

EQUAL WAGES - EQUAL POWER.

Once again the Australian people are being asked to take part in activity irrelevant to their actual needs. The Whitlam Government wants to stop inflation by pegging prices. Because Whitlam & Co. depend on the support of a large number of capitalists, they have decided to peg incomes as well, as a concession to their boss mates. The Liberal and National (Country) Parties of Australia - traditional parties of the ruling class, want no control over prices - where would their profits come from then?

When confronted by bosses continually raising prices to protect their profits, workers usually demand a greater share of the cake, usually paid in wages. The solution to the crisis then, is not to fiddle with prices or incomes but to replace the whole boss-employee situation which causes it in the first place. The workers in industrial, agricultural, white collar, service (including housewives) and intellectual labour, should build a social system where goods are produced by the workers and sold at the cost of their production and distribution. All workers, men and women, of all colours and nationalities, of all ages, crafts and skills receive an equal wage for their labour. There could be no profit-making bosses, and hence no price rises for profit; no demand for equal wages because they would always be equal, and little foolish planning or resistance to production, because workers will be motivated by the fact that they directly run industry through their Workers Councils. In these Councils, workers would have real control over the decisions which affect their lives, unlike the parliamentary and trade union systems where we get to choose new bosses every few years. So on December 8th we suggest that if habit drags your tired body to the local prison for kids (school) to cast your compulsory meaningless vote, that you write across the paper: 'Build a society based on Workers Councils, replace the parliament and bosses with a self-managed society.' You might feel a tingling sense of joy at the first such productive work you have done in a polling booth!

Earlier this year, the capitalists offered a similarly false solution to another problem - health care, which the doctors believe should be under their complete control. In an area where, more than any other, motivation should be humanitarian, we have seen that the primary concern of most doctors is money and snobbish prestige. The ALP proposes the establishment of a State-controlled system, with them replacing or sharing power with the doctors at the top of the hierarchy. Neither believes in a health industry with equal decision-making, recognising each individual's knowledge and experience. The ALP is concerned that medical services be sold at a cheaper price, but most of the doctors, ruthless capitalists to the last, want the highest price. So while most industrial workers struggle for a 2% to 5% wage rise which union bosses say is the capitalists capacity to pay, the doctors decide that they can raise prices on health care commodities by 25% - not a bad rise, eh? Only a precious few are concerned with the standard and nature of community health care.

Equal decision-making for all is the solution to the same problems in all other industries. Only when workers in all industries fight together for equal power and equal wages will we build a society of which we are fully active and co-operative members. Much of the psychological and social sickness we face some time in our lives comes from letting people oppress us by obliging us to do meaningless work, or work we do not control. We encourage people, then, to remove those who make decisions for us; those in the board-rooms of the national and international corporations, those in parliaments and unions and government departments, bureaucracies, those in the executive of the army, navy, air force, and police; with a system of Workers Councils federated throughout the job-places in all industries. Only then will the producers decide how to relate to each other, what to produce, how to produce and distribute it.

We have an ALP government which is trying to ease the tension by giving the workers a greater share in commodities and some participation in decision-making. But the tension

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will continue until everyone can decide equally about the quality and direction of their work. The ruling class can never solve their problems, because they depend on keeping people oppressed. But oppressed people keep resisting bosses everywhere, mainly by producing as little as possible rather than by organising uprisings against their oppressors.

By now most readers who are members of any capitalist party (The National Party, Liberal Party, Australia Party, ALP, all Marxist-Leninist Parties) will try to dismiss what we have said. The most reactionary will have said we are communist. Indeed, we are libertarian communists. For many people, communism means concentration camps, mass slaughter, torture, the Berlin Wall, militarism and exploitation - things at which people are naturally horrified. This idea has been reinforced by support for these repressive regimes from parties in Australia which call themselves communist. It is necessary to outline what a communist is not. A communist is not someone who supports the ruthless totalitarian regimes of Russia and Eastern Europe, of Yugoslavia, Albania or Cuba, of China, North Korea or North Vietnam. A communist is not someone who supports the oppressive regimes in the U.S.A. and all its vicious clients. Nor does a communist support any of the regimes of Western Europe, from reactionary France to social-democratic Sweden. A communist is not someone who sides with the National Libertarian fronts fighting throughout the world which merely intend to be new rulers. A communist is not someone who supports any form of hierarchy anywhere. All these regimes are capitalist - they all retain rulers and ruled; they only disagree about whether the state or private international corporations should monopolize production and order workers around! They fight each other for markets and power throughout the world - but will even deal a little if it's to their mutual advantage. They are agreed on one thing internationally - their greatest enemies are people who believe that there is no need for rulers. They will murder on every continent, vigilantly use their concentration camps and jails to deal with people who fight for equality.

We are libertarian communists. We fight for equal wages and equal power - a struggle that began dramatically with the Paris Commune of 1871, exploded again in the 1917 Workers Councils revolution in Russia; in the 1918 workers uprisings in most major European cities; the 1921 rebellion in Kronstadt against the Bolshevik oppressors (Lenin, Trotsky, Stalin); in the Workers Council movement in Spain (1936); in the best elements of the anti-fascist resistance in World War II who fought the Nazis and then the oppression of Russia and the U.S.A., in the Workers Council resistance in Hungary, 1956 against the Russian and Hungarian ruling classes; in the Workers Council movement of France, 1968; and in the embryonic Workers Council movement in Czechoslovakia in 1968.

If you agree with us, it is most important to fight for this system of Workers Council democracy. We do not want expressions of respect or sympathy as a substitute for action. As workers ourselves, we want your active participation in the struggle for a self-managed society; we are not here to represent you. Our group exists to defend ourselves in our activity from blacklists and jails as we try to build our confidence and the confidence of other people so that we can create a rational and humane society. So if you want to fight, we suggest you contact us to co-ordinate your energies with ours.

SELF-MANAGEMENT GROUP -

FOR A SOCIETY BASED ON WORKERS COUNCILS.

Contact with the Group can be made through the Red and Black Bookshop, Elizabeth Arcade, City; or S.M.G., P.O. Box 332, North Quay, Brisbane.