

"Decontrol" Trick
Was Used To Rob
Workers In USA
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TRIBUNE

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The Atom Bomb
Is "Barbarous"
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Menzies' Treason Act Drags Country Back To Dark Ages

By proposing to introduce the first Commonwealth treason act the Menzies-Fadden Government is attempting to drag Australia back to the 14th century.



Rex Chiplin Says . .

JAPANESE and United States authorities are shocked by the discovery that a certified automatic has been acting for five years as an official and approved agent for the Occupation," said the Adelaide Mail recently.

With those qualifications he should be in the American Congress. After all, Forrestal was Defence Secretary and he didn't have a certificate.

TWO British scientists have developed electrical robot tortoise which shows signs of "limited memory."

BENGAL TIGER CASEY said in a broadcast on Sunday night that Australia was entering a new pioneering period.

THE back into the bosses' guidance.

NEWS report says that American scientists hope to learn, from studying fighting mice, why men go war.

DOES Capitalism mend delinquents or create criminals?

ONE morning last week, thousands of tram travellers saw a sign: "Workers, Unite Against Menzies"

CORRESPONDENT draws attention to the fact that up at Arrisville there is a meat tycoon's mansion occupied by three people.

ED will color to be watched, comments this month's Clothing Trade newspaper.

It is trying to put the clock back to the reign of Edward III, the age of the Black Death and Statute of Laborers, which jailed workers who asked for more pay.

In the 50 years since its foundation the Commonwealth has never had a treason act, the closest approach to one being the sedition clauses in the Commonwealth Crimes Act, condemned by all sections of the labor and democratic movement.

STATE laws on treason date back to the reign of Edward III.

Power to legislate on this subject was not included in the 39 specific powers handed over to the Commonwealth at Federation.

This has created a big constitutional hurdle for the Federal Government to overcome in drafting its anti-democratic legislation.

However, the Government has indicated it will not be balked by this and is quite prepared to ride roughshod over the Constitution to achieve its aims.

Defence Powers
For authority to enact its Subversive Activities legislation, the Government must pass the necessary legislation and partly on its industrial power.

By resorting to this course the Menzies-Fadden Government has clearly exposed the connection between its proposed legislation and its plans to attack living standards and plunge the country into a reactionary war.

Section 51 (VI) of the Constitution gives the Federal Government power to make laws with respect to:
"The Naval and Military defence of the Commonwealth and of the several States, and the control of the forces to execute and maintain the laws of the Commonwealth."

By relying on this section to ban the Communist Party, Eureka Youth League, peace organizations, and other progressive bodies, the Menzies-Fadden Government automatically discloses the reactionary character of the war it is preparing for.

The Communist Party stands in the front ranks of the defenders of peace and of Australia's national independence.

In a just war, a war really fought to defend the freedom of the Australian people and protect the country from aggression, Communists would be found in the front line, as they were in the recent anti-fascist war.

Unjust War
But in an unjust war, a war of aggression to destroy the freedom of other people and increase the profits of American and Australian capitalists, the Communists would be found at the head of all true patriots opposed to their country being plunged into catastrophe.

Section 51 (XXXIV) of the Constitution gives the Federal Government power to legislate on:
"Conciliation and arbitration for the prevention and settlement of industrial disputes extending beyond the limits of any one State."

Even if this power could be stretched to achieve the Government's purpose of removing Communist officials from trade unions, it would seem to limit such action to Federal officials.

Press Campaign
In preparation for its Subversive Activities Bill, the Government has been running a press campaign.



"CHAINS 1788—CHAINS 1950," said this tableau which was driven round Sydney streets on Friday as a protest against the shackling of political prisoner L. L. Sharkey in a chain-gang. The tableau was also an advertisement for Sunday's big Domain Rally for the freeing of Lance Sharkey — see story on page 3.

New Threat Hastens Plans For Deputation

Fresh news of Menzies' intended assassination of Australian civil liberties has given new impetus to plans for the Canberra deputation of April 4.

NUMBER of delegates elected at union, job and factory, pit-op, park and hall meetings to take the people's views direct to Menzies, Chifley and other politicians has jumped to 50.

As the threat becomes clearer and wider in its implications, wider sections of the masses are mobilising in defence of their own and Australia's liberties.

Deputation's Aims
The deputation will place before the Government and the Opposition workers' views on these subjects:

- The need to outlaw the atom bomb and all other atomic weapons through the United Nations Organizations.
- The proposed ban on the Communist Party.
- The Government's Banking Bill.
- The release of L. L. Sharkey.
- Conscription.
- Interference in union affairs.
- Reimposition of Federal price control.

The Committee's rooms are on the second floor, 188 George Street, Sydney. Phone BW 4738 or call for information.

Cars, Please!
The organising committee has repeated its urgent appeal for the loan of cars to transport the deputation.

Funds for the considerable expense involved are also urgently needed. Attempts by Rightwingers mainly of the ALP Cammeray Branch to disrupt a meeting in Crow's Nest School of Arts last week, were shattered by the support for Communism of the overwhelming majority of the meeting.

assign blaming the Communists for every industrial dispute that occurs, so it can be said their removal from trade union office will facilitate the processes of arbitration and conciliation.

However, recent strikes among meat-workers and coalfields deputies, shows that industrial disputes are not confined to Communist-led unions.

The disciplinary action taken against these moderate unions also proves that the coercive sections of the Government's proposed legislation will not be used exclusively against Communists.

The basic cause of industrial unrest—capitalist exploitation—will not be removed by the removal of Communist officials from the trade unions.

There were big strikes long before there was a Communist Party and Communist-led unions. Communist-led unions will continue to exist even if the Government succeeds in removing Communist officials.

But it is hoped that with Communist leaders out of the way behind bars it will be easier to break strikes, lower living standards and drive the people to war.

Clergymen Threatened
Proof that repressive measures will not be confined to Communists is given by press references to prominent clergymen and other non-Communist progressives who are already on the black list for their activities in the cause of peace.

The object of such propaganda is to intimidate progressives and to isolate the Communist Party.

The Government has already failed in this part of its plan. Thousands of workers at union and factory meetings have put aside their party political and religious differences and joined in united action against the Government's proposals.

United Action
Labor politicians have not been able to disregard the strong desire of their supporters for united struggle against Menzies and Fadden, and have expressed their intention to oppose the Government's reactionary legislation in Parliament.

Menzies has replied with the threat of double dissolution, but Mr. Chifley has indicated that this will not deter the Opposition.

"Never mind about this threat of double dissolution," he told a meeting in his electorate. "If these things have to be fought, my advice is to fight them despite what is said about the Menzies Government having a mandate from the people."

The Menzies Government was elected on a minority vote and has no mandate from the Australian people, least of all from the working class, for its Subversive Activities Bill.

Labor Party members should take their cue from their leader's statement and intensify the struggle, in unity with the Communists, against the Menzies-Fadden Government.

SA UNIONS OPPOSE "LIB" BAN THREAT

ADELAIDE—The last meeting of the Branch Council of the Federated Clerks Union unanimously endorsed a resolution opposing the Menzies' plan to attack the trade unions and other working class bodies.

North Shore Communists are jubilant at the results of the meeting, which will stifle Party activity throughout the district.

A Melbourne message states that a further 28 names of prominent Labor movement members have been added to the petition protesting against the Government's proposed Subversive Activities Bill.