

PRINT

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TILLET MEETING - PAC PAYS PAINTING PLEA

Although yesterday's general meeting only considered two out of four motions put before it, it was successful in as much as it did give aid to Rob Tillet as well as establishing a number of important principles. Tillet can however thank his lucky stars that anything was in fact done. Print is inclined to believe that the figures on the second motion, while they appear to reveal a new and very discouraging attitude amongst the new crop of Monash students, were perhaps to be expected. Many of the freshers, having not experienced the conflicts and implied State Repression of last year will naturally be conservative at first. We give them three months at the most before they realize the repressive nature of both this society and this University and are helping to overwhelmingly pass the sort of motion that they nearly defeated today.

The original motion was passed easily enough - in other words a clear majority of students supported the principle that Tillet should receive some monetary support. But when students were asked to contribute some their own hard and ready they suddenly decided that maybe it wasn't such a good idea - after all we do need the money for car parks. No matter that it had already been pointed out that the money was available in a fund established for just this purpose.

As it was the motion to pay part of Tillet's legal costs was passed by a hair's breath majority. So Monash has again salved its scarred and tortured conscience.

The fact the chairman Murphy adjourned the meeting might eventually serve a useful purpose - students will have the opportunity to vote with their feet next Wednesday and demonstrate against Pfeifer and a government which makes him and his decisions possible.

The Ham Between the Sandwich.

Latest rumour from the corridors of Power is that after Harold Holt died Jenny ~~MERS~~ position as Prime Mistress was taken by Ainslie Gotto, and Jenny passed on to Arthur Rylah for a time. That didn't last long and Jenny's latest is said to be Ronald MacDonald, managing Director of David Syme Co., Publishers of the Age.

Tom the Pest.

Yesterday three major groups of Melbourne Workers were out on strike - The Waterside Workers, The Builders Labourers, (see article below) and the Tramway Workers. The Trammies were striking over the refusal of the State Government and Commissioner Risson to sack or transfer Tom Pesteranovich the scab. Far from transferring the Pest, he and John Brooker, who scabbed by working with the Pest earlier were sent out of work today without any prior consultation with the workers or their Union. So very properly the Union went out. But this is symptomatic of Risson's attitude right from the start. It was obvious after the Pest had scabbed that the Glenhuntly depot could not work with him, any man who works during a strike threatens the whole principle of compulsory Unionism which is the workers only real defence in capitalist society. Because of the heavy fines imposed on the Tramways Union under the unjust "Bang clause" the Union did not want a strike and sought a compromise solution - the transfer of Pesteranovich to another depot. This has been past practise in similar cases. But Risson refused this proposal and has refused every other attempt to enter into meaningful discussion with the Union. He doesn't want a fair solution. He, and by implication his boss Bolte, wants to use the Pest as a pawn to smash compulsory unionism.

Lou Hillier, a member of the Waterside Workers Federation, was charged with assaulting a customs officer, resulting from an incident on the wharves on Dec. 12th 1968. Subsequently Hillier was sentenced to three months goal. At present he is out on bail pending appeal.

The case presented for the defense, as seen by the disinterested observer, would have seemed to be a reasonably safe one. However this was not to be. For the prosecution, there was only the custom's officer, for the defence, six witnesses stating unequivocally that Hillier did not assault the custom's officer at all. However, the Magistrate Proposch, saw fit in his alleged wisdom to decide that the answers given by the six defence witnesses were not "honest types of answers," the influence of course being that the six witnesses were not honest types of men.

Lou Hillier and the six witnesses claim that on the day of the alleged incident a fellow workmate was being searched by a custom's officer prior to leaving the wharf. During the course of the search, the man being searched was struck a blow to the genitals, probably accidentally. This apparently angered the man, and Hillier, present at the time, not wanting to see trouble intervene. In the process of doing so he accidentally brushed or pushed the custom's officer. The custom's officer consequently regarded this as constituting assault and pressed the according charge. As a result of Proposch's unbelievable finding and the consequent sentence the Waterside workers are out on indefinite strike.

It is quite obvious to Print and it is quite obvious to the Monash Labor Club, that Lou Hillier has been unjustly prosecuted, and what is more has been victimised by the State and its legal machinery, in that Proposch, upon a mere whim, has dismissed the overwhelming evidence of six men and has convicted him on the evidence of one.

This is not an isolated incident and should not be seen as such. It should be seen as another part, another example, of the totality and repressiveness of Capitalist society.

Both Print and the Monash Labor Club support the Waterside Workers in this struggle against this incredible travesty of justice.

SCAFFOLDS ARE FOR EXECUTION

Over the Weekend two Builders Labourers were killed in a fall from scaffolding on an L.J. Hooker Building site. The workers on the site had already protested that that the scaffolding was unsafe. The Labor Club on Monday sent a telegram to the Builders Labourer Federation expressing its sympathy at the death of the workers and its condemnation of Hooker. Yesterday the B.L.F. held stop-work meetings at city building sites to demand that control of Scaffolding Regulations be taken away from City Councils. Apparently the City Councils don't do their job properly in policing By-Laws to protect workers. Funny, students have found them very officious in policing By-Law 418 to protect Government Policy.

SALE - 8 by 10 COLOUR GLOSSY PHOTOGRAPHS! TOO

Alice's Restaurant Bookshop, 116 Greville St., Prahran. Sale continues! Will be open Tonight for those who can't make it during the day - posters redeemed, second-hand books, pamphlets.

1st "OUR MAN IN ST. KILDA ROAD"

It is known that sections of the R.A.N. were put on riot control training in late July (after the 4th) 1968.

Demonstration leaflet Hand-out

Sat. G.P.O. 10.30, about and in defiance of

- a. conscription
- b. Crimes Act
- c. By-law 418

WORKING BEES OF ALL COUNTRIES UNITE

Labor Club Working Bee and Gestetner class at the Bakery, 130 Greville St., Sat. 2.30p.m.

The views expressed here are not necessarily those of all club members. Authorised by M.D. Hyde, 120 Greville St., Prahran 3181