton. It was a deal that forced the Housing Commission to buy land from the people who were supposedly bribing him.

Dickie is supposed to have called for a top level police investigation into the allegations as soon as he heard of them.

He called in Assistant Police Commissioner for crime, Bill Crowley, but only gave him four days to make inquiries. It is worth noting that by this time, Hamer had sacked Dickie and made him Chief Secretary. Minister in charge of the police!

Despite the lingering doubts, Cabinet went ahead and acquitted Dickie from investigation.

The Melton land had been originally bought by Nandina Investments for a company called Wemar. Wemar was a partnership between Cambridge Credit and Lewis Land.

Nandina was the company that Peter Leake and Colin Cooke, Lewis and the Minister for Planning, Alan Hunt.

In the 1973 election, Peter Leake organised a special fund, comprising \$10,000 from Cambridge Credit, \$10,000 from Moore Williams (Knox) and \$10,000 from Alan Hunt's savings. The money did not go through normal Liberal Party channels.

Hunt's job in Government was to oversee land development and land zoning.

He claims to be "horrified" that land speculators are financing his campaign. He must have been forewarned of this at all their years dealing with the Housing Commission. Phil made \$110,000 from land at Stumpy Gully estate on the Mornington Peninsula.

What the Liberals got

DURING 1973, ultra-right wing Pat Dickie was the Minister for Housing and the Minister for Planning was Alan Hunt, one of Hamer's tendies.

There is no doubt that Dickie was the major force behind a number of the Housing Commission's deals.

So far, there has been no direct evidence that Dickie was on the take.

But we do know that there were rumours around the Housing Commission that had been bribed \$20,000 over the Melton deal.

And we do know that he had intervened in the buying of Melton. It was a deal that forced the Housing Commission to buy land from the people who were supposedly bribing him.

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ABOVE—John McMahon on his farm. Who needs to be a millionaire?

BOB DILLON, of Dillon and Inakster who were fast becoming known as the "in-house" real-estate agency for the Housing Commission. It was said that if you wanted to sell to the Housing Commission, you contacted Dillon, that he had the pocket.



GAVE

Already, the Inquiry into the land deals has shown that Dillon gave NEILL RIACH, a Housing Commission officer in charge of buying land over \$31,000 in "gifts".

These included two overseas trips for Riach and his wife, \$4,800 in traveller's cheques, \$2,500 towards a new car and \$19,000 profit from a land deal with Dillon and Riach in partnership.

The other intermediary brought in was GRAHAM HILL, a freelance speculator and another of Lenworth's advisers.

We'll probably never know the truth. But there is a strong case to suggest that a

a profit, it turned out, no option existed, the documents relating to it are invalid.

In the Pakenham deal, the Housing Commission also claims there was a (false) option to buy land there that forced the price up.

Out of his profit, Graham Hill gave Bob Dillon a "gift" of \$80,000 presumably for letting him handle the deal.

Dillon also received agents' fees of \$47,000 for his office role in the deal.

And, no doubt, his wife benefitted the gifts to Neil Riach.

DISCOVERED

AND that's where it would have ended had it not been for two further scandals.

In May, it was announced that McMahon's farm was to be developed jointly by the Housing Commission and Pinmore, an unknown company that had never built a house.

Twenty days later, the farm was sold to the Premier, Dick Hamer (see box).

And in the midst of that furor, it was shown that the site was unsuitable for development. Poor soil meant that drainage would be very expensive. And the farm was isolated from the township proper by only 100 baahk dirt.

There is only one small winding road into the centre of Sunbury. Although it is just over the creek, some people on the new estate would have had to travel 4 miles to get into Sunbury.

That's why land on the other side of the township had been zoned for development.

Just like the Pakenham deal - (see box) where the Housing Commission bought land just over the creek, and land that was subject to regular flooding. All for astonishing prices.

We do not know yet whether the scandals are just another blot on the record in the past. Just another example of Government incompetence.

But it's not true that the land the Housing Commission has bought over the past seven years has been subject to some kind of scandal. They bought an old SEC brigade dump in Altona for \$736,000 that's



BELOW—Behind Sunbury township, atop a 200 foot plateau, the McMahon farm.

What they overpaid

BEFORE 1970 and right up to the Housing Commission's 1953 purchase of raw land, they paid a total of \$15.6 million for 1,413 hectares (76% of which was surrounded by roads). The Housing Commission paid the equivalent price of \$11.1 million for 1,413 hectares (76% of which was surrounded by roads).

For comparable property, the Housing Commission had not bought it for less than \$11.1 million.

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JOHN McMahon's farm is nothing special.

About 1000 acres of grazing land on a wideview plateau overlooking Sunbury (Vic).

Since May this year, the McMahon farm has been in the centre stage of Victorian politics.

In 1973, the Housing Commission of Victoria bought it for \$3.4 million. Yet only 20 days earlier McMahon had himself sold the farm to Lenworth

Melbourne for just \$1.9 million. This deal, and a number like it, have become the Victorian land scandal.

A saga of financial manipulation and corruption that has rocked the Victorian Liberal Party to its foundations, and exposed, for all to see just exactly how the capitalist business world really operates.

We're going to concentrate on Sunbury, because it's the deal we know most about. But the same pattern has been repeated several times over.

THE SALE

BACK in 1970, John McMahon was looking to sell the family farm.

They'd been there 30 years, but things were getting tougher, the city was expanding and he saw the chance to get out profitably.

He commissioned Dalgety, the giant pastoral company to sell it. Then, out of the blue, he was approached by Greg Keen, a millionaire property speculator.

Keen was in partnership with Lenworth, the Adelaide-based finance company.

Keen found the land and provided the "expertise". Lenworth put up the money. Profits were split 50/50.

Keen and Lenworth were involved in dozens of projects around Melbourne, during property booms of the early '70s. Along with other speculators, they made millions from the exorbitant prices of outer-suburban land.

Keen was, through a

PHIL GRIFFITHS looks at the Victorian Land Scandals.

family company, the well-known real estate company, Moore Williams. Moore Williams were bought in to assist Dalgety's in the sale of the McMahon farm.

It is worth noting that this meant that Keen was, in effect, directly involved in both sides of the deal. His real estate company was acting for McMahon, the seller. And he, personally, was acting for Lenworth, the buyer.

This was typical of the way big land deals were handled and huge profits made.

On Keen's advice, Lenworth took out an option to buy McMahon's farm in 1970. As in all such deals, they were gambling on the land being rezoned for residential use. As soon as a block was rezoned, it could double in value.

But in 1971, things went sour. The Board of Works made plans for Melbourne had zoned McMahon's farm as residential green belt. In normal circumstances, this would have meant green belt.

There was no risk of declassification this century. It hadn't paid, any up it simply held an option. But if it wanted to make a killing, it had to get the land rezoned.

There was a clause in the charter which allows the Housing Commission to apply directly to the Minister responsible for zoning to have the land rezoned.

We do not yet know exactly what happened. We don't know how big an incidence, how much corruption, how much manipulation.

But we do know that each in 1972, the Housing Commission was directed to start buying land in Sunbury, Lakemba and Melton.

Keen and Lenworth, millionaires from the exorbitant prices of outer-suburban land, were involved in dozens of projects around Melbourne, during property booms of the early '70s. Along with other speculators, they made millions from the exorbitant prices of outer-suburban land.

Keen was, through a

Where the money went

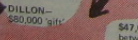
LENSWORTH—\$1.6 million profit



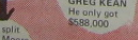
DILLON—\$47,000 commission



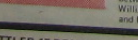
GRAEME HILL \$500,000 bonus



DILLON—\$20,000 gift



GREG KEEN He only got \$588,000



RIACH—\$60,000 plus in '94 from McMahon



RIACH—\$67,000 split between Moore Williams, Keen, Dalgety and Dalgety's

Women led a Revolution

THE Great French Revolution was fought for liberty, equality and... 'brotherhood'.

Yet at key turning points it was women who took the lead. The march to Versailles, which dragged the King back to Paris, was begun by a small girl bearing a drum and led by thousands of women of the working class.

The disturbance leading up to the march, too, was led by women. 'Commuting loafers' had their men and no...

See what do so, so they would take a hand in things themselves.

In the instruction of 1795, it was again women who dragged men out of the workshops and led a mass invasion of the Assembly almost forcing it to dissolve.

It is a fact that women have played a key role in every great revolution. 'This fact fits in the face of everything we've been brought up to believe.

The story handed out by the media is that the male of the species is aggressive, and female quiet and submissive. For the guardians of traditional morality, that is supposed to be a law of nature or the command of God.

What We Stand For

The International Socialist Revolution is a revolutionary socialist movement that will accept our basic principles and are willing to work to achieve them.

WORKERS' POWER

Workers control over the whole of society based on workers' control of the factories and workshops. Only the organised working class has the power to establish a society free of exploitation, oppression and want. Russia and China are not socialist because they are based on the exploitation of workers by a bureaucratic ruling class.

REVOLUTIONARY SOCIAL REFORMISM

We believe in overthrowing the capitalist system not patching it up gradually, trying to change it.

SMASHING THE CAPITALIST STATE

The State machine - parliament, courts, the law police and army - is a weapon of capitalist class rule. It can never be used to serve the interests of the working class. There is no Parliamentary road to socialism.

INTERNATIONALISM

A socialist revolution cannot stop in one country. It must build revolutions in other countries or it will be defeated like the Russian revolution of 1917. We are building an international revolutionary movement, opposed to patriotism and opposed to overcome national divisions.

FULL EQUALITY AND LIBERATION

For women, blacks, migrants for the oppressed groups. Racism, sexism and discrimination against migrant peoples are all pillars of capitalist system. We are opposed to the social penetration of homosexuality.

REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

To smash the capitalist state, we need a revolutionary party, organised and built in the workshops. Without a revolutionary party, the revolutionary struggle of workers will be crushed.

RANK AND FILE ORGANISATION

Workers need their own rank and file organisations to fight the bosses when the trade officials are selling out. We work within the trade unions and fight to bring them under rank and file control.

IS works to build a revolutionary party out of the struggle workers are waging today. We fight for a program of industrial and political demands that can strengthen the self-confidence, organisation and socialist consciousness of the working class.

If that's the sort of work you want to do... JOIN US!

raised

In the past eight years, the women's liberation movement has done much to demolish this nonsense. If women are paid the same as men, it is because they are encouraged to be passive, if they are raised to be passive. If men are aggressive, it is because they are encouraged to be that way from birth.

People are the product of society, and this society oppresses women. No wonder men seem to be the fighters and the leaders.

The revolutionary left, sometimes with considerable food dragging, has taken up this view and returned the liberation of women to its rightful place as a central goal of the socialist revolution.

But even the women's movement and the left are products of the society around us. While we fought the sexist ideas we often accepted a subtle version of the same idea.

Many forces unite to keep training in 'feminine' work, obedient and submissive on the job... If it's very difficult for women to go against their conditioning... difficult for women to consider even joining a union, much less do anything more 'masculine'!

But women can and often do go on an strike against God', thundered one newspaper. What they meant was,



A revolutionary woman at the barricades in Paris, 1848 revolution.

women can men's equals at fighting eventually, we assume that these forces will keep control for a long time - that only a long process of education and struggle can break down their passivity.

Here is what one women's liberationist has written:

"Because of their life long training in 'feminine' work, women are much more obedient and submissive on the job... If it's very difficult for women to go against their conditioning... difficult for women to consider even joining a union, much less do anything more 'masculine'!"

But women can and often do go on an strike against God', thundered one newspaper. What they meant was,

can that again

with TOM O'LINCOLN

the strikers had put the God into the bosses.

At the end of the week there were only two shops in the industry, and I wonder an observer would not have said, "We now have the world's best strikers."

The most important apparently backward women were transformed overnight into the leaders of the working class. This is true not only of women, but also of migrant workers.

impressive

In Sydney this year drover trodder migrant workers in railway construction is carried out one of the most impressive strikes of 1971. It long before they had appeared.

The great Russian revolutionary leader Leon Trotsky said this process is the result of combined and uncombined workers. The most advanced workers, the most advanced, appear most advanced in normal times. They have a strong trade union tradition.

But their tradition brings with it a restraint, an integration into official trade union structures. When women of textile factories once worked up to 90 hours a week, had no union tradition, no right to vote, they were considered "unorganisable" by the union officials.

Of course, radical trade unions and ideas alone don't get things done. Solid organisations and leadership are important. That is why building movements of the oppressed are a central task for socialists even today, when the oppressed may not yet seem to be most militant part of the working class.

But the explosive potential of women and migrant workers are not yet seen to be optimistic about the prospect for revolution in Australia.

COLLEEN McCullough's blockbuster novel "The Thorn Birds" has now spent several months on top of the American best selling lists.

Within a month of its release McCullough had made more money from "The Thorn Birds" than any other Australian author had previously earned in an entire career.

She has already sold the rights for ten two-hour episodes of TV serialisation. "Thorn Birds" is to be the "A lot" of 1978.

A lot of American and European are going to get their first impressions about Australia and Australian literature from "The Thorn Birds".

city

Which is a pity, because despite its pretension to be a great novel of the Australian Outback, you could learn more about Australian outback life from one verse of a Henry Lawson poem than from the whole 550 pages of "The Thorn Birds".

part of the problem is that McCullough is millionaire squatters living in isolation from the rest.



Colleen McCullough in New York

of the country. The better writers about outback Australia before the war, for example Darcy Niland, used to write about real people.

The other part of the problem is that most of them could write, whereas McCullough can't.

In an interview published in Time magazine McCullough

said "I wanted to write a book that the man on the street could enjoy. And one that an English professor would feel well crafted, well thought out, with brilliant characters."

Fair enough. Nobel prize winning authors very often write "distant" novels for "intellectuals" and they don't make much money either. The ones that are enjoyed by "the man (and women) in the street."

Only you cannot write for the street person if you treat them with contempt.

McCullough's idea of writing for a mass readership is the same as the Women's Weekly. She treats her readers as idiots. She explains her character's motives in great detail because she assumes that we would not have the subtlety to understand them.

Not that her characters are particularly subtle anyway. Most of them are plastic stereotypes.

not so much 'ROOTS' as rooted

The mains are either incoherent either straight out English professor type sophisticated Europeans out of American middle class. The women are a little better. They are at least allowed to have emotions.

The story, briefly, is about a New Zealand Irish family who come to occupy the largest estate in outback NSW. They do not actually inherit it because their rich aunt leaves it to the Catholic Church.

The daughter of the family falls in love with the local man who later becomes a Cardinal. After sixteen years and 245 pages she finally sleeps with him and has a who becomes a priest and down of the coast of Greece.

The heavy plot of all this, explained repeatedly and obstinately, is that women cannot win against the male dominated church, if she wants to truly possess her man.

One of the more appalling features of the book is why it sets out to give a pessimistic view of Australia and the main characters through generations just fifty-four years is isolate is a long, entirely unenjoyable society.

Many people overseas believe that Australia has no politics. McCullough will help you see that this myth. Her characters live through two world wars, the great depression, several major economic passages, the CPA continues its weakness. "A New Course" is marketed.

Two, two of the main fought in the second world war and one of them lost his balls in New Guinea but since the only McCullough character with balls are priests you don't notice.

The Thorn Birds has been a huge success because of the way it has been marketed. But there will be few readers who will not be disappointed with the finished product. The problem is not that it is a great literature. The problem is that it's dead boring.

The CPA - A New Corpse

by BRAD BOWDEN, a recently resigned member of the Communist Party of Australia

"A New Course" for Australia is an historic document for the CPA. It represents an abandoning of any pretence to be a revolutionary socialist party.

It points to the shift of investment to the mining sector. It reveals the desperate need to reduce unemployment in its attempt to intervene in corporate decision making.

The only realistic way of controlling inflation and reducing unemployment is to intervene in corporate decision making.

Like the ALP, the CPA now seems to believe that the crisis can be solved by government intervention. Then, in what are the most remarkable passages in the booklet, it defends its programme in capitalist terms, saying:

"The 'New Course' offered by the CPA is thoroughly reformist, not markedly different from the ALP's position in 1972.

The CPA recently ran a debate in which the following Australian Left Review on

delusion

"It looks at the system's inner workings, pinpoints the levers which a mass movement can wield to bring corporate power under popular control. Until that power is brought under control the problems facing Australia in economic, political and social life will continue to fester."

Note that it talks of controlling corporate power, not of destroying it. Implicit is the idea that these reforms will end the crisis of capitalism. A delusion long held by the ALP.

reformist

The document however shows that the debate has ended and that the CPA leadership has decided to launch the CPA along the path already followed by the PCI and the PCP in Europe.

"A New Course" does make a Marxist analysis of Australian capitalism. It shows how 200 companies employ 44% of Australian workers, with the rest being employed by 30,000 small firms.

reformist

There are examples of a complete surrender to reformism of the worst sort, as "Whether we like it or not,

Election follies

THE bosses at Repco Central Store, Playford (Vic) left no doubt where their political sympathies lie in the weeks leading up to the election.

A storeman employed there arrived at work one morning with a Battler sticker saying, "Give Fraser the Boot", proudly displaying on his bag.

When he walked past the boss's office he was called in and told to remove the sticker. It was not appreciated when word of this got around the factory similar stickers mysteriously appeared on workers.

At the works in New South Wales, strikers also displayed their contempt at the idea of a political interference by the majority boss wearing "Strike Fraser Out" badges.

Fraser with his, the bosses, retreated, and the original sticker remained where it was.

Please note our new phone number. For the International Socialists and The Battler: Telephone (24 Hours) (02) 335-2783



Communist Party leaders, Lawson

Below: Battler supporters and IS members give Malcolm Fraser's backing to his last public meeting held in Lawson. IS members on the battlers in Marston Shopping Centre, Leitchburn (NSW), selling Battler and working class support.



International Socialists

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MELBOURNE
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370 1604
56 2239

SYDNEY
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Phone 797 044

ADLAIDE
14 Camrose St Hyde Park
Phone 71 3929
772 8213

CANBERRA
14 Welpharth St, Cooroo
Phone 476251

BRISBANE
PO Box 111 St Lucia 4067
Phone 281 1840

The Fight for Workers' Power

The Fight for Workers' Power
by Tom D'Lincoln

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Flemington Vic 3031
or your local IS Branch

INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

WORKERS SPEAK OUT

WOMEN at the Dimmore mostworks recently met members of the Brisbane Working Women's Charter Group and discussed some of the problems they faced as women and as workers.

It was an informal lunch meeting, during which the first issue of the Working Women's Charter national newspaper "Women at Work" was handed out with few comments about the purpose and possible usefulness of the Charter.

Discussion of the aims of the Charter quickly followed where it was most relevant to the Dimmore women.

"We've already got equal pay, one of the women told us. However, the bonus and sick leave section, which is the highest paid, has very few women."

There seemed to be a general feeling that being a heavier worker than most women wanted. But the few who applied for sick leave were given a hard time.

"They made it tough on us when we went for testing - we only got the job by being the best," that's for sure.

On the whole, the women were fairly satisfied with their conditions, some of which they got by simply going ahead and creating them.

No childcare, lousy health and job discrimination...

"We get a smoke break every hour. It's in the regulations - we just look it up, and then they can't stop us."

Delegates Shirley Powell and Claire Theriault told us of the woman down the road who is a second mother to the children of the Walk. Obviously only women lucky enough to have family or good neighbours to care for their children were there to tell the tale.

by Julie Bowen

In the canteen, the women were amused at the suggestion that married women should get the sack. "They know we're amongst the best workers - that's why they sack us," they told us.

But there was a lot of interest in the Charter's demands for adequate childcare and parental leave. One woman told us she was only able to work because her mother and grandmother lived nearby and were able to care for her.

There was a lot of interest in the Charter's demands for adequate childcare and parental leave. One woman told us she was only able to work because her mother and grandmother lived nearby and were able to care for her.

Health was another serious problem. In a group of six women, one had a history of bronchitis, and was suffering from chronic and severe dermatitis. All complained of the prevalence of fever, and the difficulties of getting compensation.

Even though her mother also had to work, she could not get any help.

There was no local childcare, and the women down the road who is a second mother to the children of the Walk. Obviously only women lucky enough to have family or good neighbours to care for their children were there to tell the tale.

liability

Because it is hard to prove a complicated series of blood tests, it often takes a long time before a company will recognize liability.

The women knew of many cases where people had trouble, or been unable to get compensation. Even when compensation was paid, it did not compensate for the long periods upon the sick leave.

Viruses continue to show up in the bloodstreams of women. In the case of bronchitis, they damage the other parts of the body, affect sexual intercourse, affect the nervous system, and affect the ability to have children.

Some of the women were interested in the idea of a law which would be introduced for women workers, and others wanted to see the continuation of the AMIEU seminars around the Charter aims which the union has undertaken to organise.

AWA officials wreck meeting

USING classical bureaucratic meeting procedure, the pro-NCG officials of the Administrative and Clerical Officers Association (ACOA) stifled the ACOA Reform Group to get our union to take meaningful action against Fraser's attacks at the Annual General Meeting of the Victorian branch, last month.

The action motions on the agenda which were put up by the Reform Group were either amended to remove the action proposals, or were

discussed. Time ran short due to filibustering by the right wing and work based supporters, (that is, empty speechmaking and disruptive tactics).

Alex Magner, the Victorian branch secretary, successfully moved amendments to those and other proposals which removed the clause calling for militant action.

The Reform Group's proposals called for overtime bans against staff selling, selection work bans, a combination of street demonstration and community groups affected by Fraser's crisis, and for production of literature to advise clients of the consequences caused by staff cuts.

The Victorian branch secretary, Alex Magner, wanted the union to fight alongside the disadvantaged groups in the community that are the worst hit by cuts in social spending - migrants, unemployed women, blacks, youth and the poor.

The lessons from the motions passed at this year's AGM were nothing but empty slogans.

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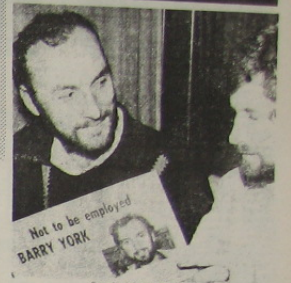
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NOT TO BE EMPLOYED



Barry York (left) with ITAV President Peter Graff.

member of the Victorian Education Department. Barry York was "Not to be Employed" by the Minister and the Director-General's secretariat.

By Max Castello, ITAV

Barry York is a fully qualified teacher with excellent references from two schools where he's been working this year. He was employed in the Victorian Education Department as a teacher.

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Are YOU working in a health hazard?

KEITH MSA, a worker at the Wittenoom asbestos mines in Western Australia died last July from an extremely rare disease: mesothelioma. Just before dying he was awarded \$33,000 in a court case because asbestos dust was established as the cause of death.

The company paid up but was not repentant. They said that "issuing workers' compensation was enough."

Asbestos is in widespread industrial use. Even short exposure can cause fatal diseases including asbestosis, lung cancer and mesothelioma, over 20 years later.

In Britain the trade union movement has waged many militant struggles over this explosive issue. And now in Australia more and more workers are becoming aware of the importance of health hazards on the job.

Rank and file workers at Woodreef Asbestos Mines (NSW) called a meeting earlier this year after hearing an ABC program on asbestos. They called for the widest possible safety measures at the mine, and the election of a safety officer paid by the company but responsive to the workers.

James Hardie, one of NSW's largest asbestos making companies, was published as a "company that looks after its staff."

The amount of asbestos dust at the factory was checked and the doctor books of the regular medical checks done. He proudly declares that he has diagnosed no case of asbestosis in employees who started work since he started 10 years ago.

This terrific publicity. But medical checks are little use against an incurable disease and a condition that takes 20 years to develop can't be detected in 10 years.

A malfunction in a dust extractor at James Hardie last April resulted in the company's real estate to the workers. Management denied nothing, and it was left to the workers and their union to get the job until the fault was fixed.

More than 100 workers don't know about their health. More than they can, they set, they need more information.

Information on asbestos - and on other less lethal but common hazards.

The most common common hazard is asbestos. The Centre is a painful condition caused by repetitive hand movements - tenosynovitis.

The only cure is to do a complete rest. Women who suffer from it are often afraid to go back to work for fear of the sack. And when they do complain, they're told the cause is "housework", and refused compo.

Some of our delegates at Pleasys in Sydney have got management worried because of their interest in doing something about tenosynovitis. They think job rotation and an end to bonus schemes would help solve the problem. They are also attempting to establish a safety committee in the factory.

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The General calls for 'peace'

WHILE we are constantly being told about the bad state of the car industry, the public relations officer for GMH has issued a statement for factory notice-boards that basically says: "All is well."

With the introduction of the new H2 model, Holden is going from strength to strength and everything will be OK."

This is all part of Holden's policy to convince the workers that GMH has other hard work and sacrifices, we can all reach our goals.

Of course, the company is not going to make any concessions to the workers. The AMIEU five-point log of demands without forcing employees to accept for one minor concession.

Hopefully with the vital industrial hammer we have a bit more muscle to push back against the company. We have a lot more muscle than the Victorian Education Department as a teacher.

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Lessons of the power strike

LAST month, Latrobe Valley shop stewards attended a two day union training school to discuss the recent eleven week power strike.

One of the key speakers was John Halpinney, Victorian Secretary of the AMWSU.

John Halpinney accurately described the best of the recent workers. But when the shop steward suggested that they had made a mistake in getting the majority of the strikers tied up in attending the arbitration hearing Halpinney disagreed.

Halpinney argued that having the arbitrating board support and helped the strikers was what really went on in the Court.

Maybe. But that's hardly an excuse for having them tied up in their day in, day out. As reasoned, the shop steward should have been the one to go to other workplaces to explain the struggle and win support.

Halpinney also made another comment that has gained quite a bit of acceptance around the Country. He said that crucial mistake was going into arbitration, and that the outcome was inevitable from the start.

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Fields sacks 350

At Rockhampton, this meant that the union negotiator - practically a "no-strike" deal. As the meatworkers' union, they had to sign a statutory declaration saying they would abide by the agreement - no signature, no job.

Both Rockhampton and Bremer have been in the forefront of opposition to the Maxwell-Lette union leader. He was given the choice to put the boot into the Bremer shed.

But what the Rockhampton experience under the belt, the factory is already preparing to fight back. Already they are letting the people know what's happening and replying to the lies in the Press and TV.

The company pulled the same stunt at its Rockhampton plant. It closed the plant, threw more than 350 workers out of a job.

And not content with sacking workers, the company is trying to extract a bit of "militant-bashing" mileage as well.

In fact, AMATI, who now own the company are in the process of expanding their ton and now at Bremer, they closed the sheds to make modifications so they could handle a bigger kiln.

Unfortunately, the AMIEU officials, rather than the company is up to and fighting back. They are operating with the boss. The Letts told the union official at Bremer was, "Let me make one thing clear. This is a coming under union control whether you like it or not."



Fields workers discuss the meat union.

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Right-winger wins in PKIU

The right wing has won a victory in the NSW printing union elections. Frank Kelly, State Secretary of the PKIU, led to right-wing militants as well as 900 votes.

Militants said the right represented a personal defeat for Kelly as much as a political shift among printers. Many members either retained their positions.

The right wing campaign was well-organised, and dirty. Leaflets were sent to printers' homes claiming that the PKIU had supported Don Page's militant Father of the Fairfax Chapel, for the executive. This was obviously meant to imply that Page supported Abbot Cairn.

One factor in Kelly's defeat was his handling of last year's Fairfax strike. In that dispute, Frank Kelly lined up with TUC Secretary John Durkin to secure a return to work, citing no "existing gains". As a result, Fairfax workers were largely indifferent to his campaign this year, though they disliked his right wing opponent.

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WE NEED MORE OF THE BATTLE

"GUILFOYLE? I would say she hates children. Anything to do with children she hates."

Strong words? We were talking to mothers and child care workers, and they meant what they said.

Child care is a serious matter, and society has yet to take it seriously enough, especially under the Liberal Government.

The old argument about whether women should work is irrelevant, insists child care specialist Jennifer Levy. "It's a social reality that women do work, and we have to provide care for the children."

And if it's not only working mothers who need child care, "I work in the school system," says Mary Jewell. "I don't have to work, but I just couldn't stand those four walls any longer."

And I think it's very important for the child, too. Kids are not like their mother. I think they want to get away from that same old daily routine.

Ros has four children, and is separated from her husband. "I don't think me and my husband would have had half as many problems if we could have just had that break."

But there are so many who could get it. I had three kids at that time, and I just couldn't find a place that would take them.

Today Ros works in the children's annex of Elsie Women's Refuge in Glabe. "We take the children, and the women have all day to look for

BY TOM O'LINCOLN

a job or a house, or fix up their pensions."

There have been child care centres in Australia since 1858, but for most of that time they have been few and far between. For years they were mostly restricted to deserted wives, and treated you as a charity case.

Today there are still fewer than 220,000 places in pre-schools and day care centres for a population of over 13 million Australians.

And even that figure is deceptive — it includes 45,000 places in commercial centres which get no government subsidy. So their fees are beyond most people's reach.

For working class women, the situation is grim. "If these women don't have relatives to whom they can turn, there is actually nothing available," writes sociologist Robin Anderson. "Not many families just cannot afford for the wife not to work."

In 1971 the Electrical Trades Union did a survey, and only "destitution, anxiety and hardship" among women members.

Under the Whitlam government, some important steps were taken. Some money was spent and a number of centres established. However, as the recession and sugar labour started to eat back, and when the Liberal came back in the cuts continued.



All the women we talked to were voting Labor. Some had high hopes, but others were more cautious. "I never has to go," said one. "But I don't think Labor is the answer either."

"They did some things for child care but they saw it all in terms of middle class values, and the number of centres they started was minimal. They still

expect women to take responsibility for their own child, at least until they've had to go."

"There's a little game that society's been playing with women for a long time," says Jennifer. "Which is that you should have full responsibility for your own child until they're at least three."

And if you don't then for the rest of the life there's going to be something dreadfully wrong with them."

But the strain on mothers of young children can be terrible. "I run a small mother-babbling school," says Mary. "I honestly don't know that mother can take it any more."

"She hasn't had a proper rest after having the child, then she has to work 24 hours a day with the baby. No sleep, no rest with the baby crying, and you'd feel just like choking the child."

What is needed? A variety of things, they said. Child care in the workplaces would be a big step forward. Parents could travel to work with their children, and they could see them during the day.

"But we've got to have the control of the centres, not the owners of the factory, because they can see that as a blackmail — 'I'll give you and you'll lose your child care if you don't like the pay.'"

Centres are needed in communities as well. Not all mothers want their kids becoming commuters at the age of four. One good place might be in schools, they

Jennifer, Neil and May with some lucky children who have a playgroup. Fraser's pre-school club threatened to take it from them.



May Jewell



Bill Hayden

THE BATTLE MORE URANIUM NIGHTMARES

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS NUMBER 44 4 FEBRUARY 1978 20 CENTS

GOOD RIDDANCE TO "THE BUMPER"

Labor goes soul-searching

by Alec Kahn

"WE've got to be concerned to support and encourage the private sector, because that's where three out of four jobs

are. You go along to branch meetings and listen to speeches, reports, the occasional guest speaker, and at election time you hand out how-to-vote cards, that's not much else you can do in a party that's committed to parliamentary reform and income tax."

But in fact it's good old Bill Hayden — from some relatively small-speaking into why Labor lost.

And his sentiments are being echoed right across the Labor Party leadership. They're all come to the same conclusion — "We have to move in the right to recapture the confidence of Australian voters."

But the watershed has gone a bit deeper than that, mind you. National secretary David Combe, has admitted that "There is a feeling that a number of the best off leaders who are steadily moving from every worthwhile reform that Labor ever stood for."

Well, does David you must have just attended your two compulsory branch meetings for you were not one to that steering firm."

As any ordinary member or ex-member could have told you, there's very little for ALP members to do at

BYE — BYE Harold Salisbury, we're glad to see you go.

Being martyred by the Dunstan Labor government caps a glorious career in the service of the Establishment.

Salisbury was recruited to the South Australian Police from Yorkshire, Britain, where he was head of the Victorian Crime Laboratory.

His men had notorious reputations as bully boys. Harold Salisbury's nickname was "The Thumper".

The Yorkshire cops would stop and

search anyone on the streets at night, often allegedly for drugs. They were implicated in the murder of a homeless black man in Leeds. They dumped his body in the river.

So it comes as no surprise that he deliberately led to his secret boss, Premier Don Dunstan. No doubt Salisbury would have regarded Dunstan himself as the kind of "free thinker" who would threaten society.

And it's no surprise that all those concerned with the Australian way of exploration, including the Liberal Party, the Police Association and (would you believe) the Jaguar Owners Club all enthusiastically joined ranks to defend Salisbury.

Salisbury is paranoid about views not as politicians, and conservative as his own.

He'd take one church group in 1976

The cop who lied

HAROLD "THUMPER" Salisbury: "No Trade Unionist would be sacked the way I was".

Right. Most workers have it much worse. Take the 300 sackings at Chrysler in the New Year.

They won't be getting \$85,000 severance money. And just to make sure they didn't cause any trouble, he sent a large squad of fellow "thumpers" down to the plant.

"I wonder if that's what Dunstan had in mind when he appointed Salisbury. At the time he said, 'While there were some people with valuable experience in Australia, none quite measured up to the standard we had from Mr Salisbury. You're sure that when the people of S.A. have met him, they will realize what a good choice we have made."

And then one upon a time there was a Labor Prime Minister who was sacked by an un-elected Governor-General. He wasn't caught lying, or spying, but then, what greater crime is that?

involved

And branches "getting involved in community activities" is not a good point to emphasize the Party either.

"I don't think I take a bit of the best off leaders who are steadily moving from every worthwhile reform that Labor ever stood for."

With all these reports and images, they should recall what we had in Maher and St. Ives.



Pre-School Teachers Action



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Angry parents and the Pre-School Teachers Action Group demonstrating in September against Federal cutbacks in preschool subsidies. Kindergarten fees in NSW registered from \$5 and \$7 to an high as \$16.

STOP PRESS

Railworkers robbed

THE Full Branch of the Arbitration Commission has just declared war on Victorian public transport workers. They've upheld the appeal by the Walkers' decision to grant the rail and tramway workers a 6% rise.

The Full Branch agreed with the Victorian Industrial Commission guidelines. So now public transport workers are getting nothing. As we go to press,

officials of the unions involved have given their backing to any action that individual groups of workers decide to take. The public transport industry is one of the worst paid in Australia — with take-home pay of around \$130 a week. The \$6 was made a catch-up to match a rise already granted in NSW — deserve the full support of all unions in any campaign they mount against this scandalous decision.