

Congress Opening Sunday Will Voice People's Peace Demands

Air, sea, land . . . from every corner of the Commonwealth . . . delegates representing hundreds of thousands of Australians are coming to Melbourne on Sunday to say in a united voice that will echo around the world: "WE WANT PEACE . . . AND WE WILL IMPOSE PEACE ON THE WARMONGERS."

On Sunday, at 2.30 p.m., Australia's Peace Congress opens with a public rally in the Exhibition Buildings. The Congress will give expression to the deep and powerful desire of the Australian people for a lasting peace.

It will be a strong deterrent to the back-room, traitorous scheming of the Menzies Government to sell Australia as a military base to the Yank millionaires who are planning a profit-mongering war in the Pacific.

HOW RIGHT /ING MANAGED /ONFERENCE

Mr. Doug. Burgess, a clerk in the Trades Hall Council Office, represented the Bricklayers' Union at the A.L.P. Conference held during Easter.

This was one of the most flagrant examples of how the conference was "managed" by the extreme Right Wink clique headed by Messrs. Stout, Jordan and Co. The Bricklayers' executive, of course, is composed of extreme right wingers.

The "swing" to the Right which has been hailed by the capitalist press was not a true reflection of the opinion but was the result of the subtle manoeuvring and sheer dishonesty of the extreme right wing.

The new vice-president of the party (Mr. M. Jordan) represented transport drivers.

Mr. Jordan is not a member of the Trades Hall Council, of which he is secretary. Jordan represents the AWU. Previously he represented the Textile Workers' Union but the members threw him out and some peculiar man who became the AWU representative on the Council.

Mr. Pat. Conroy, the Federal Secretary of the ALP, represented the Timber Workers' Union at the conference. He is no axeman ext- at conferences.

See Conference Report, page 6.)

IRONWORKERS' MAY DAY CHALLENGE

In the face of the threats of the Menzies Government to trade unionism and living standards, ironworkers are preparing to make this year's May Day March a great demonstration of united working class strength.

May Day will be celebrated on Sunday, May 7. The management committee of the Ironworkers' Union has issued a challenge to all other unions that they will receive their section of the march best.

The challenge, circulated by the union, states: "We will have more unionists on the streets than any other union in Victoria. The ironworkers' section will be more impressive and more militant than any other section of ironworkers will search for more unionists than any other unionist." The challenge is signed by the Ironworkers' Union.

Mr. G. P. O'Day, who can be met on the march, will be the main challenge.

The Congress will join hands with the millions of ordinary people of all countries who now see that the great, urgent issue for everyone to-day is peace and life or war and death.

WORLD FIGURES TO SPEAK

Fifteen thousand people are expected to attend the opening public rally of the Congress.

Leading speakers will be overseas visitors Dr. Jewett Johnson (Dean of Canterbury) and American Professor J. Fletcher. (See-story, Page 1.)

Prominent Australians who will speak include Senator W. Morrow (Labor, Tasmania), Mr. M. O'Brien (ACTU Interstate Executive member), Mrs. Jessie Street (former Australian delegate to United Nations), and well-known authors Katharine Susannah Prichard and Frank Dalby Davison.

N.S.W. WORKERS CHARTER PLANE

The New South Wales Combined Workers' Unions' Peace Auxiliary has chartered a plane for its delegation to fly from Sydney to Melbourne for the Congress.

A feature of the opening rally will be the arrival for the Congress of delegations from New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia.

Special buses will bring visitors and delegates to the Congress from Bendigo, Ballarat, Wonthaggi, Yallourn and other Victorian country centres.

THREE-DAY PROGRAM

Following the Sunday public rally, the Peace Congress will continue for three days in the Assembly Hall.

Main topics for discussion are: Monday, April 17: "A Program for Peace." (The Dean of Canterbury will take part in this discussion.)

Tuesday, April 18: Morning, "Disarmament and the Atom Bomb." Afternoon, "Australia and the Pacific."

Wednesday, April 19: Congress will consider resolutions on Peace Council policy, will hear reports from the various special commissions, and will elect the permanent

ent Australian Peace Council and appoint a deputation to take the Congress decisions to the Federal Government.

PUBLIC RALLY AT CLOSING

The Congress will close with another public rally at the Exhibition Buildings on Wednesday night, April 19, at 8 p.m.

At this meeting, the Dean of Canterbury, Mr. Stover and Professor Fletcher will speak at greater length on their experiences of the struggle for peace in Europe and America.

A recorded message from the great American singer and fighter for peace, Paul Robeson, will be a special feature of the evening.

Special Congress Commissions will meet on Monday night, April 17. Trade unionists will meet in the North Melbourne Town Hall at 8 p.m. Among leading trade unionists who will speak at this meeting are Mr. M. O'Brien, Mr. J. Healy (Sec. Waterfront Workers' Federation), Mr. E. V. Elliot (Secretary, Seaman's Union) and Mr. A. J. Cregan (State President, APU).

Delegates from trade unions and water-front throughout Australia will attend this session. The meeting will also be open to all other trade unionists to attend.

OTHER SPECIAL COMMISSIONS

Other special commissions, of women, youth, ministers of religion and church people, scientists and teachers will also meet on the Tuesday night, in halls which will be announced by the Congress.

A special feature of the Congress program will be the Writers' and Readers' Conference, to be held on Tuesday night, April 18, in the Lower Melbourne Town Hall. Well-known authors Katharine Susannah Prichard, Frank Dalby Davison, Alan Marshall, Leonard Mann and John S. Manifold will speak and read from their works. The public are invited to attend and to take part in the discussions.

Braybrook Workers At Peace Congress

DELEGATES to the Peace Council were elected at a mass meeting of workers at the Harland Engineering Co., Braybrook, last week.

The workers had been addressed by Dr. T. Kaiser, speaking on behalf of the Australian Peace Council.

They unanimously carried a resolution supporting the aims and objects of the APC.

BWIU Men Stop Work On Hotel

MEMBERS of the Building Workers' Industrial Union working on the luxury Moonah Hotel job, spontaneously stopped work last week to demand a 11% increase in wages and to protest against the luxury character of the job.

This stoppage was in on way organized by the union leadership. The Moonah hotel is one of the scandalous aspects of the Holtway Government's lack of concern for the interests of the workers. This luxury hotel is being built by the Yank-

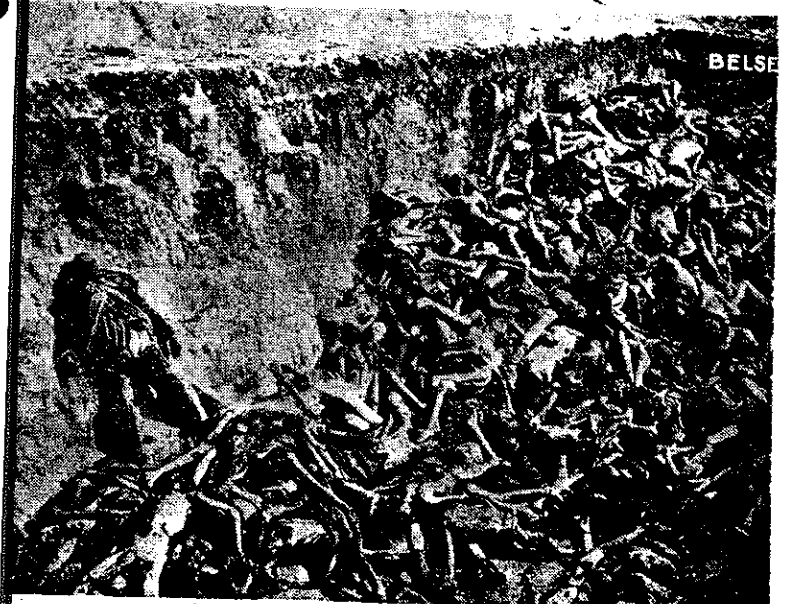
backed Victorian transport boss, R. H. Ansett, as one of a chain of hotels at tourist spots. This \$50,000 luxury job is going ahead under a government permit while thousands are forced to live in emergency housing settlements and tens of thousands live in overcrowded conditions or in slums.

Mr. Edmunds, "one" member of the "Liberal" Party, said that Mr. Holtway, in justifying the granting of a permit for this job, stated "with charming candour" that Mr. Ansett was a

generous donor to the "Liberal" Party. The original permit, said Mr. Edmunds, was granted by Mr. Barry—ex-Labor Housing Minister—and it was well known that Mr. Ansett gave to the Labor Party also.

The 57 building workers involved in the stoppage stated that before they would return to work, they would have discussions as to whether the job is a sufficient increase in pay in view of the luxury character of the work. They weren't going to build luxury jobs while battling for live-

ATTACKS ON LIBERTY LEAD TO THIS...



This picture was taken at Belsen concentration camp in Nazi Germany, happened in a "civilised" country in the 20th century. Hitler began his drive and attacks on liberty under the slogan of attacking Communists. It led to a frightful horror. Menzies threatened attacks on liberty are not a matter for chair debate, they are a matter of life or death for the Australian people. What are you doing about it NOW?

Workers must be alerted as Menzies seeks way to defy public on ban

PRIME Minister Menzies has personally taken over the drafting of legislation to ban the Communist Party and remove democratically elected trade union leaders from office, says a report from Canberra.

Menzies is seeking some means to defy the strong nationwide protests of Australian democrats against his threats to liberty and the warnings of Parliamentary draftsmen that the proposed legislation would be unconstitutional.

This personal-drafted "Subversive Activities Bill" may be brought before Parliament when it reopens next week.

Meanwhile, although no real or imaginary state or emergency exists in Australia, Menzies' state of emergency under section 30J of the Crimes Act remains in force threatening the union movement.

It is clearly Menzies' plan to keep the Crimes Act constantly poised over the workers' heads as a threat against opposition to his new "Subversive Activities Bill."

Strengthening other protests, the Federal Council of the Sea-

men's Union this week threatened industrial action if the Crimes Act is used against any working class leader. (See page 6.)

In his attacks on democracy Menzies is keeping step with his American masters who this week imposed a five year jail sentence on popular West Coast union leader Harry Bridges. (See page 4.)

Menzies' Subversive Activities Bill is itself said to be based on the American Smith Act under which 12 Communist leaders were recently sentenced in New York, not for any actions committed but for the thoughts and beliefs they held.

Menzies' new bill is readied for Parliament. Australian democrats are redoubling their energies to fight for their liberties against Menzies' American-war inspired drive to fascism.

The Democratic Rights Council has announced two major moves—an enlarged conference in the Lower Melbourne Town Hall on Saturday, April 22, and a great inter-state deputation to Canberra on Thursday April 27, to carry the fight against repressive laws to the politicians.

The Communist Party has called on all defenders of liberty to show their strength at a monster protest meeting on the Yarra Bank on April 30. Mr. E. Hill, State Secretary of the Communist Party, Mr. R. Gibson, Mr. J. J. Brown, and Dr. G. P. O'Day will be among the speakers.

Democratic rights conference, see page 6.

KEEP PRESSURE ON FEDERAL POLITICIANS

FEDERAL politicians must be allowed to escape their responsibilities to Australian democrats by isolating themselves in Canberra. It's in Canberra that the already large nationwide wreck Australian democracy, so it's to Canberra that Australian democrats must go.

Mr. Chandler (secretary of BWIU) said this yesterday morning for more trade unionists join the Victorian contingent in the already large nationwide deputation to the Federal Capital April 27 in protest against Menzies' proposed "Subversive Activities Bill."

The Victorian contingent deputation is being organised by the Democratic Rights Council, which Mr. Chandler is the surer.

Mr. Chandler said that all many of Victoria's foremost leaders had joined the deputation and that eight cars had so far arranged to take the deputation. Some would fly to Canberra including, he understood, the Frank Hartle—(president of Democratic Rights Council).

The deputation would meet with representatives from all States in Canberra.

Mr. Chandler pointed out that the still commanded a majority in the Senate enabling the Menzies' Bill and said every member of Parliament should at party must be made to feel their personal responsibility in allowing any law to be passed which would enable the Yank millionaires to merely expect their opinions.