

SOCIALIST

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35-HOUR WEEK WILL BE WON BY STRUGGLE

The 35 hour working week will only come after vigorous, united action by the trade union movement of Australia.

Efforts by the McMahon Government to deprive waterside workers of a 35-hour week to which the stevedoring employers had agreed is part of that Government's general attack upon

workers' living standards and their union.

Leading a chorus, which includes mass groupings of employers, chief spokesmen for this Government

have vigorously attacked the very idea of a shorter working week.

A similar attack has been made by the same type of forces every time workers have sought to reduce standard working hours. This opposition was referred to by the then Commonwealth Arbitration Court in 1947 when the unions won the 40-hour week. That decision said in part:

week would cost \$3,000 million a year while Forbes said it would cost \$2,600 million a year. (What's \$400 million between friends?)

Sneddon said the loss of production and cut in living standards would be 9%. Forbes said weekly income would go down 40% dairy income would drop 37% and wheat cost of production would rise 13 cents a bushel.

Everyone knows that the horror stories which accompanied the 40 hour week and to which the Court referred, did not come true. Production forged ahead.

The full bench of the Arbitration Commission approved the 35-hour week agreement on the waterfront just before "SPA" went to press.

Not flow

The 35-hour week for waterside workers, however, will not automatically flow on to other wards.

Significantly enough the demand for the 35-hour week is being pressed most vigorously in industries where job opportunities and the volume of employment are

World wide protests have hit the French Government's nuclear tests. See story page 3. Picture shows the first French hydrogen bomb in the Pacific, August, 1968.

affected by technological changes, e.g. stevedoring, electricity generating, oil refining. More and more workers are beginning to show concern about such development and the winning of a 35-hour week by waterside workers will assist the campaign for a general 35-hour week.

Militant

The McMahon Government is not unaware of this, so in addition to opposing this change for waterside workers it is concerned to hold at bay any movement towards a general reduction of hours. Irrespective of the extension of a 35-hour week to wharves, this strong opposition will be maintained and the 35-hour week will not come easy.

The history of the struggle for reduced working hours is marked by militant actions taken to win it.

The 40-hour week was granted by the Arbitration Court in 1947 immediately after the ACTU Congress had made a decision for national strike action. Undoubtedly such action will be needed to win the 35-hour week.



Sydney wharves demonstrating outside the Australian Stevedoring Industry Authority office after a 24-hour protest stoppage against Government attempts to defeat the WWF industrial agreement. (See story page 8).

Historic

"It has been the historic role of employers to oppose the workers' claim for increased leisure. They have, as is well known, opposed in parliament and elsewhere every step in this direction and this case is no exception..."

"The arguments have not much changed in 100 years. Employers have feared such change as a threat to profits, an added obstacle to production, a limitation upon industrial expansion, and a threat to internal and international trade relations..."

It is interesting to recall this statement when reading the extravagant views of Treasurer Sneddon and Immigration Minister Forbes. Sneddon said the 35-hour

Danger in McMahon-Suharto link

Prime Minister McMahon's visit to Indonesia moves Australia closer to a new agreement with the reactionary and pro-Chinese Suharto leadership. While no formal pact is proposed there are understandings and "bilateral defence co-operation" which will turn Indonesia into a new forward base for American and Australian operations to pursue their oppression policies in Asia and to exploit the rich resources of Indonesia and the labour of her people.

Warnings of the serious implications of the McMahon-Suharto alliance were given earlier this year by the Central Committee of the Socialist Party of Australia.

The Indonesian-Australian reactionary "understanding" would also be used against the emerging struggle of the New Guinea people for independence, especially if the New Guinea people attempted to take the non-capitalist road of national development.

Aid plan

Direct Australian Government involvement is a commitment to a \$90 million plan which will extend to 1976. About a third of this amount will go to military purposes.

"The Australian Financial Review" reports that the military programme includes training of Indonesian soldiers in Australia, exchange of military intelligence, officer visits, Australian

Army mapping surveys in Indonesia in cooperation with the RAAF and a gift of 18 Sabre jets to the Indonesian Air Force.

Indonesia's rulers are the military elite and well-to-do businessmen who neither care one penny for "backyard" with giant overseas concerns. The continuing of Indonesian leaders are frankly admitted recently by "The Australian Financial Review".

The paper said in Indonesia it was necessary to pay "welfare funds" to officials to overcome "delays and obstruction" in business matters, and that there was a system of "bribe-giving to friends and relatives". The paper added:

"Foreigners have learned that the smooth running of their business is facilitated by cultivating a network of high level connections. Many of these are generals and other officers in the army, navy and air force."

Such "bribe" who are selling out the real national interests of Indonesia to cooperate only to please one of the bodies of hundreds of thousands of mounted Communists and democratic. Their regime has destroyed democracy, broken up the trade union movement and now demands of the Indonesian people for the expansion of foreign control.

The USA and Japan head the list of imperialist powers directing a flood of capital to the Indonesian economy. At present 13th on the list of engineering countries but it is likely to slip up the ladder with the newly announced intention of the BHP and ICI to set up an iron-ore mine, constructed to supply for South Korea.

Another consortium (IAMTDO) representing 17 Australian companies has secured a 25-year contract to industrialise working on the first stage of an industrial estate development in South Java with assistance from the Sirey Mountains Authority and financial help from the Indonesian Government.

Contrast

The Australian Government's friendship and co-operation (as with Suharto's Indonesia) is in glaring contrast to the hostility towards the country when led by President Sukarno. Sukarno took on an anti-imperialist position and led his country to independence from Dutch colonialism.

It was in this earlier period that friendly relations between the Australian working class and the Indonesian people were forged.

For example, Australian water-front workers played a vital part in the struggle for Indonesian independence following World War II, when they boycotted Dutch ships.

A development of this anti-imperialist alliance is the best basis for the interests of the people of both countries. It would be a profound contribution to the world-wide struggle against imperialism.

There is a sound basis for this alliance. After all the very same

employers exploit the workers of both Indonesia and Australia.

The Indonesian working class and progressive movement is now being a hard, sharp struggle against military suppression and the new imperialist yoke being fastened on their country.

Indonesian Communists are in the process of "throwing off" Marxist influences which have had a disastrous effect upon the movement, and this will mean the regrouping of the Indonesian broad movement for democracy and

genuine independence. Sooner or later the people's forces will challenge the Suharto Government of reaction and terror.

Progressive Australians will welcome this day and help in whatever way possible in doing so, they must be on hand against imperialism and Indonesian reaction turning her northern neighbour into another Vietnam.

The defeat of the McMahon government and the separate political programme is a task the Australian working people can achieve this year.



Suharto and McMahon — a reactionary alliance.

FOR SALES

The influx of foreign capital has almost trebled in the five years from 1966-67 to 1970-71 (\$1,843 million). Most recent figures indicate that foreign money is literally pouring in at something like \$200 million per annum.

The profits were from foreign investors in the five-year period amounting to \$177 million to \$473 million, about half of which was sent out of Australia, the other half being retained.

The largest slice of direct private investment was in mining and quarrying followed by finance, property and other services.

The size and influence of foreign investment is further indicated by the fact that profits and dividends payable abroad amount to 36% of total company income in Australia.

PERTH EXAMPLE

One aspect of foreign investment was clearly stressed when GMI threatened to close its assembly plant in Perth, drawing 230 workers out of work.

W.A. Premier, Mr. Tonkin, suggested he was willing to fly to New York to see GMI's top brass but Australian Manager, Mr. Cahill, seemed keen they keep all jobs in Perth and said a journey would be a waste of time.

Mr. Tonkin's frantic efforts to find some other employer to take over where GMI had left off, had included a visit to Perth, a meeting with the Government and a visit to a development of a new alternative policy for foreign capital investment.

Youth body in Brisbane

A vigorous youth organisation of the Socialist Party of Australia has been set up in Brisbane and promises to have a tough time.

As well as holding social functions (backpack and party) the youth organisation (SPAYO) has been holding regular study classes.

Matters already studied are Marxist philosophy, political economy and the characteristics of a Marxist-Leninist Party.

My Day in Brisbane was much assisted by SPAYO Members with their assistance in the Brisbane and sales of SPAYO.

As yet SPAYO has not drawn up a formal constitution, pending the completion of the Programme and consultation by the Socialist Party of Australia, which will be finalised in their national congress this year.

Officers of SPAYO are: General Secretary, Mr. George Henderson; Treasurer, Mr. Orestes; Secretary and Social Secretary, Mr. Alan Miller; 20 Road Avenue, Thornliebank, SA. 5073. Phone 37 1791.

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RATES FOR PAPER

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Bob Ellis (SA), Jim Cooper (SA).

The anti-apartheid movement in South Africa has been followed by students, artists and white, protesting against racism in education.

The vicious police action against demonstrators has been roundly condemned inside and outside of South Africa.

Students should picket in action outside St. Mary's Cathedral, Johannesburg.

The preparation of other aspects of Australian life from the economic front, from the transport, the media of film, TV, radio, music, comic books and the like.

Political life is to include economic investment. Since the second world war, Australia has pursued an "American alliance" and led Australia with the ANZUS and SEATO treaties.

Who will practical steps be taken to secure Australia's independence and a weakening of the domination of money?

There are two main issues involved. First, what is to be done with industry, mostly controlled by foreign capital and secondly, how should financial resources be regulated?

The Socialist Party had programme calls for the "nationalisation of key industries" and the "extension of the public sector in industry". Nationalisation of foreign-owned enterprises could be a first step to nationalisation, a practical step to be in the long run.

One proposed order of discussion is that foreign investment should not be employed, the workers should be organised, manufacturing industry but not directly seen to go with the problem.

The foreign ownership of important sectors of the Australian economy poses as shown in the GMI example. Industrial, development and scientific research is distorted for the professional and military interests, groups in the USA and elsewhere, without reference to Australia's long term needs.

PROFITING

There is nothing wrong in principle with making assistance from countries to another which is wrong in the context and profiting that comes with it under the present private enterprise system.

The export of profit earned abroad the country and although half the profits from in Australia are not repatriated back this may not always be the case.

A financial assistance of one country by another should be on the basis of reciprocity in the first place at a special rate and with no political or economic strings attached.

The countries for which the loan money is to be used should be able to repay the money and be receiving something in kind or services in return. One-way, one-sided money, convey any otherwise.

Workers' class organisations which are used for profit should be expected to take a lead in the development of industrial domination and the tactics and alliance which to Australia to imperialism.

It seems that extensive movements in South Africa are being followed with independence for our country to be achieved.

Central Cttee. meets

The Central Committee of the Socialist Party of Australia meets in Sydney on June 25. In addition to its agenda includes further consideration of the Draft Programme.

The Draft Programme was presented to the Committee for the Party. Following the meeting will be followed by the distribution of the Draft Programme to all branches. The Committee meeting will be followed by the Party Congress, which will be held in September 25-30, October 1-2.

The Draft Constitution is under the need for establishing in Australia a Marxist-Leninist political party. The use of party the SA Party will be set out in a special resolution adopted by the Central Committee at its last meeting in February which stated:

"The essential role of a Marxist-Leninist Party is to win the working class as an organised and conscious political party to secure the proletarian perspective of scientific socialism, to win

Australian socialist revolutionaries. Left to right: Impressing them from left: Frank Henderson, Eric Ripstein, Union, Bob Cooper, John Doherty, Dennis Venn, Dick Johnson, secretary, Sydney Trade Union Council, Ian Hoffman, Queensland Workers Federation, Sydney, Eric Ross.

Visit Socialist

Contact with Socialist countries by working class forces in Australia is being expanded. Five young Australians are at present visiting the Soviet Union and Hungary at the invitation of young work force. Four people on a May Day delegation recently returned from the same two countries.

The young Australians in present form are Chris O'Farrell, a student from Brisbane, Terry Hickman, a Sydney student, worker, Greg Hartman, a Sydney seaman of the amalgamated World Workers Union, and Robert Macdonald, a student from Melbourne and David Chinn, a school-leaver from Adelaide.

Among matters which this delegation will discuss while overseas will be the proposed youth forum to be held in the latter part of next year.

The May Day delegation consisted of Mrs. Les Hodgkins, treasurer of the Maritime Branch, Sydney, SP, Mrs. Frankie Brown, secretary, NSW 'Red Brigades' Union, Mr. Dick Beahm, secretary, Sydney Trade Union Club, and Mr. Bob Gallagher from Cockatoo Bay, Sydney.

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\$200,000 FUND: Seamen's effort

The target of \$200,000 set by an early meeting of the Socialist Party Executive to be raised for the Party between the beginning of the year and the date of the Party Congress now held for September 29, 30, October 1 and 2, is within sight of achievement.

A special appeal directed to seamen by their own's Union's officers, members of the SPA, has already resulted in \$395 being paid into Central Committee funds. The appeal was signed by the Union's assistant Federal secretary, P. Geraghty, Sydney branch assistant secretary, P. Sweetman and Newcastle branch secretary, J. Brennan.

Three of the contributors were for \$100 each and a total of \$70. In addition to donations from seamen, \$25 was donated from the "Kambimba" and \$10 from the "Pyrina".

The following is a list of names who so far donated to the Socialist Party of Australia in answer to this special appeal: P. Geraghty, D. Carthy, D. Beak, S. Barry, T. Gonzales, B. Bennett, S. Crismon, V. Healy, Rood, J. Ross, D. Duffie, E. Walker, J. Bourke, J. Thorne, J. Sweetman, G. Devine, C. Caspary, J. Sherrill, L. McDonald, R. Wilson, P. Rafferty, J. McVicar, J. Wilson, F. Smith, L. Stone, R. Corfield, F. Tilly, A. Frank, S. Burnett, B. Mowbray, D. Mackay, R. Kane, G. Kelly, G. Alford, P. Arber, B. Wonders, J. Bowers, K. Stizley, P. Barry, D. Bowen, L. Quinlan, D. McGee, J. Brennan, L. O'Brien, D. Booth, G. Young, C. Collier, D. Carter, J. Heppner, A. Bailey, S. Thomson, J. Hutchings, J. Southcott, F. McKay, A. Foulkes, G. Bailey, H. Leonard.

Free press process

The French Government has been the target of a worldwide protest movement against its media-losing.

Protests pointed to the scientifically based fact that such tests have resulted in an increased incidence of diseases such as leukaemia. France was urged to join the Test Ban Treaty.

An Australian Party spokesman said Australia should boycott French products. The Union of Australian Women declared its national leaders were prepared to do the test year.

One of the early protests was held in Sydney, outside the office of the French Consulate General, Mr. Landry, and addressed by Mrs. T. Bell of the Wyndie Church and Mr. Pat Clancy, NSW secretary of the Building Workers' Industrial Union.

Mr. Clancy told National Channel of the Socialist Party.

More than 50,000 South Australian signed a petition to the French Government to Demostriety had planned to go to the home of French Consul General, Mr. Landry, to break off diplomatic relations with France if the tests went on.

From the union came the ACTU call for a ban on French air and sea transport. Postal workers placed a ban of mail.

From the Labor Party came the protest by party leader William Hall and other parliamentarians could be held by South Pacific nations to end the tests. He said Australia should play a leading role in mobilizing world opinion.

PROTESTS LISTED

The protest were to many and varied that pages of "SPA" could be filled with them. These are:

From the Socialist Party of Australia came the demand for a general meeting of members in Adelaide for Australia to break off diplomatic relations with France if the tests went on.

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UNIONS ATTACKED IN CIVIL ACTION

Apert from Antrition Court penalties, civil court powers may be used in an individual dispute to order the lifting of a union ban and impose heavy financial penalties on a union officer.

This is what appears from recent developments in South Australia. The Australian Labor Party has taken action in the SA Supreme Court against Mr. J. E. Duffield, State secretary of the ACTU.

The court granted Mr. Woolley an injunction ordering the lifting of the ban. Court orders, extended to res- several other unions, were applied against Mr. Duffield.

The TUC delegates committee urged a block ban on the treatment of local shops on the property of a Mr. Woolley of Kingsford Island.

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LOCOMEN STRIKE ON 50-YEAR-OLD CLAIM

The recent national strike of locomotive men in writing a 50 year long battle to obtain recognition for their work as a condition of employment. The strike was first achieved by the union 50 years ago. Since then the demand has frustrated in almost every state, only in the Victorian State.

The most substantial improvement made to date in this rate came as a result of a 1966 strike in August last year, but this still left the rate well short of the 1916 level.

The knowledge of this history and the fact that in the course of this demand was a principal reason for the workers' protest of railway. Government proposals that their claims be taken to arbitration.

Final refusal of these claims to arbitration was in circumstances which greatly strengthened the union's position.

The year '72 has seen the solidarity of the workers revealed that support for the claim and their determination to obtain satisfaction of their demands. This backing from the leaders of the union. Thus were the organisations which were in a ready state to accept a claim for the present rate offered by the ACTU. In the case of the Victorian State, the rate has already been agreed.

Australian Federation Union of Locomotive Engineers officials made clear that unsatisfactory outcome of the 1972 arbitration proceedings would result in renewed action by the members. Two other demands by the locomotive men which were made and an additional work item of annual leave will be affected by the outcome of the arbitration.

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Aborigines Day July 14

By a Correspondent

It is important that national activity around Aborigines' Day July 14, should be designed to lift the whole struggle for Aboriginal rights.

The working class movement and the masses workers irrespective of the colour of their skin has two main tasks in regard to the Aboriginal people. Firstly, there needs to be a greater development of activity on the right of the Aboriginal people national identity and self-determination of their own future. This includes the right to own land.

Secondly, there needs to be a building up of the struggle against the monopoly system of ownership because within this system lies the real cause of the workers' problems, including those of the Aboriginal people.

In all this work, a warning must be given about the harmful consequences of an Aboriginal movement based upon ultra left methods (see "SPA" April 1972, for US Panther experience) and an approach which rejects even progressive workers on the grounds that they are "white".

SPA barbecue was success

About 50 people attended a successful barbecue in aid of SPA funds on June 4 at Mr. and Mrs. Collins' home, Melbourne. As well as SPA members, trade unions and their wives and members of the Greek Community were among those present. About 1100 was raised.

Royal and John Waters spoke. John Waters spoke on their experience during that six months stay abroad. The results on the recent Nixon visit to Moscow which had been widely discussed in the American press while they were in the United States. He considered that the agreement reached in Moscow was of the greatest value to the international working class and the national liberation movements. The



JUDAH WATEN

American President's journey to Moscow had been determined by the Socialist world, in the first place the Soviet Union, becoming a neo-monopoly dominated world factor. In the United States he had seen many signs of an anti-war ground swell which accounted for Senator McGovern's successes in the previous. John Waters said that his visit to Sweden had convinced him that a Labor or Social Democratic Government need not definitely follow American or British policies. The Social Democratic Swedish Government was adopting a progressive role in world affairs.

John Waters spoke on education abroad and at home. From his study of education abroad he believed that there was a growing view among educationists that many of the so-called new educational theories stifled the real needs of working class and migrant children.

CHARLOTTE CARTER

The great Canadian woman working-class writer Charlotte Carter died recently. She will be remembered by many Australians for her books written jointly with her husband Dyson.



"Do not let Billy get away - and help you all with it."

FARMERS SHOW MILITANCY

By our Farming Correspondent

Two developments among South Australian farmers indicate a growing anti-liberal, anti-monopoly mood.

In the South-East of the State farmers have formed a committee to work for a change of Federal Government. Chairman of the committee said in the press that farmers were disappointed with the Government.

The committee is not affiliated to the Labor Party, but is setting about to win support for a Labor Government.

The second development is that about 5,000 SA farmers have formed a company with Organized Purchasing Power members holding 75% of the shares.

The company will place large orders for farm requirements with various concerns selected on the basis of reduced prices.

This is in accordance with the OPI campaign to break down monopoly price maintenance and market sharing.

Goods will be sold to company members at the price for which the company paid plus a margin for administrative purposes.

The company is called Farmers' Associated Rural Merchandise Service Pty. Ltd. (FARMS) and will deal in all farm needs, except heavy machinery, motor vehicles, fuel and groceries.



Government called "Mischievous humbugs"

Waterside Workers' Federation industrial advocate N. Docker described the McMahon Government as "mischievous humbugs" during a recent Arbitration Commission hearing concerning the new contract for waterside workers.

In a spirited attack on the Government he also condemned its misuse of a power given it under the Arbitration Act to increase its arbitration proceedings in the "public interest".

The matter before the Arbitration Commission was a joint application by the WWF and the Shipping Commission to have rejected as a consent award terms and conditions of employment for waterside workers which had been agreed upon in direct negotiations conducted outside the arbitration system.

The McMahon Government under the guise of "public interest" intervened in the proceedings and asked the Arbitration Commission (Judge Moore) to refuse to register the consent award.

Among other things, the contract provided for no compulsory redundancy, 15-hour week and certain improvements in money rates.

"The public interest" guise is used by the Government when it intervenes against ACTU claims in national wage cases even though no claims are made on behalf of more than two million unemployed and their families, all members of the public.

Waterside workers correctly saw the Government's move as an effort to rob them of what they had gained by negotiation so referred to this by a recent 24-hour stoppage and made clear that with or without a consent award they would not sacrifice any of the improvements in their wages and

working conditions they had obtained as a result of direct negotiations. The judge consented to the contract points except the 15-hour week which was referred to the full bench of the Arbitration Commission. The Government followed up its anti-working class activity by intervening in that hearing and opposing the shorter working week.

Direct rule in Ireland

"Direct rule" in Northern Ireland has meant that the oppression of the Irish people by British imperialism has taken on a new form.

"New Times" recently commented about the Irish situation. The continued attempts to depict the Ulster tragedy as a consequence of religious strife merely show how stubbornly official London clings to old and bankrupt colonial methods. For it is not religious strife but deep-rooted social injustice that is the cause of the bloody years in Northern Ireland.

The journal says the way to peace and justice lies through the masses of all interests, withdrawal of British troops, abrogation of emergency legislation and recognition of the Irish people's right to self-determination.

Old comment SEATS BEFORE VOTES - PREMIER

By Gwynn

It is not the number of votes that count, but the number of seats, said Bjelke-Petersen after the Country Party-Liberal Party government coalition was returned in the recent Queensland election.

Government-led electoral boundaries have always been contentious in Queensland, and this latest election was the most recent of them all.

The ALP accused the over-representing majority of votes. A presidential distribution analysis shows it polled 50 per cent of the votes. Yet the coalition was returned, and the Country Party will only 20 per cent of the vote, emerged the Queensland government party, with the Bjelke-Petersen remaining Premier.

Take two electorates, Capriati and Mackay. The former had an electoral roll of 5,724. The latter had 15,841. Then modifications, they told the story.

And in a rush to show up new electoral boundaries, thousands of voters were turned away from the booths. This was due to the results of some marginal electorates.

18 VOTE MOVES

The right for 18-year-olds to vote in Federal elections is likely to be the subject of legal action.

It is also likely to be a question about which there will be some mass activity.

SA and WA Labor Governments have lowered the voting age in State elections to 18.

Under the Federal constitution, an adult who has the right to vote in the State's lower house period be presented from voting in Federal elections.

The McMahon Government has indicated it will not permit 18-year-olds to vote.

The Labor Party and Australian Party have suggested they will legally challenge any attempt to prevent 18-year-olds voting.

It appears the Labor forces will interpret "adulthood" in such a way as to "justify" WY Government action.

In SA, it is expected a large number of 18-year-olds will apply to vote federally on July 1, when they are allowed to go on the State roll.

The Young Socialist League in SA has called for a widespread campaign on the "vote at 18" issue.

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