

# Housewives' Rally In Stirring Peace Call

"Stand up for peace wherever you might be. Stand hand in hand with peace-loving men and women in all lands. Tell the world we want peace. Tell the world that we won't stand for another war—and we shall have peace."

This clarion call by Mrs. Thea Lees, Victorian Secretary of the New Housewives' Association, brought cheers and applause from 400 delegates assembled in Sydney on Thursday night at a peace meeting.

THE peace meeting, called by the New Housewives' Association as the opening of their first National Conference, was held in the Ironworkers' Union conference hall.

Messages of support for the meeting came from the International Democratic Federation of Women in Paris, the Soviet Women's anti-Fascist Committee, the General Secretary of the Democratic Union of Hungarian Women, the Australian-Russian Society, and NHA branches in Western Australia and Hobart.

Speakers were NSW NHA President Mrs. V. Barton, Mr. E. J. Rowe, AEU Commonwealth Councillor, and Mrs. Lees and Mrs. Henderson from the Victorian NHA.

## Peace Call "Crime"

"In Australia it has become a crime to stand up and call for peace," Mrs. Lees said.

"Peace talk today leads to arrest for subversive utterances."

"In Victoria the 'Lionel' Government is holding a Royal Commission to smear people who are prepared to stand up and speak out against war and warmongers."

"Warmongers are caught up in the net."

## British, Soviet Women Both Wanted Peace

MOSCOW. — "Wherever we come in contact with the people, the real people, we meet with the most kindly and warm reception," said Soviet woman delegate Tatiana Zuyeva after her return from a tour of Britain.

"At meetings we had enthusiastic welcome from anti-war workers and the women because they treated us just like one of the family."

She said that British women were impressed by the fact that in the Soviet Union women get the same pay as men.

"Over and over again," she said, "at public meetings and in private conversations, British women have said to me, 'For that reason I don't want to go to the front, and how the ordinary people would never forget the wartime friendship of the British and Russian people or the great sacrifices which we made for freedom.'"

"They even say they would never go to the front if it meant that their sons to fight came."

systems of their own crimes and they are trying frantically to begin a war to cover up.

"Endless dollars are being poured out for rearmament."

"The United States will spend a total of \$5,215,000,000 for war and to rearm Marshall Aid countries."

"Against that background the standards of living of the American people are rapidly being forced downward."

"War danger also threatens Australia, where the Government, in blind obedience to the Yankee demand, is spending £250 million on special defence precautions."

"All money spent on rearmament and war is unproductive—it creates nothing but bloodshed and destruction."

"The ordinary people, like you and me, are the victims and the ones who foot the bill."

Mrs. Lees painted a vivid picture of the horrors of war.

"Atomic warfare brings even worse horrors. Added to this comes the new American threat of bacteria and germ warfare," she said.

## "Get Out And Fight"

"We can't and won't sit idly by and see this happening," said Mrs. Lees amid cheers.

She urged all housewives to "get out of the kitchens and fight. Fight for peace and freedom for yourselves and your children—and for their children too."

"Nobody will hand you peace on a platter. It must be fought for."

Mrs. Barton said some people might wonder why a peace meeting was called when actually there was peace in Australia.

"But," she said, "there can be no peace anywhere while there is war in one country. There is war today in Spain. Spanish people are fighting against a fascist dictatorship—and war is threatened from the United States."

Refuting propaganda that Russia wanted war, Mrs. Barton said:

"Russia lost eight million killed in the last war against fascism. Her hands were overruled and overruled again by fascists—entire cities were reduced to rubble."

"It is childish—and vicious—to suggest that after that the Soviet Union would seek war," she said.

The real warmonger was America, whose war bases ringed the world and who sent arms and soldiers into other countries in contravention of all Peace and the wishes of UNMO.

"The United States war threat cannot be discounted. Atom bombs are made for use, not for keeping as mementoes," said Mrs. Barton.

## Soviet Guards Peace

Mr. Rowe said it was a sad commentary that four years after the last

war people had to gather again for the protection and maintenance of peace.

He named the Soviet Union as the real bulwark of peace.

Under the leadership of the Soviet Union, the anti-fascist forces were gaining strength.

Peace lovers were the decisive power today. The balance was irresistibly swinging towards those who stood for peace against the monopolists who wanted war.

Warmongering today was a sign of weakness—not of strength.

The greatest danger to peace lovers today was an underestimation of their own strength and an overestimation of the strength of the warmongers.

Mr. Rowe told the NHA that the fact that their organisation was under fire "was an extremely honourable baptism."

He urged formation of groups of Partisans of Peace "to ensure that the Chifley Government doesn't take us into the position where we become the mercenaries of United States monopolists."

The task of all peace lovers was to see that the Government did not let the Australians in support of the forces "which history has decreed must die."

"Our task is to build a mighty movement for peace," declared Mr. Rowe.

## Grouper In True Colors

By a Worker Correspondent

AT Garden Island, recently, the Industrial Grouper secretary of the Vigilance Committee, J. Kain, actually opposed contacting unions for more vigorous action to win a £2 rise because his union (the ETU) "did not recognise shop committees."

When a delegate to the Garden Island shop committee interjected that unions should consider the opinions of such committees, Grouper Kain snapped back: "That's a matter of opinion."

Mr. A. Smith, who moved for an approach to the unions for action on the £2 rise "in view of the inability of the ACTU to present a case in Court," said it seemed that Mr. Kain although a member of the shop committee, supported his union in refusing to recognise them.

Mr. Kain hastened to explain that the ETU did recognise shop committees when they were endorsed by a general meeting and confined their activities to "purely domestic matters."

In interjection: "Tell the workers at Garden Island that an increase in wages is not a domestic matter."

## Sydney Wharfies Aid Port Kembla Strikers

PORT Kembla wharfies are getting solid financial backing from Sydney wharfies in their fight to force employers to pay them a four-hour minimum rate which operates at every other port in Australia.

The Sydney branch of the Waterside Workers' Federation has voted £25 to the strikers and wharfies donated £50 at a special waterfront collection last week.

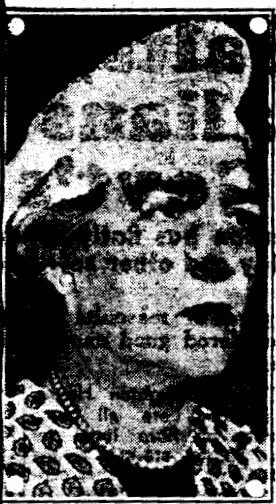
It was the Kembla wharfies who staged the famous Dairtram strike in 1933 against "Pig-Iron" Bob Menzies attempts to send pig-iron to Japan. The wharfies say they will beat the shipowners just as they beat Menzies and his "dog-collar" Act.

## ATTLEE STRIKEBREAKING RAPPED

A STRONG call by Sydney wharfies for protest against the British Labor Government's use of troops to break the British dockers' strike was unanimously upheld by the Labor Council last Thursday.

The Council, meeting in the afternoon, was showing splendid international solidarity with striking Canadian seamen.

"In the Canadian strike the Government is supporting a ship owner's company union which is being used to smash down the seamen's strike," said Mr. Shortell.



Mrs. V. Barton, NHA President... "there can be no peace anywhere while there is war in one country."

## "Let Them Walk," Says Commissioner

AFTER refusing the workers' demand that the BHP should provide transport up the steep Iron Knob slope, Conciliation Commissioner Austin last week "kindly" ordered the installation of hand-rails so that the men could pull themselves up.

The BHP is Australia's richest monopoly and last year chalked up a record profit of nearly £2 million. Yet the monopoly has stood out against the men's demands for transport up the Iron Knob slope for the past 40 years.

Officials at the Knob daily drive up in private cars, while the men are forced to climb.

The men are standing solid and demanding that transport must be provided before another shoveful of ore is turned on the mountain.

## "MOSCOW TRIAL" IS DEMOCRATIC

WHEN waterfront Industrial Grouper Freeman r screamed to the bosses' press last week that he's been given a "Moscow Trial" by his union, he put himself in very bad company.

The term Moscow Trial is associated in all decent workers' minds with the bringing to justice and termination of Trotskyist vermin like the traitor-General Tukachev, Kamenev, Zinoviev and others who carried out counter-revolutionary wrecking and sabotage, plotted the murder of working-class leaders, and planned to sell the country out to the fascists.

There is this in common with the Moscow Trials and the wharfies' Disciplinary Committee, both are based on the principles of working class democracy.

The Disciplinary Committee, before which Freeman was cited and fined £2 for abusing a Federation official is composed of seven rank and file unionists democratically elected by and responsible to the membership.

The Committee's function is to uphold the rules of the Federation. This means that job discipline, instead of being imposed by the shipowners, is maintained democratically by the wharfies themselves.

Wharfies who deride Grouper Freeman's attempt to infer he was not given a fair hearing, point out that the committee is so fairly run that a man who might be hearing the case against a member for some breach of rules might also be working alongside the member on the wharves—or even be his own workmate.

Now the press is featuring Mr. Freeman's threat to run to Canberra and seek added funds from the political bosses in the Labor Party to further his fight against the union.

But wharfies at ports right round the coast have just given Grouper a stunning rebuff for trying to split their ranks over the Staveleywharf dockers' case. They are more of the same medicine waiting for any other shipowners' stooge wharfies to start something against the union.

## ONLY THE BELL SAVED KING AND KENNY

A "masterly" display of bell-ringing and side-stepping by Rightwing Labor Council chairman Shortell saved the lower Grouper from an awkward situation for them last Thursday when delegates wanted to know:—

• What is the real income of Labor Council Secretary R. King, MLC?

• What was behind the recent trip to Newcastle of Assistant-Secretary J. Kenny, MLC?

The size of secretary King's income came up at question time when delegate A. Smith (AEU) asked:

"Is it a fact that in addition to his salary and expenses as Labor Council secretary and his Legislative Council allowance, that Mr. King also receives a percentage of ZKY advertising revenue which sometimes amounts to about £100 a month?"

Mr. King: "No, that is not correct, but I've got my hopes."

It seemed the matter was to end there when Rightwing supporter R. Jackson (Shipwrights) threw dismay into his own camp by asking:

"Will Council force Mr. Smith to divulge the source of information on which he bases his question because I resent the implication?"

Here Mr. Shortell made his first "save" of the night by diving for the bell and emphatically declaring that it was not desired to pursue the matter any further.

The motives behind Mr. Kenny's recent Newcastle visit, the week-end before ALP Industrial Grouper among the wharfies attacked their union's unanimous Federal Council decision, came up unexpectedly.

The Rightwing were trying to push through a motion to adjourn early when wharfies' delegate Muir in-

terjected: "You probably want to go to Newcastle again."

Although his name was not mentioned in the interjection, Mr. Kenny hotly demanded that the remark be withdrawn.

Muir: "I won't withdraw because it's true. That's why it hurt."

Kenny: "I want to know what's behind delegate Muir's interjection. I demand he complete his remarks."

Muir: "Yes, sure I'll complete them."

Here Mr. Shortell made his second "save" of the night by hastily reminding Messrs. Kenny and Muir that, "after all," he was in charge of the meeting.

Muir: "But he wants me to complete my remarks."

Shortell: I will not allow you to complete your remarks. Now resume your seat.

Footnote: It was reported that Mr. Kenny, with ALP Senator Arnold giving the political line, recently sat in with a district ALP Industrial Group weekend conference at Newcastle. On the Monday the Grouper got capitalist press headlines for splitting Newcastle wharfies on the Staveleywharf Commission issue in defiance of a unanimous Federal Council decision.

NEWCASTLE. — ALP Industrial Grouper at Cardiff Railway Workshops were rebuffed when a mass meeting voted full support for the militant shop committee.

## Rightwing Shocked At Labor Council

Shock upset for the Inner Group, a Rightwing move the Labor Council at 9 o'clock and stifled a debate on settlement of compensation claims was rebuffed last night by 72 votes to 64.

The first time in years that a Rightwing steamroller has been stopped by the fighting stand of a regimented vote.

There is a swinging which can be seen in the voting class notes. A slightly upset came Mr. King, MLC, had

## Tactics Division

... been expected to be rebuffed by order of the sub-branch...

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