

S P A A

SOCIALIST PARTY OF AUSTRALIA

May 1972
Monthly
No. 3
15'



The first May Day in Australia was held in a small Queensland country town called Barcardine in 1891 in the middle of the shearers' strike.

The Barcardine Labor Bulletin (published by the Strike Committee) reported: "Only a few days notice was received that the members of the working community would celebrate Labor's Chief Festival by a procession in unison with the great cosmopolitan army of labor.

"In the procession every civilised country was represented . . . Russian, Swede, French, Dane, etc. . . showing labor's cause is one of the world over, foreshadowing the time when the swords shall be turned into ploughshares and Liberty, Peace and Friendship will knit together the nations of the earth."

In support of these high ideals, which remain the inspiration of May Day Celebrations throughout the world, 1,340 men took part (618 mounted) in what the Sydney Morning Herald described as a "great demonstration".

World May Day was born in the struggle of the American workers for an 8 hour day in the 1880s. The unions decided that if the employers did not grant the 8 hour day by May 1 they would call a general strike.

The employers did not agree, the strike took place and in the course of police violence several workers lost their lives.

In 1889, the "First International of Working Men" meeting in Paris decided that May 1 be declared International Labor Day and celebrated in every country in the world where the workers were organised.

Today there would be few countries in the world where May Day is not celebrated by marches, demonstrations and social gatherings where the workers reaffirm their determination to continue the struggle for a peaceful, prosperous Socialist world.

May Day 1972 finds the prospects for this historic struggle brighter than ever, as that greatest

creation of the international working class — the world socialist system — grows stronger, the working class movement in the capitalist countries develops and the great allied national liberation movement asserts itself. Although armed to the teeth and desperately pouring out its flood of poisonous ideas, world imperialism is sick and doomed.

The workers' forces are powerful enough to prevent imperialism plunging the world into nuclear war, powerful enough to beat back finally every attempt by imperialism to reverse history. Vigilance and organisation cannot be relaxed, however.

In Australia, the many-sided struggle is centred around the urgent task of defeating the McEwen Liberal Government. If the workers' electoral victory this year is backed by a powerful, growing, militant movement throughout the country, then a situation can be created for great advances. The key will remain the workers' unity and determination. Let May Day this year help build that fighting spirit.

MAY DAY

The outcome of the 23rd Congress of the Communist Party of Australia, confirmed the widely held estimate that the CPA is now 'Communist' in name only.

The continuing non-Marxist, anti-socialist and anti-socialist orientation of the Congress should be stated... The CPA has also known to have written to parliamentarians throughout the world asking the casting of aspersions to try and affect the balance and tilt which the Party is held internally.

The Congress also confirmed that the CPUSA had led the former Communist Party into serious international disputes and had led a handful of the world's '90 Communist' Parties recognized the Congress with greetings... In the basic field of work in the trade union movement, the CPA leaders have been able to do little more than to point out members against union leadership irrespective of the social class.

The sessions of the Congress was in its main part, in some cases, extension of the CPA's current situation... A major feature of decisions on national policies was the decision to support the 'left' vanguard tactics... Internationally, despite some crude and superficial attempt at ability, the basic, internationalist line of the leadership was continued - and basically hardened.

A fundamental weakness of the 23rd Congress is that there is no clear call for the building of a broad social movement of the Australian people that is essential to bring about basic social change... The CPA leaders' call for 'self action' and 'self management' sounds American. Actually they would estimate against their own democratically elected bodies in the unions.

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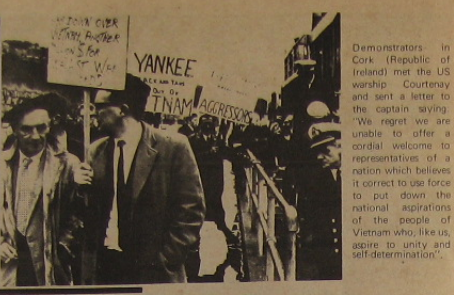
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Demotomators in Cork (Republic of Ireland) met the US worship Courtesy and sent a letter to the captain saying 'We regret we are unable to offer a cordial welcome to a representative of a nation which believes in the right to put down the national aspirations of the people of Ireland and to aspire to unity and self-determination'.

The Socialist Party of Australia (SPA) formed only last December is already making steady progress. Based on scientific principles, the Party aims to serve the immediate and long term interests of the Australian working class and the oppressed sections of the people in a mass movement against monopoly capitalism.

The Party has established a journal, 'Socialist Party', a national socialist theory and practice, 'The Australian Worker', and while organizations of the Party are still very small, the SPA includes well known figures like Sydney and Neville who are well known for implementing their plans.

The Party is to hold its first Congress later this year. It is expected that the Party will not be a year old, measurable and rich experiences will be available for examination. Congress will have big responsibilities for the future work of the Party.

Dr. Geoff Curthoys, SPA Candidate for Shortland (NSW) Points from letters

I wish to identify myself with the views expressed by the publication 'SPA' but more especially that which I understand it is my conviction here that it will proceed from strength to strength.

There is a real old falling of the Party even which I think should not be perpetuated in 'SPA' and which I view as a serious step back from the Socialist Party (March 1972).

Among progressive programs demands range are: public ownership of the main foreign owned and big firms; industrial connected with them; development of natural resources by the state and the setting up of new state industries; division of large estates and state teachers among the landless and soil farmers with Government incentives including provision of machinery, seed, fertilizer and stock on favourable terms; for cooperative farming and the development of trade, particularly with the present program.

The Party would be in that the present program is not a basic one though they have the feeling of the present program. The resolution was in fact a high level one.

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Care of working women. Among many other for rushing... BULGARIA: Bulgaria's internationalism is an excellent model for the world.

TRIBUTE TO DON SMITH. The coming of Don Smith, an Communist Party member... From the Socialist world.

WORKING WARRIORS OFFER. The Socialist Party of Australia (SPA) formed only last December... VOTE AT 18 MOVE. The vote of 18 in Federal law it seems, has turned into a constitutional struggle.

SOCIALIST WORLD BOOKSHOP. The following new additions to our stock have just arrived and are in stock.

MINERS FIGHT FOR WE DEMAND FEDERAL ACTION TO PREVENT TIME CLOSURE JOBS

South Coast (NSW) workers marching for the right to work and against the plunder of natural resources by big business.



Railway men act

By our Melbourne correspondent
On April 12, trains practically throughout Australia halted for 24 hours following a stoppage called by members of the Australian Federated Union of Locomotive Engineers.

This was the result of the Railway Commissioner's refusal to accept negotiations on the railway men's concerning wages, shift penalty and terminal hours payment.
Last August a 48-hour stoppage was held in support of three demands which were, basically, a 12.5% increase in

wages and \$18.60 to firmness weekly, 25% penalty for night shift and an extra week's pay when going on annual leave.
They reacted as a result of that stoppage. By four days, 14.50 for firmness, 15% to night shift penalty and were refused this last by the AFLE.
The AFLE accepted these terms, but only as interim measures and insisted on the right to negotiate directly with the employer.

DIRECT ACTION
The union has been seeking negotiations since November last year but the Commissioner's intransigence meant that direct action was the only alternative. The AFLE refused to be pushed into the court and took direct action to emphasize this.
The tactics of the stoppage were basically those of surprise - the sudden stoppage in five States was announced at 2 p.m. on the previous day. The first announcement of the duration was made

only to the members themselves at the mass meetings called in all States on the day. These meetings were all well attended and gave an inspiring display of unity and unanimous support for a continuing campaign.

They are determined to obtain wage justice, to end what has been for a 50-year-old struggle to gain 25% leading for shift work and to gain the normal wage bonus which is in line with AFLE policy.

The AFLE which represents only locomotive engineers in the railway industry, received messages of support from other sections of rail workers and their shop committees and support action took place in some of these sections. Messages of support were also received from the Warehouse Workers' Federation and a number of other unions. All this was encouraging to AFLE members.

WOLLONGONG MARCH

Mid April saw demonstration in Wollongong and Camden in NSW. The Wollongong march was estimated at more than 1,000 and included representation from the Wollongong Workers' Federation, Broken Workers' Industrial Union, Seaman's Union, Painters and Decorators, Federated Engine Drivers and Farmmen's Association, Plumbers and Locksmiths' Union, Clerk Union and the South Coast Labor Council.

Among NSW Federation leaders in the march were the general president, Evan Patten, Southern Forest president,

Bill Small, central committee for the district, Fred Moore and president of the Northern District, Jim Comberford.
Moore at their stopwork meeting called for the "Great Coal Boom" to carry its power under the Coal Industry Act and revise arrangements for the Lease of South Clifton and North Buller Collieries.

DESTROYED SEAMS

Miners said "unconcerned and easy accessible cheap export coal can lead to closure of underground mines in Eastern Australia, and the destruction of these seams" and stated that "the responsibility lies with the Commonwealth Government to use its powers and initiate overall regulating and planning in the industry."
As "SFA's" report from the south coast was quiet to price, plans were being prepared for a further stoppage and a demonstration in Canberra.

Our south coast reporter comments that miners and other workers realize that while the policy of the present Federal Government is allowed to continue then the question of "who goes next?" must indeed be in the mind of every worker.

In relation to Broken Hill "Common Cause", the Mines' Federation representative from the Broken Hill South Ltd. company which claimed that there had been a profit slump with no profit potential from the mine. Generally lower average prices for copper, lead and silver were given as contributing reasons.
The situation in Australian mining requires the defeat of the McMahon Government and the nationalisation of the mines.

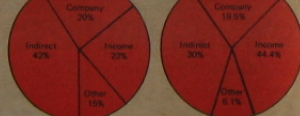
TAX WE CRITICAL

The Government's announcement of a 2% per cent cut in personal income tax and a \$1 increase in other pensions is clearly a spiteful, cynical political gesture motivated by the dismal election prospects of the Liberals.

The pension rise will do no more than partly meet the steep cost of living increase and the income tax cut means little to the overwhelming body of wage earners as the figures on this page show.
What will an extra 10 cents per week do for a family man on \$60 per week? The figure also shows that those on high income gas must. A family on \$40 per week benefits \$12.24 while a family on \$140 - twice the income - benefits \$47.29 in a full year. Twice the income but almost four times the tax benefits. Of course, when taxes are increasing the income argument is true and the increase in tax in the last Budget is one of the reasons for the Government's loss of middle class support.

When the Liberal Government introduced income tax by 2% per cent in the last budget, only 241 families ago, it asserted this was necessary to dampen the economy and reduce spending, using the false argument that it was wage increases which caused inflation.

Now, Mr. Studdert claims the aim of the action is to boost consumer spending, counter unemployment and help people of fixed incomes harmed by inflation.
The policies of the Liberals for not least the professed middle, family, because their arguments are wrong, are not to favour the vast majority, but to give assistance and to shield monopoly capitalist firms and press on an aggressive war preparation. Average policy.



TAX 1971-72 Estimates

Weekly	Old	New	Weekly	Decrease in
				Income
800	5.60	5.50	10c	6.5%
680	5.10	5.00	20c	11.5%
\$160	28.25	27.75	50c	47.2%

Qld. Comment

By George
Bread prices have risen another cent in Queensland.
The well-furnished loaf and the suburban bakery have gone. Instead we have the flour miller and a handful of companies, farming a monopoly.
In view, also we have many varieties of bread on display, at a price, and regardless of the capacity to sell.

"One fellow who knows said: 'The quantity of bread taken back from retailers is enormous. One factory in Brisbane took back as much as 8,000 loaves in a week. It is sold for pig feed at 2 cents a loaf'."

Published by
MR. J. JOHNSON,
C/- 69 Bowen St., Brisbane, N.S.W.
Printed by
MESSRS. J. P. PETER, P.Y. LTD.,
Fort Adelaide, S.A.

Senator right

If Queensland Senator Kaiffe has done anything, it has been to expose the racial attitudes among those who administer the welfare of Aborigines, and the bad conditions of the latter, in that State.
And just as consistent have been the efforts of Premier Bligh Pearson and some of his officers to prove that the Senator is wrong.

The Senator exposed the awful conditions at Donaghy Mission, but officials and some senior Englishmen Aborigines were murdered to remove the truth from higher places.
But Aboriginal women Mrs. Hannah Bentley of Mount Isa sent a long letter to the press.

She had lived for 20 years at Donaghy, she was formerly a school teacher but at the age of four married on a very small, remote, island, track and stopping. "Sometimes we had meat."

At 34, she and other girls were sent, but were brought back, beaten, and sent for a week. After the first he was sent off.
At 16 she went to work on a mission. Her earnings went into a trust fund. She was finally "liberated" sent to Mount Isa and married to a white's family member.