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OF VICTORIA

"After adjustment for normal seasonal factors — particularly the upswing in production following the Christmas break — unemployment showed an increase of 9.57 p.c. This was the worst February figure, either actual or seasonally adjusted, since 1962." — Press report.

FIGHT *the* SACK



**NIXON AND
CHINA—P. 6**

**IRISH
LETTER—P. 7**

**CLEAR
THE AIR—P. 4**



Air pollution is among many features of the environment causing great concern to modern man. True it is a universal problem. But is there a difference in the way this capitalist and socialist worlds tackle the question? Two Soviet journalists, Natalia Pietina and Tatyana Troitskaya, deal with this matter below. The material is an abridged version of their article "The Air We Breathe" which appeared in the New Times No. 3, 1972.

A new line of business has made its debut in the capitalist world, where everything is sold that can possibly bring a profit. A line, moreover, that promises to become a profitable one indeed — trade in the air you breathe.

A coin inserted in the slot of a vending machine in the streets of Paris enables you to reel in pure "country air" for a space of three minutes. In Tokyo similar machines allow you to take a few gulps of insipid air, and attempts have repeatedly been made to "can" mountain or sea air as a marketable commodity.

The worst of it is that this is not merely a matter of commercial enterprise and its handmaiden, advertising, finding another way of fleecing the consumer through a newly-created demand. Big-city air in the industrial capitalist countries has indeed become a health hazard. The Eighth International Cancer Congress, for instance, pointed to a connection between air pollution and lung cancer, statistics showing that the incidence of this deadly disease was higher in big, smoky cities than in rural areas.

harmful substances annually discharged into the city's atmosphere amount in several hundred kilograms for every man, woman and child living in it.

One atmosphere

But if the urban dwellers of the leading industrial areas of the capitalist world are the prime victims of this particular consequence of the "technogenic civilization" of today, this is not to say that rural inhabitants need not worry about the air they breathe, or that the problem does not threaten the governments and peoples of developing countries. For our planet has one atmosphere for all, and its condition has been deteriorating at an alarming rate ever since the beginning of the present technological revolution.

It would be a mistake to assume that capitalist governments are passively watching the process go on. For they cannot ignore the growing public pressure for action to put a stop to the pollution of the environment — a movement that has been joined by a substantial section of the middle strata alarmed by the deterioration of the sanitary condition of cities and the gradual destruction of recreation and holiday spots. Then there is the pressure exerted by corporations into whose profits contamination of the environment is making inroads. Lastly, every government is aware, especially now when the economies of many capitalist countries are in critical straits, that loss of natural wealth is fraught with dire consequences. Because of this nearly all of these countries have passed laws, Presidents and Prime Ministers speak of protection of the environment, and substantial though obviously insufficient appropriations are made for the purpose.

Palliatives

Yet as a rule the steps taken are no more than palliatives. The interests of the public and the monopolies of governments and capitalist groupings are too widely divergent for radical action. Take if you will the problem of automobile exhaust fumes which in the U.S. for instance, account for 80% of all harmful waste released into the atmosphere. The technical solutions commonly known as catalytic converters,

of motor fuel and the use to this end of special devices and catalysts.

So far the only American state to take any action to stop exhaust pollution is California, whose lawmakers had to yield to public pressure. General Motors, anxious to hold on to its big California market, produced a catalytic neutralizer for cars sold there. But it can operate only on petrol that does not contain tetraethyl lead, and the oil monopolies — Standard Oil of California, Ethyl and others — are not willing to use another antiknock agent since this would involve costly modernization of production facilities. The



neutralizer had to be adapted to ethylated petrol with the result that the lead continues to be discharged into the atmosphere.

Protection of the atmosphere from pollution presents problems in the socialist countries as well, but here they do not assume such formidable proportions for the simple reason that the whole of society is interested in their solution.

In the Soviet Union the government has allocated substantial funds for providing big cities with lead-free petrol and to reduce the amount of sulphur anhydride released into the air. At Moscow and Leningrad power stations went over to fuels with a low sulphur content as far back as 1967, although this meant replacing the cheaper Moscov Basin coal with coal from the more remote Donetsk field.

At present a costly installation for gasifying fuel oil which will cut the discharge of sulphurous gases by nine-tenths is being set up at a heat and power station in Dzerzhinsk, and similar installations are planned for other towns.

In Czechoslovakia special 200-ton gas-cleaning units are to be

built at two power stations by 1980. Their cost will run to about 150 million crowns.

The most "smoky" plants are as a rule built outside city limits. One result of this is the complete absence of smog in the capitals of the socialist countries.

The US too has a "clean air" programme covering the five years from 1971 to 1975. That it is economically worth while is obvious, for the cost is estimated at slightly more than \$15,000 million, whereas at present \$12,000 million a lost every year owing to air pollution. But the government of the capitalist world's richest country is unable to find the money to pay for it, for the tax squeeze has already been carried to the extreme and monopoly profits and military spending are sacrosanct.

The socialist countries are joining efforts to protect the environment. Last April the CMEA countries concluded an agreement on scientific and technological co-operation in this sphere and their economic plans provide for growing new plants, first put forward at a special conference on combating air pollution, the idea of which was put forward at a special conference of the Commission in 1969 and endorsed by its 24th session.

The activity of the Soviet experts in the working group offers an example of a serious, dedicated approach to the problem. The proposals concerning preliminary removal of sulphur from fuels and filtering of waste gases and other technical ideas have been welcomed in the European scientific world.

There is no doubt that if all countries join in concerted effort the atmosphere of our planet will become considerably cleaner within the next few decades.

Co-operation

At the same time the governments of the socialist countries are working tirelessly to promote co-operation among all nations in protecting the environment. The Soviet Union, for instance, takes an active part in the work of 36 international governmental and non-governmental organisations engaged in this sphere. It was on its initiative that the UN Economic Commission for Europe set up a working group on combating air pollution; the idea was first put forward at a special conference of the Commission in 1969 and endorsed by its 24th session.

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The Suharto Government, which McMahon and big business finds so much

BLACK PANTHER PARTY



Henry Winston, Chairman of the Communist Party of the United States.

Veteran chairman of the Communist Party of the United States, Henry Winston — a negro himself — writes a penetrating article on the crisis which has overtaken the Black Panther Party.

The article was published in the December 1971 issue of World Marxist Review, which is the theoretical journal of Communist and Workers' parties throughout the world.

Winston writes: "Some years ago the Black Panther Party

emerged in the United States as a militant organisation dedicated to fighting against the racial oppression of Black Americans. Subjected to the most brutal repression, its leaders murdered by the racist militia of 'law and order' or imprisoned for long periods awaiting trial on trumped-up charges, it fought back with new vigour and support.

Proclaiming itself revolutionary, it took some tentative steps in the direction of Marxism-Leninism. But today the party is in dire straits, and its leaders are racked with crisis."

Winston describes how the organisation split into factions, one headed by Huey Newton and the other by Eldridge Cleaver.

CONDEMNED

He reveals how both leaders took the ultra-revolutionary path, but that Cleaver was too much the anarchist for Newton who publicly condemned his former colleague.

At first glance it appeared that Newton was learning a thing or two, however, the Panther leader then announced the opening in San Francisco of a shoe factory and another making clothes and golf bags — the first of many

factories to be opened by Black Panthers in ghettos across the nation.

Winston comments: "It will undoubtedly appear to some that there is a head-on contradiction between Newton's 'new direction' and his previous 'revolutionary' period. The opposite is true. There is no contradiction between his previous ultra-leftist role and his present position. In essence, both positions represent an accommodation to the status quo — even though the earlier one was more effectively camouflaged. The link between both positions is the fact that neither 'Black Panther' nor ultra-revolutionary rhetoric offers the people the path of struggle."

Newton spoke of "armed self defence" but Winston declares that the people refused both gun and defensive strategy.

"Black people — who have been warring off attacks for 400 years — want and need an offensive strategy to build a great popular movement to end racist oppression," writes Winston.

He explains that Newton's concept involved the idea of an elite fire acting for the masses —

in fact supplanting them, and Newton had this approach before Cleaver joined the Black Panthers. Cleaver's influence "brought the elite concept to new levels of anarchy, adventurist confusion and provocation..."

MARKX AND LENIN?

Winston says at one point it appeared the Black Panthers "might supplant the Little Red Book and Cleaver's anarchism with Markx and Lenin," when in the summer of 1969 the party called for the study of Dimitroff's united front.

"But instead of linking theory and practice, the actions taken by the Black Panther Party turned the concept of the united front into a jargonistic caricature of the 'Marxist-Leninist' principles on which it is based," the CPUSA chairman comments.

Winston writes: "It is worth recalling that in the same period when the Black Panthers came on the scene, others were also seeking new directions, notably Martin Luther King."

"It had become apparent to King that an offensive strategy of new dimensions had to be built,

The new situation required the continued and even expanded participation of church and middle strata forces, including students and professionals, that had predominated in 1964-66. But King said that the basis for regaining the offensive was working class strength moving in coalition with the middle class forces. He now directed all his efforts toward involving the working class in a higher level of struggle with the Black Liberation movement — and with all the poor and oppressed.

"The Communist Party welcomed this historic revolution in Dr. King's leadership, and wholeheartedly supported his efforts to bring about a new strategy and a new alignment of forces. The Communist Party saw this as a profoundly important development, even though Dr. King had not yet demonstrated a full understanding that an offensive strategy to end class oppression, racist oppression and war demands not only the strength of the working class, but also the leadership of the working class — black, brown, yellow, red and white, guided by the science of socialism."

Suharto McMahon WAS MORE THAN FRIENDLY CHAT

General Suharto's recent visit to Australia was more than a drop-in for a neighbourly chat.

The economic-military agreement reached between the Suharto and McMahon administrations represents a reactionary alliance aimed against the democratic forces in South East Asia, including those in Australia and Indonesia. Anti-Communism is the mutual banner.

According to the Financial Review (4/2/72) the military programme involves: \$600,000 worth of Australian military assistance to Indonesia, the training of Indonesian soldiers in Australia, exchange of military intelligence, officer visits, Australian Army mapping surveys in Indonesia in co-operation with the RAAF and the gift of 16 Sabres to Indonesia.

Behind the economic programme is the fact that Australian companies are gearing for investment in Indonesia which the Financial Review admits is spurred on by "cheap labour" among other things. Examples given include the following:

- BHP is investigating costs of providing infrastructure and town facilities for a tin mining operation on the island of Belitung.
- Imperial Chemical Industries is continuing with the exploration of West Iran with a consortium of international mining interests.

SNOWY AUTHORITY JOB

• Airmo consortium, with Indonesian Government financial help, is moving to go ahead with the \$2.5 million first stage of an industrial estate development at the port of Tjilatjap on Java's south coast. The Airmo represents 17 Australian Companies with a total shareholder investment of \$302 million. (Adelaide Advertiser B/2/72 reported that the Snowy Mountains Authority will build roads for the consortium at Tjilatjap).

The Suharto Government, which McMahon and big business finds so much

to their liking, literally slaughtered its way to power. At least 500,000 Communists and democrats died in the Trade. Today democracy is smashed. Trade unions are replaced by Government sponsored bodies. Thousands of democrats are in concentration camps.

Now Australian companies will cash in on the situation in Suharto's Indonesia. The same companies which exploit Australian workers will exploit Indonesian workers under the most inhuman conditions.

The reported statements by Opposition Leader Whitlam urging more investments by Australian companies in Indonesia is not in the best interests of the labour and progressive forces generally.

SPA RESOLUTION

The Provisional Central Committee of the Socialist Party carried the following resolution at its last meeting:

"This meeting records its protest against the visit to Australia of the Indonesian President Suharto whom we regard as a representative and a leading figure among the butchers of the working class of that country.

"We note the glee with which wealthy Australian investors have greeted Suharto's invitation for private investment in Indonesia.

"We note also the willingness with which the McMahon Government welcomed the proposal for a military pact between Australia and Indonesia and the use of Australian armed forces in that country whose role would clearly be to protect the interests of the shareholders of the reactionary Suharto forces from the Indonesian people.

"We regard these actions as evidence of further imperialist aggression by the Australian bourgeoisie and the reactionary McMahon Government. We condemn them as such."



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is cancer the only problem. The fact is that contamination of the atmosphere by automobile exhaust fumes, smoke from power stations and the waste products discharged by factories is turning some of the most densely populated areas of the world into slow-action gas chambers.

Enormous gaps of heavy toxic fumes a dozen or more kilometres in diameter hang over cities, cutting off their immediate environment from the cleaner air of the surrounding atmosphere. This is not just ordinary smog, which, though harmful enough, comes and goes. Airline pilots on domestic American runs for instance, say that New York is constantly veiled in a gigantic grey pall clearly visible from a distance of 250 kilometres. No wonder, considering that the quantity of diverse

consequences. Because of this nearly all of these countries have passed laws, Presidents and Prime Ministers speak of protection of the environment, and substantial though obviously insufficient appropriations are made for the purpose.

Yet as a rule the steps taken are no more than palliatives. The interests of the public and the monopolies of governments and capitalist groupings are too widely divergent for radical action. Take if you will the problem of automobile exhaust fumes which in the U.S. for instance, account for 80% of all harmful waste released into the atmosphere. The technical solutions commonly known as catalytic converters,

of motor fuel and the use to this end of special devices and catalysts.

So far the only American state to take any action to stop exhaust pollution is California, whose lawmakers had to yield to public pressure. General Motors, anxious to hold on to its big California market, produced a catalytic neutralizer for cars sold there. But it can operate only on petrol that does not contain tetraethyl lead, and the oil monopolies — Standard Oil of California, Ethyl and others — are not willing to use another antiknock agent since this would involve costly modernization of production facilities. The

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BEHIND THE SCENES WITH NIXON'S VISIT TO CHINA

In this article, chairman of the Socialist Party in Queensland, Jack Henry, examines important aspects of the recent visit by President Nixon to China.



President Nixon's visit to China has created great interest in all countries, opening many windows on Peking (apart, though, in the release of the communique, the visit was publicly a carefully controlled ballgame designed to show the lightest access talks between the Maoist rulers and the representatives of aging USA imperialism.

The peoples of the world want peace and social advancement. This wide sentiment was taken into consideration by both sides in the wording of the communique.

How credible is this document? Decide for yourself based on the facts.

The Chinese side says "It firmly supports the struggle of all the oppressed peoples and nations for freedom and liberation", yet the Chinese leading group supported landlords and neo-feudalist exploiters in Viet Nam. They showed an irresponsibility for the most brutal repression and slaughter of the people of South Viet Nam as well as repression of the peoples of West Pakistan.

LOST FACT
The USA imperialist policy lost as much face as the Maoists because of the visit to Peking.

In the communique, the Maoists still fan the flames in the troubled areas of Jamaica and Cambodia, pursuing their own aggressive policy towards India.

The USA side states "Peace in Asia and peace in the world requires efforts both to reduce international tensions and to eliminate the basic cause of the conflict. The USA supports individual freedom and social progress for all the peoples of the world free from outside pressure or oppression."

As the communique was issued, USA cancelled the bombing and mass murder of the peaceful citizens of Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia. Nixon is supreme commander of the world.

Moist ideology and leading clique to involve the great Chinese people in its reactionary schemes not only in Asia but worldwide.

The weakened position of US imperialism is illustrated by Taiwan. The USA, Taiwan has changed from a strong, advanced political-military advanced base to a tactic of mere force against Asia and the USSR in the early post-war years, to its opposite.

Because of world development of socialism, the working-class and national independence including China and Japan and the relative decline of the USA, Taiwan is now politically and militarily untenable.

The Maoists may deny the validity of the objective laws of world and national social development. But for Nixon to try to sell gold bricks like Taiwan will not impress them.

NATIONALISM
Nationalism has undergone a retrogressive development in China. In the struggle of the Chinese people for national liberation and social advance, nationalism was a great progressive force uniting wide and diverse strata of the people.

After the victory of the democratic revolution, nationalism could no longer unite these forces. A struggle developed between socialism and working-class understanding on one hand and petty capitalist nationalism on the other. Maoist-Chinese nationalism has gone the upper hand in the Party and the superstructure for the time being. Nevertheless below in material production the forward social development is proceeding, though retarded by the superstructure.

MAOISM
Maoism was able to hook onto nationalism and become its foremost expression, thus making it the ideology of the Chinese revolution.

Maoism has undergone a qualitative change. Maoism was first called "the application of Marxism-Leninism to the specific conditions of China." Later it was said that "the thoughts of Mao were Marxism-Leninism in the form of the Far East."

In the "cultural revolution" and the 9th Congress of the Communist Party of China, Mao was proclaimed as "the leader of all people, the only Marxist theoretician in the entire world communist movement."

This constituted a brazen attempt to replace Marxism-Leninism with Maoism and proclaim China as the center of the world revolution and development.

ABSOLUTE FALSITY
This shows the extreme self-centered ideology of great Chinese national imperialism, the absolute falsity of Maoism being in any way related to Marxism or Marxist Internationalism.

Maoism is the bitter enemy of Marxism. The socialist movement led by the USSR, has gained the initiative and day by day is proving the superiority of socialism over the old rule of imperialism, capitalism and war.

The socialist movement, workers and national independence movements are growing stronger and more united. The glowing truth of Marxism-Leninism is the for the corners of the earth.

For Australia to blithely respond to this appeal, Washington and Canberra must withdraw and its endless talk of sending troops needs to be exposed to prevent the rise of a new mobilization of all Australian people forces in each state on the border possible here.

The decisions here in the peace movement issued by national parliament and tactical calls for new discussions and a new unity of 1972.

The decisions of the Vietnam Assembly provide the basis for agreement and action. The Assembly demanded that the US Government "withdraw all its armed forces, cease a halt for withdrawal, end the air bombardment and stop all military and government aid to South Vietnam and the people of Indo-China decide their own future without any foreign interference."

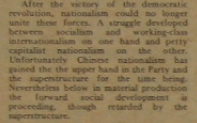
BETTER
A better path for the leaders of the People's Republic of China would have been to invite the leaders of the Soviet Union to Peking to explore rapprochement rather than do a deal with the Nixon and the Kissinger.

The Soviet Union understanding only threatens the progressive movement for Socialism and national liberation. A rapprochement with the USSR would have opened a tremendous lift to the anti-imperialist forces.

The Street Union has kept the door open for improved relations with China in the interests of progress. The report of the 24th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union noted that the Maoist leaders were following an anti-Communist anti-Soviet line. Yet, the Soviet Party and Government were "deeply convinced that an improvement of relations between the Soviet Union and the People's Republic of China would be in line with the fundamental, long-term interests of both countries, the interests of Socialism, the freedom of the peoples and stronger peace."

It is a serious matter that little or nothing is known in Australia of the above.

The participants declared: "As a result of the efforts and the constructive contribution of the member States of the present meeting and also due to the Hosts' and constructive contribution of other States, the relations of peaceful coexistence between European States are asserting themselves ever more. In this connection the participants in the meeting note the importance of the principles of cooperation between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and France which were adopted at the conclusion of the recent Soviet-French summit talks."



"The Political Commission Committee positively assessed the beginning of the ratification of the Treaties between the Soviet Union and the Federal Republic of Germany, between the Polish People's Republic and the Federal Republic of Germany. The ratification of these Treaties into force will correspond to the interests of all their direct participants, but of all European States as well, with a view to the consolidation of the foundations of peace in Europe."

WEST BERLIN
The States participating in the meeting stressed the positive significance of the quadripartite agreement of September 3, 1971 on questions relating to West Berlin and of the agreements between the Governments of the German Democratic Republic and the Federal Republic of Germany, and between the Government of the German Democratic Republic and the Government of West Berlin.

In this situation the self-opposed world polarisation of US and world reaction is being forced and further alien rapidly. He is seeking new allies, Nixon hopes that Maoists may be able to use the great Chinese people against the world progressive movement. Maoists begin to use Nixon to advance their own world aims. Both are the USSR as their main enemy. Any understanding will be directed primarily against the Soviet Union.

The USA, ruling circles may have underlined the absolute falsity of the Chinese revolution in providing deeper meaning. The trends of the Chinese revolution of the present, the lower party congress, and the way will reach the Maoist's dream, Maoist Nationalism, Maoism is a temporary phenomenon.

Only in the working class and progressive movement, workers and national independence movements are growing stronger and more united. The glowing truth of Marxism-Leninism is the for the corners of the earth.

QUEENSLAND "BENEFITS"
Each week more than 217 million in profit is added to Australian wealth by private industry.

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SO WHAT IS A EUROPEAN PEACE

The speeded fulfilment of an all-European conference to "work out practical measures for further signing of treaties in Europe and lay the foundations for the construction of a European security system" has been called for by the Warsaw Treaty Socialist Countries at a recent meeting in Prague.

"The widening international recognition of the German Democratic Republic is a major factor in strengthening peace. Further progress in this direction, including the establishment of relations between the German Democratic Republic and the Federal Republic of Germany according to norms of international law, will be an important contribution to peace, security and co-operation."

CZECHOSLOVAKIA
The participants in the meeting point out with satisfaction that the Governments of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic and the Federal Republic of Germany are exchanging opinions on the unsolved questions in the relations between the two countries.

While welcoming the prospects of further positive changes in Europe, the Prague meeting noted that the Warsaw Treaty countries still maintained tension, opposed some States to others could not ignore European policy line of Moscow and intensified the arms race. In view of this the Warsaw Treaty countries had to take all measures to prevent their security.

However, the meeting expressed the conviction that "only a coalition of States has emerged in Europe as capable of possible to overcome the obstacles of those who are opposed to the efforts to consolidate peace are made jointly and concertedly."

THE SOCIALIST WORLD
ROMANIA: The citizens who want to become the owner of a comfortable home are obliged to fulfil his wish. The State grants them in advance a mortgage, which is repaid in 15-25 years; it also helps in the provision of building materials and designs and erects complete buildings. The future owner makes an advance payment of 25-50 per cent of the building's value. These security are people with no savings. In such cases the State provides a mortgage, which is repaid in 2 and 4 per cent interest on the value of interest payments in Australia is not less than 10 per cent.

GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
The present law on housing in the German Democratic Republic is being amended. The State will guarantee to all citizens the right to own a house. The State will provide a mortgage, which is repaid in 15-25 years; it also helps in the provision of building materials and designs and erects complete buildings. The future owner makes an advance payment of 25-50 per cent of the building's value. These security are people with no savings. In such cases the State provides a mortgage, which is repaid in 2 and 4 per cent interest on the value of interest payments in Australia is not less than 10 per cent.

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IRISH COMMUNIST LEADER'S LETTER

General Secretary of the Communist Party of Ireland, Michael O'Riordan, has written to the National Chairman of the Socialist Party of Australia, Pat Henry, about the Irish situation. The letter is dated February 14, 1972.

A long hard inspiration to mine and mine becoming isolated and the Irish cause had so many friends. This was perhaps most clearly demonstrated that by the people of Great Britain and Ireland who were so well to the best people for support. The situation was all non-communist Republicans and 100,000 and 100,000 to be seen.

"None of these countries was a date of force, and this concern was heavily expressed in diplomatic terms."

"None there is growing feeling that the Dublin Government should go to Moscow and seek all sorts of assistance. It is a weak bourgeois Government, but it can be pushed, and it is not beyond the bounds of possibility that it will be forced to take this line. As you know, we have no diplomatic relations with any of the Socialist countries, but the times are changing here."

DUBLIN MOSCOW
"A Socialist Party would need to be built out of the British Socialist Party but surely, our efforts are beginning to realize what is possible in the current program to any that the British would need."

CPUSA MEET
The Communist Party National Convention of the United States of America is being held in New York City from July 15-20, 1972. The CPUSA is the largest of the Socialist Parties in the world.

SPA MESSAGE
Socialist Party of Australia (SPA) has been invited to participate in the 1972 Spa Conference in London. The SPA is the largest of the Socialist Parties in the world.

ACTU FIRMS UP POLICIES

By Pat O'Neary, National Chairman
Socialist Party, Executive Member ACTU

The February Australian Council of Trades Unions' executive meeting in Adelaide took a firm line on a whole range of policy questions of concern to Australian workers. The many decisions could be summed up as being a forthright declaration to the McMahon Government and to the monopoly employers of Australia that the trade union movement is going to fight vigorously for full employment, an adequate wage standard, price control and advancement of workers' rights.

The executive also made it clear that a prime task of the trade union movement this year is to defeat the McMahon Government.

Trade union unity in support of the decisions of the executive is essential if the fine policy decided upon by the 1971 ACTU Congress and agreed through by the ACTU executive meetings of November and February is to be effective.

On the national wage claim, the executive declared its determination to ensure that the wages and salaries of workers are substantially increased and called on officials to give priority on this.

It was decided that the State branches of the ACTU should hold meetings of the respective industry groups and immediately launch a campaign in support of the claim for a minimum wage of 17½ week and an increase of \$12.50 on the wage rates.

Job meetings are to be held and workers urged to make demands on their particular employers for an increase in their wage rate.

The essence of this decision is that the way is open for activists in all industries to develop an offensive on the wage question by taking action against their particular employer as part of the general wage demand.

UNEMPLOYMENT

On the question of unemployment, the executive reaffirmed the policy of the ACTU Congress that every person has an inalienable right to work.

Demand was made on the McMahon Government to take immediate economic action to deal with this serious problem of unemployment.

Demands for reduction in direct taxation for lower income groups, reduction in indirect taxation and substantial increases in social services were made upon the government.

It was decided to set up committees in each of the State branches to help the unemployed

with information and to prevent action being taken by hire-purchase firms to repossess goods or homes.

Later in the week the hire purchase conference chairman met the ACTU officers and came to an arrangement whereby the unemployed workers will have their goods under hire-purchase protected from re-possession.

PLAN OUTLINED

A resolution outlined a comprehensive plan to protect workers threatened with unemployment. It called for a severance payment of four weeks wages for each year of service, payment of full wages after re-employment until such time as work is found, of adequate notice to be given and of compensation to be paid when workers have to transfer to other localities to obtain work.

The same proposal while putting these demands to protect workers threatened with the sack also put forward very comprehensive policies to change the present trend in the economy.

The executive in the strongest possible terms condemned the efforts of the DLP and its counterparts in the Country Party and the Liberal Party to interfere in the internal affairs of the trade union movement by attempting to prevent amalgamations of unions.

The executive warned the McMahon Government that any legislation or administrative action intended to prevent amalgamation will be completely unacceptable to the trade union movement and will be fought by the movement.

The executive decided to continue with the campaign for equal pay, the next move to be action for a claim for equal pay to be made in a number of areas immediately the national wage case is concluded.



Adelaide march for Aboriginal rights.

ABORIGINAL WOMEN CONFER

The National Council of Aboriginal and Island Women held its National Conference in Canberra recently.

More than 50 Aboriginal women heard papers on 'The Role of Women in a Changing Aboriginal Society, Health and Nutrition', 'Aboriginal Housing', 'Black Women's Actions and Pre-School Centres'.

The Council's president, Mrs. Geraldine Briggs, said the Conference would work for better conditions for both men and women. It would seek better housing, employment, education and pensions.

The women went on a deputation to submit their demands to the Minister for Aboriginals, Mr. Howson, but they expressed their resentment at the hearing they were given.

Conference was addressed by Pastor Roberts on 'Land and the Aborigines' right to own traditionally occupied territory'. Dr. Coombe spoke to the Conference and was questioned by delegates. President of the Union of Australian Women (Mrs. F. Brown) spoke to Conference about the women of Africa and their struggles.

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FARMERS ACT

Six thousand farmers, working through Organised Purchasing Power in South Australia have had considerable success in reducing costs. A third of them, using the services of a purchasing agent, Hart & Co. have been able to cut the price of many farm requirements up to 15% and more.

Fifty per cent meat meal was \$117 a ton. O.P.P. and Hart brought the price down to \$95.50, and all sellers have now come down to around \$100. Then 2.4 O. Amine 50% a sack, was \$5.60 a gallon. O.P.P. Hart sold at \$2.80 a gallon and the other crops came down to \$3.10 a gallon.

O.P.P. Hart are concerned that consumers similar to the pressure on Black's ACTU store tried by Dunlop would be applied to them. So far, while there is some contact with O.P.P. and the unions, common problems have not been widely discussed.

The farmers' marches in Melbourne, Perth and Adelaide in 1970 at the time of the highest prices of the season showed some of the possibilities of worker-farmer contact. Unions should liaise with farmers at some enterprises and workers, as in Perth, marched with the farmers.

The Federal Government set up the Wood Commission, and that has had the effect of fall in wool prices, but has not been able to force a recovery.

DRASTIC ECONOMIES

Many farmers have had to cut by drastic economies in fertilisers, maintenance, machinery. A sharp drop in productivity must result in a rise in cost per unit produced, and finally double the impact of the crisis.

Banks and stock farms have, in many cases, not forced the issue of foreclosures. No doubt they and the Government are looking at the coming Federal Elections and are wary to take action that could push the farmers towards more contact and alliance with the working class movement.

Nevertheless, there is increasing political pressure among the farmers, with considerable change of direction in the 1971 WA State Elections, the political wing of the United Farmers and Graziers stood candidates in most country. They campaigned for market

control, for a moratorium on farmers debts and no evictions, for control of prices, wages and profits to check inflation.

They advocated their preference to go to Labor. They garnered 5% to 9% of the vote, far more than the DLP, and their endorsement helped to elect the Labor Government and cut the Country Party vote.

In Victoria, Everett, a prominent member of the Australian Sheep Board is instigating a move for a farmers party to oppose Federal Country Party Members.

The vote in the country seats could be important on the defeat of the Federal Liberal Country Party Government.

The contact between workers and farmers can be made on many common issues, cooperation to the activities of the Conference, Limit on increasing freight crippling the economy of Australia, particularly the farmers, activity around co-operatives to bypass the monopolies and lower prices to consumers at the same time as getting farmers a better return for their produce.