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Fraser Govt to hit motorists

The Australian motorist is about to be slapped by the Fraser Government and the big oil monopolies.

The Liberal-National Country Party Government policy is to tie the price of locally produced oil to OPEC price rises thus helping the big oil monopolies to enlarge their already huge profits and bringing in extra government revenue at the expense of the ordinary Australian motorist.

Opposition spokesman on minerals and energy, Mr Paul Keating, said last Sunday that oil import price parity policy is nothing more than a massive tax swindle. The \$5-a-barrel increase which took place on Wednesday December 12 would add 1.5 per cent to our inflation rate and, if predictions of a further rise to \$30-a-barrel at the OPEC meeting, which began earlier this week, were accurate, inflation in Australia would jump by three points if the Fraser Government kept its oil price parity policy.

MASSIVE SWINDLE

Mr Keating stated that the present Australian price of \$18.66 a barrel is, already, a massive swindle of the public by the Federal Government. "The \$2,023 million revenue that is raised from it, is equal to a 17 per cent real increase in personal taxation," he said. If the Arab oil rise on Wednesday 12 was passed on in Australia that percentage figure would go from 17 to 23 per cent, and if the rumoured OPEC rise to \$30-a-barrel was applied in Australia, the personal tax equivalent would be lifted to 31 per cent.

"No Australian Government could politically survive these tax imposts if they were levied directly. By the strength of indirect taxation Mr Fraser has become the highest-taxing Prime Minister in Australian history," the Labor spokesman said.

According to the Fraser Government policies, motorists might be paying about 40 cents a litre for petrol in the new year.

Seventy per cent of Australia's oil costs about \$1 a barrel to

produce; government revenue accounts for 90 per cent of the difference between production cost and the price consumers pay.

Paul Keating denounced as fundamentally dishonest the Liberal-National Country oil parity policy, which argues that energy should be priced at its replacement cost. There was no import parity prices for coal, natural gas or electricity used in smelters — those resources were going overseas at bargain prices, he said.

The big beneficiaries of this reactionary policy are Esso and BHP, which are the two companies exploiting "old oil" that is, oil wells already in production. The hundreds of millions of dollars that they will reap thanks to the import parity policy will do nothing for energy replacement, as exploration is taking place mostly in the North-West Shelf and it is done, mainly, by companies who have not yet produced any oil.

AT THE WORKERS' EXPENSE

The main aims behind this Fraser Government policy is to increase federal revenue and oil monopolies profits, at the workers' expense and lift the electoral appeal of the Liberal-National Country Parties coalition by offering some form of tax cut before the next federal election.

No tax cut that the Fraser-Howard team could offer will replace the slice of workers' wages that the petrol price increase will mean. Australia is now in the outrageous position where motorists are contributing as much money as the entire corporate sector, the Leader of the Opposition Bill Hayden revealed at the time of the Fraser Government oil



Here is where motorists will be paying yet another petrol price increase to fatten the pockets of the oil monopolies and help Fraser out of the economic mess his government has created.

price rise in line with OPEC earlier this year.

The only immediate solution is to force the Liberal-National Country coalition to back away from this obnoxious policy, to stop hand-outs to the big transnational oil companies operating in Australia and the local monopolies and make them pay higher taxes, proportionate to the enormous profits they make.

The ALP through its min-

erals and energy spokesman, Mr Paul Keating, has said that a Labor Government would not pass the OPEC price increases on to Australian consumers, that it would break the link between OPEC and Australian prices and that it would introduce a resources tax fairer than the Fraser indirect tax on petrol, which disadvantages middle and low income earners.

A definite solution to the

oil rip-off needs a policy which goes further than what Mr Keating mentioned. Although the ALP policy is a welcome step on the right direction the energy problems of Australia will only be solved through a policy which contemplates, among other measures, public ownership and control of all energy resources, including exploration, production, refining and distribution. ■

National wage robbery

The protracted 1979 national wage hearing by the Australian Arbitration Commission concluded last week, and at this stage it is anticipated that a decision on the Unions' claims will not be given until early next year.

Just what is meant by early next year is not clear. The usual practice is for the Arbitration Commission to suspend operations until early in February.

Our first 1980 issue will come out on January 16. Happy new year!

However it is possible for one member of the Commission to deliver the Full Bench decision and that process would enable a decision to be delivered sometime in January.

However, the delay in this case is robbing workers of

thousands of dollars in wages. According to the formula for wage indexation adopted by the Arbitration Commission when it first introduced wage indexation in April 1975, quarterly hearings of claims

(Continued page 17)

the SOCIALIST where life in the USSR is meant to be easy

Sir Roderick and national independence

The remarks about foreign capital made by head of the CRA mining group, Sir Roderick Carnegie, in the ABC television series, *Faces of the Eighties*, are of considerable political significance.

He said that Australians will pay dearly for relying too much on foreign capital. He went on:

"People don't realise the cost. If you get two dollars in 1979 from overseas...those owners want a dollar a year from 1990 onwards forward."

Sir Roderick said he favoured more Australian ownership of industry and resources.

CRA is Australia's largest mineral group and is 68.2 per cent foreign owned. Sir Roderick boasted, however, that the group was committed to becoming Australian in about 100 years time!

One could be forgiven for having serious doubts about Sir Roderick's qualifications to be a "champion of Australian independence." He represents those capitalists who have made, and continue to make, millions out of an arrangement between Australian and foreign capital which has allowed an alarming degree of foreign penetration into this country. In Sir Roderick's own words this is likely to go on for 100 years at least.

The real significance of Sir Roderick's remarks is that Australians cannot rely on capitalist circles to protect the genuine interests of this country. Australian big business does have its own economic and political aims, but its desire for maximum profits leads it to exploit Australian labour and resources (together with foreign capital, leading in turn, to the undermining of Australia's independence).

The working class, which is free from such motives of private profit, is in the best position to rally all the genuine and truly patriotic forces in the Australian community in combating this sell out.

The most effective weapon available to such progressive forces is that of public ownership of big monopoly concerns, both Australian and overseas. Only by this means, has Australia effectively strengthened its national independence, its economic and political integrity.

Reliance on methods such as increasing Australia's equity over 100 years carries with it the danger of continuing the "process of betrayal" while creating the illusion that something is being done to check such a process.

As the Socialist Party of Australia's *Socialist Program* says:

"It is the Australian working class which has acted consistently for the national independence of Australia. It has been free from foreign capitalist exploitation and subservience..."

"The awakened concern by sections of the capitalist class is to welcome and assist any progressive forces which help to reduce and control foreign investment should be supported while noting that their attitude springs more from consideration of profit and power than a genuine commitment to Australia's independence and progress."

In the past fifteen years 160 million people (the USSR's population is just over 260 million) have improved their living standards. At present over two million families are built in the USSR every year.

In the USSR, non-consumer spending, such as on taxes, services and transport, community education, and so on, accounts for just 20 per cent of the average family's budget of the average family.

For instance, the proportion of taxes is a mere 1.3 per cent in the budget of a peasant family and a little more than eight per cent in the case of a worker's family.

ITS FREE

Education and medical assistance are free in the USSR. Furthermore, students of higher and specialized secondary educational establishments are paid student grants. In case of an illness, a person is paid for all allowed absences. The average monthly work remuneration, if his service record is not less than eight years.

In the countryside, 80 per cent of families receive housing free of charge, because housing construction is financed from the state budget. For instance, the budget allocations for housing construction in 1978 were 17,500 million roubles, or 17.5 billion dollars.

In the cities, the rent is the lowest in the world. It has not changed since 1928 and constitutes less than 2 per cent of the budget of workers' families. The charges for the amenities have been stable since 1948. The rent and the amenities do not exceed 3-4 per cent of the family budget.

The price of electricity, gas, gasoline, and the cost of heating, hot water and telephone, as well as municipal transport fares in the USSR are the lowest in the world. For instance, each family pays monthly 0.16 roubles per capita for gas, no matter how much fuel is consumed, and 2.5 roubles a month for the telephone, regardless of the number and duration of talks. A litre of gasoline costs 0.15-20 roubles.

All this enables the Soviet family to spend 80 per cent of its budget on purchasing goods and services, whereas in the West this figure stands at between 40 per cent, because taxes, health service, and amenities are too costly there.

This is the reason why it makes no sense to mechanically compare the cash incomes of the Soviet working people with those of the working people in the advanced capitalist countries. Despite this, the Western press often compares them, which automatically results in belittling real incomes in the USSR by at least two times.

All Soviet people know that their living standards in per capita figures are still lower than those of the most advanced Western states, but the gap is not so big as Western mass media seek to present.

In this fifteen-year period, the production of material wealth in the USSR has reached quantitatively the standards of the highly developed countries in many indicators. The number of TV sets per thousand of the population has increased by more than 3 times, of refrigerators — by more than 7 times, and of cars — by approximately 20 times.

On the threshold of a new decade the Soviet economy has the most rapid growth rate of economic development — to ensure the stable growth of the well-being of all sections of the population, of each family, remains unchanged.

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Large preferences for the free press

At the time of writing, Rupert Murdoch had successfully taken over Ansett, and Melbourne's television channel 7 with it, thus extending his mediocracy even further. On the other hand, the defence against Murdoch's previous unsuccessful bid to swallow up the Herald and Weekly Times (HWT), John Fairfax (JF) bought 15 per cent of the HWT shares for about \$50 million, marrying up, in that way, the HWT and HWT 7 media empires.

It was then that the chairman of JF, James Fairfax, came up with a comment from him, somewhat curious statement: "The public interest requires that there be as wide a degree as possible of independence and diversity of reference and comment on newspapers and other means of public information."

The chairman of HWT, Mr. K. Macpherson, came valiantly in support of his savour and now partner saying that Fairfax would be rewarded in the knowledge that it played such a big part in ensuring that both could continue "in an unfeigned way to maintain the quality standards of a free press."

Of course, Murdoch is a mass media monopoly capitalist, but what about the claims by Fairfax and Macpherson to be defenders of an independent, diverse and free press?

So how can these two monopolists talk of press freedom? The hard cold fact is that the Australian press, radio and TV is tied up by four monopoly groups — Murdoch's News Limited, HWT, JF and Packer's Consolidated Press.

The private monopolised mass media in this country contrasts sharply to the "people's monopoly" of the mass media in the socialist countries where every section of the people which plays a part in the economic, political, social and cultural life of the country has the mass media available to it.

The private monopoly in Australia undermines the importance of building the Socialist Party and its political, moral and theoretical arm, the *Australian Marxist Review*.

It also highlights the need for the labour movement as a whole to develop a vigorous anti-monopoly press, using all available resources in the message home to as many people as possible in the most effective way possible.



Rupert Murdoch

of HWT which is coming across.

In Sydney, one might read the *Sydney Morning Herald* in the morning, the *Sun* in the afternoon and the *Sun Herald* on Sunday. In each case, it is the voice of JF which is coming through.

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Greetings from the Central Committee

On behalf of the Central Committee of the Socialist Party of Australia we bring you seasons greetings and best wishes. Not only is the year ending in 1979, another decade.

Facing among all the issues forcing humanity is the question of peace and war. The imperialist powers, egged on and pressured by the US leaders, have embarked on a new round of arms building. It is a most dangerous decision which must lead the whole world ever closer to the brink. The NATO policy is irresponsible and criminal.

A massive movement of the people, such as is building up in European countries, is necessary to stop this race and in many other ways. That the progressive, socialist forces are winning in our countries is obvious. In their hands is the hope of the world for the future.

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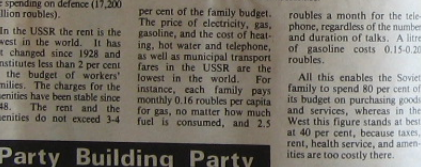
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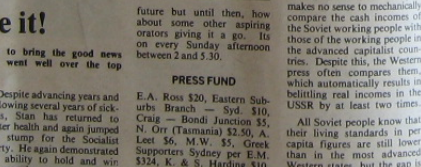
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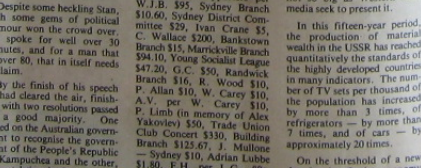
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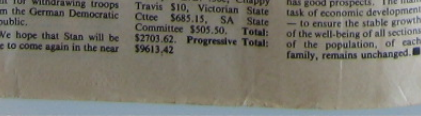
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Party Building Party Building Party

We've done it!

With this last issue of the *Socialist* for the year we are able to have overfilled our \$8,000 Press Fund target, with \$9613.42 at this stage and we know there is more to come.

Our supporters rallied in November and December and together with the takings for the Socialist Festival we rolled well over the target figure. That's magnificent! The spirit was to be seen in a letter from G. Wallace of Brisbane, who, because he is a chronic asthmatic cannot undertake normal activities. He hopes to see a weekly *Socialist* soon.

We sent us \$200 and said he will "keep plugging". Thanks comrades and best wishes.

But, it is not only on the money front we have good news. Received an increased order from Collinsville, Nth Queensland during the week. The newly formed Collinsville Branch has appointed a press officer. The *Socialist* will now be distributed to the various miners' crib rooms and extra sales are expected around town.

Reports coming in show that the 12-pager is appreciated and makes for a much better paper.

We wish a merry Christmas and a happy new year to all *Socialist* readers. We also wish an increase in paper sales.

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Here to after the Year of the Child?

Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) set as its highest priority, the implementation of an ongoing national program to bring Aboriginal children to the same level of well being as other Australian children.

The Fraser Government has shown its lack of concern for the children of Australia, as it is one of three countries (the other two being Canada and USA) taking constructive and provocative action in proceeding towards the adoption by UN of an international convention based on the Declaration of the Rights of the Child.

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Talk Back!

Britain's National Coal Grid collapsed from heat during a visit to a Kent coal mine recently. When he recovered he delivered a speech criticising Kent miners for their low productivity...

Someone sent us a cutting from *Aviation Week* October, 1955. It quotes General White, the USAF Vice Chief of Staff at the time as saying to a meeting of US military leaders in the Pentagon that if the Soviet Union continues to make gains in quality the US may have to think more about matching their quantity. He said that while the Soviet Union now has thousands more combat planes than the US, the American aircraft were superior...He was speaking in support of a campaign to expand the goal of a 137-wing Air Force.

All sounds very familiar but, today, the same arguments are being trotted out to justify ever more numerous and deadly nuclear weapons.

An Adelaide report says an Aboriginal man awaiting trial in the Yatala prison is unable to raise the money of \$1,000 and the personal recognisance of \$1,000 on charges which carries a maximum penalty of 12 years imprisonment.

Like everything else under capitalism an attempt at "saving a soul" may prove to be expensive.

Tricky Dick Nixon of Watergate fame, the President who was only saved from impeachment resignation, advocated a "boots and all" policy towards Iran. His "bombs and all" policy in Vietnam resulted in his boots getting stuck in the quagmires, with millions of people losing their lives.

Australia has the highest teenage suicide rate in the western world. There are 200,000 underprivileged children in Australia, 60 per cent of them in NSW. This is International Day of the Child.

There is a story about in Queensland that some airline companies associated with some politicians and other influential people in North Queensland are involved with drug trafficking. The members of the airline, Tait, caught in the airline drugs into Queensland. He received a light sentence of seven years despite the fact that he was supposed to have served a 10 year sentence in Indonesia. (Integrating Unit 10)

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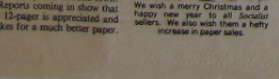
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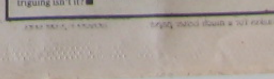
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Pages from labour history

An Australian glances at 62 years of socialist progress

By Edgar Ross

As long as I live I will never forget the emotional impact of driving through Moscow's Red Square in the small hours of that morning in 1955 when I made my first visit to the USSR.

To see it all at last! — the associations of a life time — the Aurora, still moored in the Neva at Leningrad, from which had been fired the shots that signalled the storming of the Winter Palace, with nearby, the Smolny where the Bolsheviks planned their seizure of power.

The ten days that shook the world on November 7, 1917, established the first socialist state in history.

I can remember something of the great event filtered through a hostile media to the people of Australia.

Especially, the tremendous enthusiasm of the socialists of the time, as the Red Flag was flown

the streets of Sydney, sent sheepskins to clothe the Russian people and spoke alongside Government ministers in Martin Place to call for even greater support — the halcyon days of The Grand Alliance.

A terrible toll of death and destruction was the lot of the USSR — 20 million dead, 25 million homeless, 32,000 industrial enterprises destroyed.

I made another visit in 1970, by which time the national income had increased five times since my first visit, and the Soviet Union had topped the USA in the production of steel, coal and other basic commodities.

But it was during a three months' stay in 1974 as correspondent for *The Socialist* that I grasped to the fullest extent the deep-going transformation brought about by socialism, as I lived among the Russian people, virtually as one of them, in a flat in the Lenin Hills, a district that had the Moscow University as almost its sole occupant in 1955 and was now an of a quarter of a million people.

For our flat my wife and I paid monthly a rent of 11-12 roubles (then approximately equivalent to Australian dollars), which included all services... electricity, gas, etc. (even telephone).

As I shoped in their crowded stores (the average wage had gone up 20 per cent since my previous visit), travelled in their transports, met them on the river bank, attended their theatres and clubs, I appreciated more than ever before the deep history significance of what was happening in the USSR and the extent of the lies that have poured unceasingly from the capitalist media since 1917).



A scene of the storming of the Winter Palace

from the Trades Hall and workers vowed tools to haul their Russian comrades' mighty achievement.

But early visitors returned to Australia to report on the new Soviet state fighting for its very survival, against armies of intervention from nearly every capitalist country in the world, including Australia. I heard of it at first hand from one of its first to reach Soviet Russia (1921), Broken Hill miner Patrick Lamb.

The progressive people of Australia rallied energetically to the call for aid and raised the cry that was to be sounded many times over the years. "Hands off Russia!"

The October Revolution, too, represented a challenge to socialists throughout the world, and the Australian labour movement was reshaped. A Marxist-Leninist party, the Communist Party of Australia, was founded, and the Australian Labor Party adopted socialism as its objective.

Workers throughout the world were filled with admiration as the hands of its workers, peasants, one of the most backward countries in the world was transformed into a modern industrial state, at a far more rapid rate of development than attained by any capitalist country.

The process was tragically interrupted by the advent of the Second World War. However the times were marked by an even higher level of aid from Australia. With official approval, we communists sold buttons in

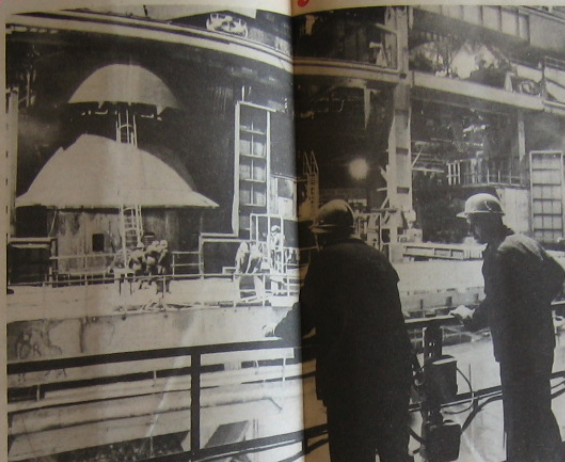
In 1955, however, the completion of the latest 5 year plan had boosted production by 220 per cent compared with pre-war and literally all war damage had been repaired, all except a ruined building in Stalingrad deliberately left as a stark reminder and a warning of continuing insecurity as long as imperialist states remain.

As a fraternal delegate to the 22nd congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union in 1961 I heard of the great progress made in just six years and of the ambitious plans for accelerated development to lay the foundations for a communist society.

And in visits to many centres I saw with my own eyes the tremendous developments in housing, general community welfare and industry, with the people better clothed and fed, with enthusiasm everywhere for the opening of vast virgin lands to boost agriculture.

During two months in 1966 as leader of a central committee delegation I saw again the visible evidence of the further boost in gross production (50 per cent since 1961) and a certain shifting of the emphasis to consumer goods.

It was not difficult to confirm the truth of the claim that the USSR now led the world in services for education (free, health care (everything free) and social security (complete non-contributory insurance, and unemployment long since abolished).



The socialist mode of production has taken the Soviet Union from 19th century backwardness under the Czars to the forefront as one of the richest and most developed countries in the world.

Through my own experience I proved the truth of the claim that there is no such thing as inflation in the Soviet Union, as I travelled on the underground railway for 5 kopeks (a flat rate covering the whole network of about 100 miles), the same as I paid nearly 25 years earlier. And the same in the case of other

essential commodities, which have continued to rise year after year. The Russian people were now spending about twice as much as in the 1961-64 period.

How difficult, nevertheless, to convey the completely different outlook, hence behaviour, of the people of a socialist country to people living under capitalism, values and brought up to accept that "you can't change human nature!"

The people of this socialist country are different in their relations to each other and to the society in which they live; they do act in accordance with the principle of co-operation for the general well being instead of the destructive competition of "get what you can and to hell with everybody else!"

Exceptions — and, of course, there are still individuals in the USSR not yet in harmony with their society — simply go to prove the rule, the norm.

The "rule" is seen in unionists actively participating in the setting of their production quotas and proudly displaying medals for achievements in industry, families reading their own electricity meters to work out their rents as we did; passengers on buses without conductors putting their fares into an "honor" box.

Citizens committees (involving millions) keeping law and order in a country where there is no organised crime (and little evidence of any hoodlums); groups of citizens I saw spending their weekends to keep their locality clean

"freedom," "human rights," etc.

True, there is no "freedom" in the Soviet Union to exploit others, to sell or advertise adulterated food, to preach war or racism or to sabotage socialist development. But there is far more public and meaningful criticism of authorities, far more real mass participation in effective government (with more than 2 million workers electing deputies) and far more respect for human rights than in any capitalist country.

We can be justly proud of the continuity of Australian support for the Soviet Union from its first day, through all the periods of "cold war" and provocation, a support which now reaches far beyond a small circle of socialists to leading representatives of the community in all walks of life including government. We, of the Socialist Party of Australia, have a special responsibility to ensure that continues and, indeed, strengthens.

THE GREATEST DEBT

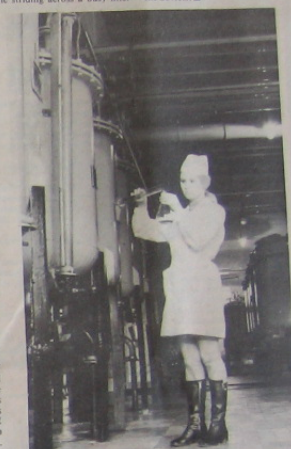
The development of the USSR to a communist society is irreversible. And whatever the actual details of the inevitable change-over process in Australia, from capitalism to socialism, it will certainly owe a great — perhaps even the greatest — debt to the October revolution, the inspiration of the triumphant revolt itself, the clarification of basic revolutionary theory and the organisation that its achievements helped to bring into being. It is a demonstration that socialist works, and its practical aid to countries taking the socialist road.

Meanwhile, history has given the Soviet Union the main responsibility for safeguarding and assisting the extending socialist sector of the world and averting nuclear war.

The most prominent slogan to be seen in public places throughout the Soviet Union is that calling for a durable peace. There was one striding across a busy inter-

section near our flat. The call for peace was the first decree issued by the new Soviet government in 1917. And Russia continues to be the epitome of the chief initiatives for averting war.

The Soviet Union stands guard for world peace. All Power to the Soviets!



Soviet industry and technology has made spectacular advances in the last 60 years.

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Soviet children grow assured that the steady progress of their society will help, and not hinder, their development has human beings.

Australia's creeping dictatorship

Bit by bit, long-held democratic rights of the Australian people are being ripped away. The cadres are being blown out by reactionary governments. The Federal and some State governments are pushing through one piece of legislation after another which deny the right of free speech and meeting, the right to strike, the right to privacy and the freedom of organisation.

The architects of this policy hope that by using "little by little" tactics they will be able to implement their restrictions without causing too much opposition — until it is too late and it won't be possible to act. Present they are getting away with it.

Below are some details of recent legislation concerning ASIO, the Queensland Essential Services Act and other government amendments to the Arbitration Act. There are a number of others.

The ASIO Act

The Fraser Government recently amended the Act concerning the operations of the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation.

ASIO is really a political police. It has always acted to spy upon, infiltrate and disrupt the organisations of the working people, trade unions, the ALP, the Communist Party, the Socialist Party and many other public and legal organisations.

When the word "security" is used it really means security for the existing order of things, the private enterprise, capitalist system.

The Act has a section dealing with "domestic subversion" which is defined as "activities that involve, will involve or lead to or are intended or likely ultimately to involve or lead to, the use of force or violence or other unlawful acts... for the purpose of overthrowing or destroying the constitutional government of the Commonwealth or of a State or Territory."

This definition is so wide that almost any political activity could be said to be subversive.

Clause 25 provides for the searching of premises, the examination and even removal of records, if it is thought the person or organisation "is engaged in activities constituting, or in preparation for, domestic subversion."

Clause 26 authorises the use of listening devices (bugs).

Clause 27 authorises the opening of mail.

Clause 92 forbids the publication of the name of any ASIO spy. Penalty: \$1,000 or imprisonment for one year.



Fraser's union-busting legislation

In October the Federal Government made amendments to the Conciliation and Arbitration Act. Even the Conciliation Commissioners protested.

Former President of the Conciliation and Arbitration Commission Mr Justice Kirby, said the amendments were "substantially invalid" and that the government was trying to tell the commission how to conduct its business.

The amendments:

- Give a minister the right to start de-organisation of a union or part of a union engaging in any industrial action harmful to community safety, health or welfare.
- Require an arbitration commissioner to consult his deputy president before making or varying an award on wages and conditions.
- Provide for quick hearing of stand-down applications.
- Allow the commission president to withdraw a matter from another member of the commission and deal with it himself or refer it to a full bench.
- Stop the commission agreeing to any employer paying wages to workers engaged in industrial action.
- Writing of this legislation Mr C.P. Mills, Reader in Commercial and Industrial Law, University of Sydney, said:

"Once deorganised, a union is not to be allowed to register without government permission. These powers are absolute. There are no guidelines for their exercise. There is no right of recourse to a court or to any industrial tribunal."

"This is the essential mark of a totalitarian, authoritarian regime, even though there is no provision for gas chambers, at least in the present bill."

It is the Liberal-NCP governments which are pushing through these measures and behind them are the giant local and multi-national corporations.

It is no accident that the WA and Queensland State governments are foremost in imposing undemocratic restrictions on the people. In these States there are huge mineral resources worth billions of dollars profit and owned by big national and international mining companies.

These resources, in the ground for millions of years, are being sold out to private enterprise. All will get peanuts for their work... that is, if they have a job at all. All these resources should belong to the people as a whole.

The Australian people have waged many struggles for democratic rights...the Eureka Stockade, against conscription, for the right to organise and meet, for workers' rights against "pains and penalties," but....

"The price of liberty is eternal vigilance!"

Joh's Essential Services Act

In the meantime US Secretary of State, Cyrus Vance visited London, Paris, Bonn, Rome and talked to the NATO Council in Brussels trying to muster support for the Carter Administration's attempt to put the economic screws on Iran.

Twenty one US war-ships, including aircraft carriers are now stationed at the entrance of the Persian Gulf while anti-Indian hysteria is being fanned to fever pitch in the US.

In Paris, the French magazine *VSD* reported that the first US commandos delivered by the Hercules planes had landed at Dahrn, Saudi Arabia's chief oil port in the Persian Gulf.

They all wore civilian clothes and were officially described as "technical specialists."

Under the protection of the missile cruiser *La Salle* these forces could take possession of the island and port of Kharg where there are huge oil tanks holding reserves of Iranian oil for export.

The magazine also reports that 40,000 former Iranian military men, paid by the Shah, have been concentrated in Egypt, Israel and Jordan.

This Act has been declared by the whole trade union movement of Queensland to be divisive, undemocratic and offensive to the established principles of industrial relations.

It is to be passed and over-ruled the Conciliation and Arbitration Commission and the Industrial Court.

- The Act enables the government minister to confiscate property without approval, authority, consent or recompense.
- It authorises trespassing, requires government employees to be strike-breakers and authorises the setting up of private professional armies for the purpose of strike-breaking.
- Gives power to victimise persons as "trouble-makers."
- Enables creation of lame-cat unions and provides for draconian penalties against individuals, union officials and union organisations.

Section 37 (4) (b) provides that if a person is alleged in a newspaper to have made a statement on behalf of a union, the union is deemed to have procured the person to make the statement on its behalf and the statement is deemed to be true. The onus of proof is reversed. A person is declared guilty and has to prove his innocence. It is the perfect set-up for a frame-up.

The Queensland trade union movement says, this legislation, "mirrors the attitude of mind that exists in fascist and totalitarian countries. It is a disgrace to democracy."

Its time to act!

This creeping dictatorship must be resisted in every way. The workers' rights to organise, to meet, to speak, to strike, to act, to defend and improve conditions and wages must be preserved.

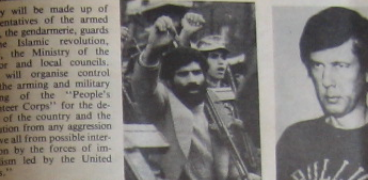
In some countries, such as fascist Chile, the workers and their organisations have lost these rights. In a letter to the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the National Trade Union Co-ordinating Committee of Chile wrote in March, 1979 that,

"In recent years, we have repeatedly denounced the way in which the Chilean government has trampled on the rights and gains of working class but trade union leaders have been persecuted and workers, peasants and professionals' organisations have been dissolved, simply because they differed from the official policy. They have denounced the arbitrary detentions, the banishments, tortures, ill-treatment and harassment of leaders and workers, as well as the expulsions from the country, the holdings, the watching of our premises and the disappearance of comrades holding positions of responsibility in our organisations."

A number of the conditions imposed in fascist Chile are already coming into existence here. The time to act is now!

Iran stands firm before US threats

A representative of the Islamic Revolutionary Council at the National Defence Ministry, Ayatollah Khomeini, has announced the formation of "national mobilisation headquarters".



Iranian stand united against US threats. They are ready to fight imperialism for their freedom.

In Cairo, the General Secretary of the National Progressive Front (NPP) of Egypt made a public statement saying that the provocative military preparations of the US close to Iran, unprecedented in scale and significance as the freezing of Iranian assets in US banks and the ending of imports of Iranian oil, have the aim of intimidating the Iranian people and make them give up their revolutionary gains.

The American-Iranian conflict has a wider framework, said NPP's statement; it is a confrontation between US imperialism and world reaction on the one hand and all the peoples of the Middle East and the other. In this connection, the document stresses, all Arab countries must assume an active stand to oppose Washington intrigues against Iran.

In Istanbul the military press in Turkey has been put on

full alert. In connection with this, the Turkish newspaper *Gunduz* wrote that the Turkish Government had categorically protested against the military bases in relation to Iranian developments and stressed that if the US resorts to military interference in Iran and begin moving its troops through the bases in Turkey, this will inflict irreparable damage on Turkish-American relations.

At a press conference given by the Turkish Ambassador in Washington Doherty and Makolm Kolb, two CIA agents, who used the American Embassy as a cover for their activities.

The Chinese negotiators the newspaper points out, have again put forward their old allegation of the "Vietnamese-Chinese border and blame Vietnam for the tension between the PRC and the SRV.

Unfortunately, the newspaper stresses, the Peking leadership has failed to grasp lessons from the recent past.

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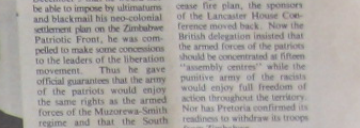
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Zimbabwe patriots face British pro-racist bias

Explaining the new difficulties in the negotiations on the future of Zimbabwe the British press have pointed out that there is a great gap between what Britain says and its actions concerning that country.

When British Foreign Secretary, Lord Carrington, gave a speech on December 5 that he was not able to impose by ultimatums and blackmail his neo-colonial settlement plan on the Zimbabwe Patriotic Front, he was compelled to make some concessions to the leaders of the liberation movement. Thus he gave official guarantees that the army of the patriots would enjoy the same rights as the British army of the Mozambique-Smith regime and that the South African occupation troops



Obviously, the aim of all these diplomatic tricks is to facilitate interventionist actions by South Africa and punitive operations by the legal soldiers of the British Empire within its region so as to try and prolong the life of the racists in Rhodesia.

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Vietnam denounces: China is using talks to screen war preparations

The Vietnamese-Chinese talks have not made a single step forward because the Chinese Government uses them as a screen for preparations for war, says the newspaper *Xinhua* Daily.

The Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, in its editorial article commenting on the results of the scheduled session of the second round of talks in Peking.

The Chinese negotiators the newspaper points out, have again put forward their old allegation of the "Vietnamese-Chinese border and blame Vietnam for the tension between the PRC and the SRV.

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Mounting outcry against NATO nuclear rockets plan

As the NATO Council met last week in Brussels to decide on the stationing of US medium range nuclear missiles in Western European countries, public outcry against the Pentagon's plans mounted.

Main movements are developing in many Western European countries demanding a halt to this new step in the arms race. Communist and workers parties in most European countries are leading big public demonstrations, while the peace movement, progressive political and public circles are gathering for the fight against this new step to peace.

Swiss Foreign Minister Andre Gromyko answering a question from a German news agency in Berlin referred to some NATO responses to the USSR's proposals for immediate negotiations. He has the plan to deploy the new nuclear missiles so as to avoid any serious arms build up.

He said that the NATO leaders were turning everything upside down by talking about the possibility of talks only after the production and stationing of the new weapons in Western Europe.

The socialist countries could not permit the upsetting of the equality which at present exists in the military field between the NATO states and the Warsaw Treaty countries.

Mr Gromyko called for the holding of negotiations without delay — this question is literally speaking, knocking at the door of the house of every European.

A communique issued by a meeting of Foreign Ministers of the Warsaw Treaty states appealed once again to abstain from steps capable of complicating the situation on the like negotiations on the basis without delay.

In a press statement on the military facts of the matter,

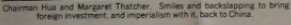
the NATO powers met to agree on stationing new nuclear missiles in Western Europe. The USSR has been sending a picture of a Democratic People's Republic of Korea nuclear reactor which shows German people holding the Soviet troops farewell.

China to export cheap labour for dollars

If current plans of the Chinese Government succeed many Western countries will soon have huge colonies of Chinese working in their countries. China's Marxist leadership has offered cheap labour force to Japan and capitalist countries in Western Europe and the Middle East.

Thus, the Chinese leadership hopes to get hard currency, get rid of a part of the huge army of unemployed (which reached 20 million already) and to gain important knowledge of the countries which will participate in the scheme.

In this regard we should remember that an important percentage of the prisoners taken by the Vietnamese militia during the failed Chinese invasion of February, this year, turned out to be former Chinese workers sent in earlier years by China's government to work in joint construction programs designed in some Vietnamese provinces; during the invasion, because of the knowledge of the territory they acquired while working in Vietnam, they were at the vanguard of the attacking Chinese troops.



Chauhan Hua and Margaret Thatcher. Smiles and backslapping to bring the Chinese investment and exportation.

Only about 20 per cent of their monthly earning, the rest of the money will go to the Chinese treasury. The Chinese authorities in setting up this new kind of slave-trade are offering labour force to capitalist monopolies for \$300 to \$500 a month, which is considerably lower than the minimum wage level in many Western countries. The Peking leaders have added a few extra bonuses like treating the Chinese workers on a 48-hour week with no holidays, except the Chinese New Year.

Questions of wages, working and living conditions are to be discussed only by the Chinese workers themselves but by the Peking authorities who will also fix the earnings of each worker. According to the plan, workers will be paid

British newspaper accuses West is helping criminal Pol Pot

There are irrefutable proofs of the fact that the West continues to aid the Pol Pot men, the newspaper *Guardian* stresses in a dispatch from the Kampuchean-Thai border.

The *Khmer Rouge* whom President Carter described in 1978 as the meanest violators of human rights in the world, are now called "resistance forces" by the Western powers, the dispatch points out with bitter irony.

The *Khmer Rouge* are receiving Western aid, although nobody wants to be exposed as granting such aid; therefore, aid is granted to them secretly and when this becomes known, an attempt is made to find some plausible excuse to justify it.

The correspondent reports in detail on how food and medicines are delivered across the border of Thailand to the Pol Pot men waging a struggle against the legitimate government of the People's Republic of Kampuchea. Although Bangkok continues to claim that the Pol Pot forces are not supplied via Thailand's territory, it is known that officials in Bangkok in charge of aid to starving Kampuchians say that they know of the entry of the relief aid distributed by such organisations as the International Cross and UN Children's Fund gets to *Khmer Rouge* and is used for replenishing their stocks, not only after that, the remaining food is supplied to starving civilians in the area of the Thailand-Kampuchean border.

The Chinese, the report says support the Pol Pot men, though openly. Thus, the *Guardian* article concludes, food and medicines received from various sources only help keep up the flames of war on Kampuchea's western borders.

On the other hand, the Soviet Union is giving Kampuchea its assistance both through the state bodies and as a gift of Soviet public organisations. In the current year, Soviet supplies to Kampuchea amount to 159 thousand tons of good, including 70 thousand tons of rice and 20 thousand tons of corn, 45 million metres of cloth, 50 thousand tons of cement, rolled ferrous metals, 660 automobiles and buses, medicines, paper, bicycles, household utensils and other products. A program is now being elaborated to give Kampuchea priority assistance in restoring the basic sectors of its economy.

Broad humanitarian assistance is also being given to Kampuchea by the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and other socialist countries.

The whole of the assistance by the socialist countries is delivered to Kampuchea through channels authorised by the People's Revolutionary Council of Kampuchea: by plane to Phnom Penh, by sea to the Kampuchean port of Kompongspan, as well as along the Mekong river to the city of Ho Chi Minh (Vietnam) to Phnom Penh. In the port of Kompongspan, more than 1,500 tons of cargo are being unloaded daily.

Letters to the Editor

More on swing to the right in ALP's leadership

Further damning evidence of the swing to the right in the leadership of the ALP is mentioned by Jack Booth in the December 5 issue is strikingly underlined by the comments of Senator John Wheeldon who is preparing to retire, that in the *Australian* on December 1.

Here are some highly illuminating extracts which throw light on the major differences between the major political parties have become very blurred.

"I think that the movement is very difficult to distinguish substantial ideological differences between the two major parties, and a sort of ironical corollary of this — it hasn't only happened in Australia — is that the closer the parties become in ideology the more vituperative they tend to become to each other. In other words, the less the difference between them, the greater the number of insults exchanged."

"I don't know whether the ALP has been on the right or not, but I don't think philosophically we are saying anything substantially different to the Liberal Party."

"I'm not quite sure what we are saying at the moment."

"On the one hand the ALP describes itself as a socialist party while at the same time when advocating socialist policies," he said.

"I think we ought to make up our minds. If we are a socialist party then we ought to say what we mean by it and face up to the very great problem of conceiving a rather affluent society to accept the substantial changes necessitated by socialism."

"If we are not, then we ought to stop saying we are, for all we are doing is losing votes. And if we are a party appealing to all classes of Australians, then we shouldn't have trade unions affiliated with us."

This remarkable interview with *Senator Wheeldon* throws light on the recent rejection of support for the ACTU wages decisions by Bill Hayden, who then claimed that the ALP represented, not just unionists, but all Australians.

Then we come once again to that great media star, Bob Mayer. In his much publicised Boyer lectures, he advocated the inclusion in cabinet of people such as that outstanding star of big business, Sir Roderick Carnegie, head of CRA, the giant British multi-national which also controls about 80 per cent of Hamersley Iron.

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The role of Bob Hawke

To the risk of Mr Bob Hawke would not be a great loss to the working class of Australia, but something of an unaccountable loss.

Mr Hawke said recently that he was out to destroy the left wing of the Labor Party. It is only Mr Fraser and company a favour with his fight against the socialist left, as the saying goes, "together we stand, divided we fall."

He has become a loyal manager of this system, trying his best to turn the Labor Party into a docile instrument of capitalism, acting only as a pressure group, to obtain better working conditions for the working class, as long as they don't really upset the bourgeoisie, even its colonialist, imperialist and fascist wing (as in case in point is his support for zincmin in the Middle East).

The trade union movement and the Labor Party are supposed to be working class organisations, but Mr Hawke in his eyes is a traitor to the workers' cause.

If the trade unions and the Labor Party are supposed to be working class organisations, why then, Mr Hawke after the socialist?

The Labor Party and the trade unions are supposed to be the foundations from which the working class will liberate itself from the capitalist democracy. Real democracy which presupposes the power of the owner's class behind juridical fiction.

Not meaning to be rude, but it seems to me that Mr Hawke's bid for Parliament is very timely!

G. Potosia



Diary dates

Bus Branch's end-of-year barbecue

The Bus Branch invites comrades and friends to an end-of-year barbecue to be held at the home of Nick and Maria Papanikolaou, 237 Chablon Road, Auburn (corner Wellington and Chablon Roads) on Saturday December 22 at 7.00 p.m.

Donation \$4 includes food. Refreshments available.

Secretary: Marrville Branch, BSA

YSL end-of-year party

Friends and supporters of the Young Socialist League are invited to join the YSL members to see out 1979 at an end-of-year party on Friday December 21, from 8.30 p.m. at our headquarters 392 Sussex Street (third floor), Sydney.

Free admission.



The YSL would like to wish the SPA and readers of the Socialist a happy new year.

We hope the new year, and the new decade, will bring new successes in the struggle for peace, democratic rights and socialism.

Britain keeps political prisoners near death

More than 400 Irish Republican political prisoners are today imprisoned by the British in the H-Blocks of Long Kesh prison camp in conditions which are not even fit for animals.

The unfortunate prisoners, who are kept totally naked (except for a blanket which they clutch around them) are locked in their cells 24 hours a day. Their cells contain nothing except damn mattresses upon which the bedraggled "blanket men" lie surrounded by rotting mould, or maggots-infested flies, from which there rises a terrible stench.

In late 1975 the British announced that all prisoners convicted of acts committed after March 1, 1976, would be denied political status and would be held in specially-built H-Blocks of cells at Long Kesh.

ON THE BLANKET

Thus it was that from September 1976 Republican prisoners refused both to wear prison uniform or to do prison work on the grounds that they were political prisoners and not criminals.

The British have not remained content with depriving the men of one day's remission of sentence for every day they are "on the blanket", the British have also inflicted be-

trials measures to break the protest.

For nearly three years now the "blanket men" have been allowed no exercise, no proper medical attention, no association or recreation; no hobbies or handicrafts; no TV or radio; no books (except for a Bible); no newspapers or magazines; nor other reading material; no pen or writing material; no food parcels.

These naked and defenceless men have also been subjected to regular and savage physical attacks from baton-wielding prison warders, attacks which have sometimes resulted in broken bones. Many injuries have been inflicted during repeated sadistic and degrading internal body searches.

THE DIRTY STRIKE

Starting on March 20, 1978 the "blanket men" refused to wash or shower themselves, or to sweep and mop out their cells.

One week later, in the face of even further increased brutality, they were again forced to escalate their protest; this time by refusing to leave their cells to sleep out their chamber pots.

Recent months the "blanket men's" baggard bodies have been further cut and pressed when they have been forcible dragged from their cells, scrubbed with sick scrubbers, their faces forcibly shaved and their hair forcibly dyed.

When prisoners' cells have also been blocked off so that they get virtually no natural light or fresh air, and their only means of communicating with each other is cut off.

The Socialist

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Indian communists call for offensive on big capital

The Communist Party of India (CPI) issued a document analysing the political and economic situation in the country, explaining its tactics and strategy for the elections to the lower chamber of the parliament scheduled to be held early next year.

India is faced with numerous urgent economic and social problems, the document points out. Prices of practically all products manufactured in the country, including food, continue growing. Unemployment is increasing from year to year. The total number of jobless in the country has grown from 8.3 million in 1959 to \$5 million now.

None of these problems, the document says, can be resolved without radical measures, including an offensive on private property and the economic power of big business which is closely associated with transnational corporations and other forces of imperialism.

These are the aims that the CPI has set itself, firmly committed to the defence of the vital interests of the broad masses of the working people. Great importance in the document is attached to the united front of left-wing and democratic forces for whose creation, in the opinion of the Communist Party of India, there are favourable conditions at present.

Workers plan to lift 35-hour week struggle

Metal trade unions are preparing for a big campaign in the new year to achieve a 35-hour working week for their 500,000 members. Secretary of the NSW Branch of the Metal Trades Federation of Unions, Mr Ron Arnold said that it was the unions' intention to "muster as strong a campaign as possible about the shorter working week."

Mass meetings in Sydney earlier this month backed proposals for such a campaign. After the meetings, Mr Arnold said:

"The way I envisage that the campaign will commence is that with the re-opening of industry after the Christmas close-down there will be a campaign of publicity, including written material, to highlight the issues for both members and the public."

The Queensland power workers have already been struggling for a 35-hour week. In view of the increased activity around shorter hours, the decision of the last ACTU Congress held September this year on this question is worth recalling. It read in part as follows:

"Congress believes that meeting on the threshold of the 1980s, we must recognize the urgent need for affiliates to campaign around the issues of reduced working life and increased leisure. This need is reinforced by the facts that: * It is now over 30 years since the general introduction of the 40-hour week and in that intervening period there have been considerable increases in productivity due to advances in technology and improved working practices.

* There has been a disastrous increase in unemployment over the past five years. *As such it is vital that unions press for increase in leisure, to be taken in a form which increases employment and without loss of pay. *Congress notes that it is over 20 years since the demand was formulated for a 35-hour week, and that over

(Continued from page 1)

for indication of wage rates in accordance with movements in the Consumer Price Index (CPI), were to be dealt with so as to enable any decision of the Commission to operate from the 15th day of the second month of each quarter. Since then the Commission has abandoned quarterly proceedings and adopted six monthly hearings of indexation claims. That process has automatically deprived workers of two wage adjustments per year to meet price increases as measured by the CPI.

That is a form of wage robbery. In addition the Commission has adopted the practice of only partially indexing wages thus leaving their purchasing power even further behind the level of price rises. Another form of wage robbery.

Then, while continuing its wage restricting "guidelines", the Commission has been progressively larling in handing down its decisions resulting in its even partial decisions operating for fewer pay periods. A further form of wage robbery. On present indications this form of wage robbery will be



This picture shows Melbourne workers during their 1956 campaign to gain an eight hour day. Today's demands for shorter hours are a continuation of workers' historical struggle for better conditions, and history has shown they are bound to succeed.

This period success has been achieved in a number of industries.

"Congress declares that the current economic and social environment requires affiliates to continue to press for the introduction of increased leisure, one form of which can be the shorter working week, with reduced standards hours."

"Congress calls on affiliates in all industries to immediately develop and pursue programs for achieving shorter working hours."

NSW train examiners begin an indefinite strike early this week. The dispute is in relation to the unsatisfactory response from the State Government to their claims for a rise of \$9.30 a week.

The 500 train examiners of NSW, who have the responsibility of checking the brakes, wheels and suspension of wagons and carriage, are demanding a rise in line with those granted last month to workers employed under the Federal

more extensive this time than ever.

The unions have called for an increase in all wage and salary rates of 5.1 per cent of existing rates. The employers have called for no increase at all or alternatively for an increase of only 3.7 per cent. The Victorian government has called for an increase of 2.5 per cent and the Fraser Government has called for an increase of only three per cent with partial indexation to be a permanent arrangement.

The latter proposal is to be achieved by "discounting," that is by reducing, the CPI so as to eliminate from any consideration of wage indexation, price rises resulting from decreases of the government.

That would mean substantial increases in the CPI resulting from the Government's oil pricing policy, millions of dollars in profits for Esso-BHP but no wage increase to meet the price increases in a large number of products affecting workers' living costs.

The unions see that proposal of the Fraser Government as the most blatant form of wage robbery of all.

"Congress recognizes the need for affiliates to undertake an educational campaign to ensure that when the trade union movement is successful in achieving a shorter working week in any industry, it becomes a reality and not a means of obtaining extra overtime for people already in work."

"In conformity with this policy union should seek to restrict overtime by award or agreement prescription and by union action."

Metals Trades Award. They claim the equivalent status to tradesmen under the metal award and want a rise of \$9.30. The Public Transport Commission of NSW is only prepared to give them a \$7.30 rise, equivalent to non-tradesmen under the metal award.

At the time of writing this article the NSW Government was threatening railway workers with massive stand-downs if the train examiners did not go back to work. The government threatens to bring a firm response from the railway unions who fully support the demand of the examiners.

Huge hidden pool of unemployed

There is a hidden pool of 150,000 unemployed Australians who are not registered in government statistics, a report prepared by the national institute of labour studies at Flinders University, South Australia.

They are people over 55 years of age who have dropped out of the work force because their chances of finding a job during the present economic "recession" are very slim.

These people, according to the study, "could be reasonably expected to have been working were it not for the recession."

Sacking of electricity workers Old Govt is trying to provoke all out battle

In a glaringly provocative action, the South Queensland Electricity Board sacked, last week, three men who, it claimed, were involved in attacking a man who scabbed during the 48-hour stoppage in support of the 35-hour-week held 10 days ago.

Eight hundred electricity workers immediately stopped work in protest. This response must have been clearly expected by the board. It is significant that the action of the board was apparently initiated by the State Cabinet.

The question naturally presents itself — is this stoppage what the cabinet wanted? It is also significant that the men were sacked before any case was launched against them in court, in other words, they were tried and found guilty without being heard.

The sacked men have claimed that the scab attacked one of them first.

It had been the intention of the State Government to call in private contractors to do the skilled work that would be necessary to run the industry. When it was found that it was not possible to find the workers standing firm, a compulsory conference was called by the State Industrial Commission on Saturday 15 and the board agreed to re-employ the three workers temporarily.

This being agreed to, the union then recommended to its members that they return to work, and they did this immediately.

(Continued from page 3)

covers Aboriginal, islander housing, language, culture, training and funding. This document with all its specific propositions on the above issues must now become an action program and be given all the necessary support by the Federal Government if the aim of the IYC National Committee of NGOs "to bring the well being of Aboriginal children up to the same level as other children in Australia" is to be achieved.

In Australia IYC has surpassed many expectations with projects for children taken up from the local to the national level in NSW, for instance a broad network of local IYC groups, numbering 105, enabled diverse sections of the community to be actively involved in the Year of the Child.

Some of the many projects undertaken by IYC committees and Non-Governmental Organizations include: forceful sub-

The Industrial Commission was to hear the matter on Tuesday 18, (while this paper went to press), the union had called a meeting for the next day to discuss the findings of the Industrial Commission hearing.

Once again it appears that Bjelke Petersen has been robbed of a chance to put into practice his fanatical desire to force an all out confrontation with the Queensland workers which, if it eventuated, could spread nationally.

Following the last 48-hour stoppage in support of the 35-hour week a number of unions have been called to show cause why they should not be de-regulated.

A meeting of union officials was called to reply to this challenge. At the moment no further action is planned, but unionists are adamant that the struggle for the 35-hour week will continue.

FOR SALE

An electric 15 gallon electric water heater is for sale at the party headquarters, 292 Sussex Street, Sydney. The money will go to the press fund.

missions on the interests of children to the Television Licence Renewal Hearings; media guide kit for educators; study of the impact on children of Australian overseas aid; a call on Federal Government to increase funding for children's services in real terms; and a teachers' handbook on Aboriginal children. The Australian-USK Society highlighted the international aspect of the year. The NSW IYC Steering Committee funded the society to undertake an extensive tour of the NSW countryside with displays and films of children from the various Soviet nationalities. The exhibition attracted over 4,000 children and adults in six country centres.

IYC had been a success, but now the task is to get those initiatives to be consolidated and extended. In Australia only by pressure being exerted on the Government will the momentum started in this year be carried forward with increased commitment.

Do you want to give a good Christmas present?

Give the VSL LP record Peace Now! It is for sale at 292 Sussex Street (phone 233 1722), New Era bookshops in Sydney, Brisbane, Gold Coast, Adelaide and at 158 Roma Street (first floor), Brisbane.

Peace Now! is the recording of a live concert organised by the VSL to mark the UN Disarmament Week. Eight excellent folk groups of singers from Austria, Greece, Vietnam, Zimbabwe and Chile performed.

One of the main attractions is the well known composition 'And the Band Played Waltzing Matilda'. The price of this LP record is just \$6.

