



THE Battler

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

NUMBER 15, February 7th, 1976. 10c

6.4%

EVERY WAGE EARNER in the country needs the 6.4% rise. It isn't a question of greed, it's a question of need. The 6.4% figure comes from the consumer price index and most economists admit that the CPI underestimates price rises. In other words prices have risen more than 6.4% in the last six months. We need the full indexation rise just to catch up and then we'd still be behind.

To live as well as we did two years ago, we would need the 6.4% rise, the 3% productivity rise and then a bit more. Even if the judges reject Fraser's attack on us, we should still wage a fight in our unions for more, because, let's face it, the way we were living two years ago wasn't brilliant either.

Fraser's attempt to cut our wages (and that's what his attempt to deny us indexation is — a wage cut) is part of his general attack on the working class. It's based on lies — he said he supported indexation during the elections. It's based on distortions — lower wages do not mean more jobs. It attacks those least able to defend themselves, both through the pension cuts and through the attempt to throw the unemployed off the dole. There are articles on each of these parts of Fraser's attack on pages 2 and 3.

We can stop Fraser's wage cuts. We can stop all his attacks on us. We don't have to accept any decision the court may hand down... if we're prepared to organise and fight back.

NOT A CENT LESS!



JOHN HALFPENNY, VICTORIAN SECRETARY OF THE AMALGAMATED METAL WORKERS' UNION:

"We will get the 6.4% whatever happens here. We'll get it even if we have to wring it out of every employer in the country. Mr Fraser seems hell-bent on making sure his road to economic recovery is paved with the pay packets of Australian workers."



JIM ROULSTON, VICTORIAN PRESIDENT OF THE AMALGAMATED METAL WORKERS' UNION:

"Workers cannot be made to bear the burden at both ends. If this is the attitude of the government, the unions will be forced to win increases in the field."



PAT CLANCY, FEDERAL SECRETARY OF THE BUILDING WORKERS' INDUSTRIAL UNION:

"I urge the ACTU to consider a series of rolling national strikes on an industry-by-industry basis... The unions want nothing short of full wage indexation and the government's action will mean a pay cut."



ALF ZEENO, VICTORIAN SECRETARY OF THE BUILDING WORKERS' INDUSTRIAL UNION:

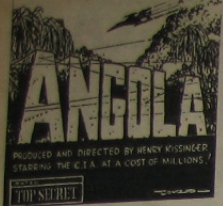
"The building trade workers have coped indexation, but if they don't get what they want in the Commission, they will be right in the scrum for what's due to them and more."

day the hearing began. So did some Builders Labourers. What Halfpenny, Clancy and the others say is right. If they are prepared to back their words with action, then we can win the 6.4%

THESE FOUR MEN lead two of Australia's more militant unions. There are other union leaders who have made similar statements. The Executive of the Australian Railways Union threatened to stop all train services in the country. The Waterside Workers walked off the job on the

No matter what the Judges say!

IF YOU LIKED THE NEW WORLD YOU'LL LOVE THIS ONE!



PRODUCED AND DIRECTED BY HENRY KISSINGER STARRING THE C.I.A. AT A COST OF MILLIONS

TOP SECRET

SOUTH AFRICA has finally withdrawn from the war in Angola. The Vorster government announced that "South Africa is not prepared to fight alone on the front of the Free World". Actually, the home of apartheid was not and is not the only member of the "Free World" fighting in Angola. Before the overthrow of the fascist Carkson regime, the "Free World" used to be represented by Portugal, the United States in representing freedom, profit and oil companies.

The "Free World" is supposedly only fighting in Angola because one of the liberation movements is getting aid from the other side - Russia is providing weapons and Cuba soldiers in the MRLA (Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola). "No foreign intervention" is the foreign government's motto.

But why the sudden fuss about intervention?

Colony

MRLA started fighting Russian aid about ten years ago. Angola has been a Portuguese colony for 500 years without a squeak of complaint from Britain, the US or South Africa. In fact, they gave active military and economic support to the fascist dictatorship which ran Portugal and killed Angola. That's not intervention?

Long before MRLA asked for Russian help, the US was worried about the effects of an independence movement. If MRLA won, US investment might suffer. So the US decided to have two hawks and financed the PMLA (National Front for the Liberation of Angola). Without US money, the PMLA would never have mounted to working. Its leader, Holden Roberto, was handicapped as the future leader of Angola by Francis Kennedy. That's not intervention?

In 1970, Henry Kissinger wrote a secret study for Nixon, stating "The biggest US interest in Africa is Angola." Gulf Oil Corporation has a \$210 million operation exploiting Ango-

Below: A women's unit in the MRLA.



Under Franco, wages were forcibly beaten down for 36 years. Today the 15% inflation rate means massive poverty for Spanish workers. The struggle for wage gains, including major demands for immediate loan increases, has united the whole working class in a massive economic battle.

But the issues go much deeper. The economic struggle is also the battle for basic political freedom. -- But 200,000 strikes are illegal -- but 200,000 workers are striking, and the government is afraid to remove the fascist police into the factories as it used to do in Franco's time.

Unions are illegal -- but hundreds of thousands of workers are joining underground unions and organizing in their factories.

In the past, the regime has always been able to survive by confining strikes to certain areas under the use of massive concentration of paravilitary police. This was how they controlled a major strike when early last year in the Barcelona and Basque regions.

The revolutionary left organizations in Spain argue that the only way to end this isolation is to bring the movement into a general strike. Conflict that

'Free World' Hates Itself

to raise, including "military credit sales", was \$19 billion. A large part of the PMLA. Roberto himself has stated a considerable fortune.

UNITA has been more successful than that is possible. It is well-armed and has already driven out UNITA from already driven out. UNITA has no liberation movement.

It is not surprising that the Portuguese bosses and landowners supported PMLA and UNITA -- they know which side their bread is buttered on.

The population supports MRLA only genuine liberation movement. MRLA towns have expelled into the escape looking PMLA troops. MRLA still behind PMLA lines to cultivate their fields during the day and return to safe PMLA territory at night.

There is no civil war in Angola. It is a war of national liberation. The MRLA is the only independent liberation movement. It is fighting imperialist forces of one kind or another, and victory will threaten the whole structure of colonialism and racism in southern Africa.

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SPAIN HAVE SWEEPS

by Mick Armstrong

WORKERS WHO STRIKE IN SPAIN face imprisonment, police brutality, censorship and the army and military's rule. Yet in the last few weeks Spanish workers have faced these threats to win badly needed wage rises. And in the face of largest show of working class strength in thirty-five years, the Fascist government is tottering.

The regime of King Juan Carlos is the last gasp of fascist rule - "Franco without Franco". After Franco's death last year, Carlot pardoned a few thousand political prisoners. Spanish workers struck in 1974 and carried out a series of strikes and demonstrations calling for an immediate total amnesty for the more than 60,000 political prisoners in Spain. But the workers demanded complete political and trade union liberties and opposed an attempted wage freeze.

When workers on the Madrid underground railway struck for higher pay, the government went in to do the trains. In a massive display of solidarity, electrical, building, banks and car workers then walked off the job. In four days the underground railway workers had won.

The strike wave grew in spite of repeated police attacks on strikers and demonstrators. Government even went so far as censoring postal workers to force them back to work.

Truchon-vanishing police attacked telephone workers, and used tear gas to break up a 2,000-strong demonstration demanding equality for women. Doctors of workers' representatives have been arrested.

Under Franco, wages were forcibly beaten down for 36 years. Today the 15% inflation rate means massive poverty for Spanish workers. The struggle for wage gains, including major demands for immediate loan increases, has united the whole working class in a massive economic battle.

But the issues go much deeper. The economic struggle is also the battle for basic political freedom. -- But 200,000 strikes are illegal -- but 200,000 workers are striking, and the government is afraid to remove the fascist police into the factories as it used to do in Franco's time.

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The job ahead for the opposition left is to turn the strike into a movement power struggle to bring down the dictatorship.

CHOU EN-LAI, PRIME MINISTER OF CHINA who died last month, joined the newly-formed Chinese Communist Party in the early 1920s when Lenin was still alive. Stalin had not yet established his iron rule over the world's Communist Parties and there was still hope of workers' revolution.

As Chou dies, the Stalinist orthodoxy has long since crumbled, partly broken by the action of Chou and his associates. For the world's Communist Parties, workers' revolution is now no more than talk.

China was the hunting ground of the imperialist powers, divided into petty kingdoms of warlords and gangsters.

But China has been transformed. The imperialist powers have been expelled, the people imposed and the living standards of the mass of people greatly improved -- even though the workers still do not have power.

In the mid-1920s Chou was a leading figure in carrying out Stalin's policy of working with the nationalist Kuomintang. This was supposed to lead to the driving of imperialism from China.

In 1926, Chou was transferred to the big industrial city of Shanghai. He helped to lead a huge insurrection that liberated the city from neo-Western warlords. But on Stalin's orders, the workers were told to welcome the Kuomintang forces of Chiang Kai-Shek into the city. Chiang's army divided and arrested them.

When the Communist Party suddenly became the leadership of a massive revolt of workers and peasants in 1927, the Kuomintang -- linked to Chinese capitalists -- was ordered to turn its back on ways to crush their Communist allies. Stalin, however, insisted that the Communist Party continue to work as a junior partner to the Kuomintang.

Chou eventually escaped, but thousands of workers were killed.

The Communist Party was shattered. Its worker membership was destroyed, and Stalin now imposed his policy on the rest that went from defeat to defeat. Insurrections were ordered wherever the odds against success.

Rewarded

Thousands more workers lost their lives. But those, like Chou, who refused to question Stalin's orders, were rewarded with higher positions in their party leadership.

The only party of the Party to survive as real force was the section led by Mao. The King in the rural region of Kiangsi and, after the Long March, in the remote area of Yenan. There Mao built up an army, led by Communist men and named by peasants, by offering a program of land reform and opposition to Japanese invasion.

Chou seems then to have been Stalin's supporter against Mao. But after 1955 he always supported Mao. He became the Chinese Communist Party's leading spokesman.

As Prime Minister of the new People's Republic, Chou continued as Mao's mouthpiece, identifying his task as "to set free the productive forces of our country from the oppression of imperialism, feudalism and bureaucratic capitalism."

He again echoed Mao when he attacked capitalism as a "petty bourgeois outlook which encourages backwardness and hinders progress."

But the task of turning China into a modern industrial power proved to be more difficult than Chou and Mao had thought. An attempt to short-cut the

CHOU EN-LAI

problem, the Great Leap Forward of 1958, ended in mass disaster and Mao was removed from the chairmanship of the Party. Mao took the initiative again with the so-called Cultural Revolution of 1966.

On his hair appointment, Liu Shao-chi was removed from power. But the country's problems were not solved. This was shown when Mao's next heir, Lin Biao, mysteriously died while on a flight with leading generals "to kill Mao".

During these years, Chou had the reputation of being a mild conservative figure who opposed Liu's involvement in a great row over China's future, but was always around to ensure that the bureaucratic machine kept functioning. He was credited with bringing Teng Hsiao-ping back to a key position of power after Teng had been denounced during the Cultural Revolution as the number two "capitalist roader" after Liu Shao-chi.

Compromise

In international policy, Chou always acted under Mao's direction. When Mao forced Ho Chi Minh to compromise with the West, he accepted the division of Vietnam at the Geneva Conference of 1954. He flew to Budapest in January 1957 to congratulate Chou who had smashed the workers' uprising. Chou once more later announced China as "social imperialists".

It was Chou who negotiated with Kissinger and visited Nixon on China, while US bombers were continuing the destruction of North Vietnam. It was Chou who sent greetings to Ayub Khan of Pakistan as he directed the slaughter of Bengalis, to Mrs. Indira Gandhi of Sri Lanka as she crushed the revolt of 1971, who embraced the Shah of Iran or Hafeez Salisai, who sent aid to Holden Roberto, the CIA's stooge in Angola.

But he was no more than an instrument of policy. He presided over the modern transformation of China, a serious defeat for imperialism and the beginning of industrialisation for a quarter of mankind.

But the leadership crisis of Chou's last years, the counter-revolutionary foreign policy and widespread corruption in China, show that transformation was not enough. China's workers still have a battle to fight against Chou's successors.

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is China a socialist country? If so, why does Mao live and die the numerous Shah of Iran, or Richard Nixon, or even Giscard d'Estaing?

If not, how did the revolution fail? Was China ever socialist? Could it have been saved by the Cultural Revolution?

For the answers to these important questions, read Mick Harris's in World Revolution in 12 Journal 76, available from 35 Bookersville, P.O. Box 102, Weymouth, Dorset. The price is £6.95 plus 60d post.

The Battler \$3,000 Fund

The \$3,000 will go towards paying salaries of full-time staffs of these organisations, enabling them to continue their work. We are looking for people to help us produce the magazine.

It is a great pleasure to have you writing to us. We will send you a copy of the magazine every month. We will also send you a copy of the magazine every month. We will also send you a copy of the magazine every month.

The battle ahead for the opposition left is to turn the strike into a movement power struggle to bring down the dictatorship.

The Retreat from the Long March

by NIGEL HARRIS



Above: China, 1972. Chou En-Lai plays host to Richard Nixon. So much for anti-imperialism.

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\$3,000 TO FIGHT FRASER

FRASER'S ATTACK ON THE WORKING CLASS has begun. Already he is trying to cut our wages with his rejection of the promised New Industrial Revolution. It is to try to throw the unemployed off the dole. Already he is trying to cut social welfare spending. But we are not to be taken in. We will fight back, and already we are all under attack.

The message is clear. This is going to be a bitter struggle and our families unless we fight back.

We need a brilliantly battler of our own to fight back. We need a man who is not only a brilliant speaker but also a brilliant writer. We need a man who is not only a brilliant speaker but also a brilliant writer.

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NEWS

Italian workers' paper launched - introducing:



THE BATTLE has a sister paper for the first time in modern days. There is a regular revolutionary newspaper published in Italy. It is called "LOTTA OPERAIA" (Workers' Struggle) and appeared at the same time as this issue of the Battler.

The editor is Gabriella Calosci, an Italian revolutionary who came to this country some two years ago. In Italy she was active in a broad revolutionary organization in which members of various political currents participated. Since coming to Australia she has been active in the "Migrant Workers' Committee" and working to bring to the attention of the Italian community the lack of a revolutionary newspaper in the Italian community. She joined the International Socialists and met with other militants, both Italian and Eng-

IS. BOOKSERVICE

International Socialism 84

REVOLUTIONARY POLITICS TODAY

AN ANTHROPOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL STUDY OF INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISM

by G. L. G. G. G.

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articles of the Fraser government, the political crisis in Italy and Women's Liberation. The other pages contain a radical history of Italians in Australia.

Copies of Lotta Operaia are available from radical bookshops, including books at 2nd floor, 28 Block Place, Melbourne. You can subscribe for it from PO Box 187, Fitzroy, Vic. 3065.

The first issue contains articles on the anti-uniform pol-

ice-baiting, to launch "letta Operaia".

The new paper is open about its politics. It is dedicated to the struggles of Italian workers, to an uncompromising struggle against the Fraser Government, and to building an Italian Rights Movement to end the oppression of Italian and other migrant communities.

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When the \$ Shark Bites

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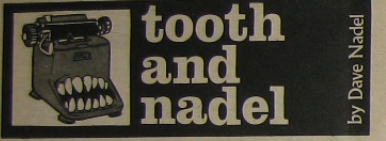
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tooth and nadel

by Dave Nadel

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Shunting Bunting

There is a very interesting story around concerning Sir John Bunting, former chairman of the Public Service Commission in London. It is rumored that when Bunting returns he will be taking over Sir Philip Jones' job as Chairman of the board of directors of the Herald and Weekly Times and both of the largest press monopolies in the country.

What makes this story particularly interesting is another rumor about press baron, Rupert Murdoch. This one comes from quite senior Murdoch employees and is probably reliable. They claim that Murdoch's break with Whitlam was not only due to the labor government's refusal to grant Murdoch's company a mining lease, but also because Rupert asked Whitlam for the post of High Commissioner in London and Whitlam gave it to Bunting instead. Murdoch wanted to represent Australia while managing his Black Street emu sheeps. Now it appears that Bunting has not only the job Murdoch wanted, he is also going to get the job that Murdoch's old man had and that Rupert didn't inherit. The name of what used to be called the Murdoch Empire.

Now they tell us

Val Duncan had told years in London six days after the election of the Labor government in Australia. There wouldn't be any connection between the two events but according to Duncan's ordinary common sense very strong connection. According to Rupert Murdoch's Australian (which should have been played a major role in bringing down the Whitlam government).

Val Duncan (actually Sir Val Duncan) was head of the London Corporation, which was the same as the Corporation of London. He was a member of the House of Commons and a member of the House of Lords. He was a member of the House of Commons and a member of the House of Lords.

Keeping Pizzey

On January 21 the directors of Pizzey Ltd., (toys, sports, goods, and farm machinery) regretfully advised the resignation of Edwin Pizzey as a director and Chairman. We but they regretted it, particularly Ed Pizzey himself. Last year while Pizzey Ltd. lost \$381,457, Pizzey paid himself \$83,250 in salary and retirement benefits.

The papers also tell us that company losses are due to Labor's incompetence last year and the workers asking for wage rises. But for incompetence and greed you really can't go past the directors of Pizzey Ltd.

Altogether they paid themselves \$302,000 last financial year, some almost equal to the amount the company lost. Their money was spent on such productive items as a \$5,200 car for production items manager, Director A.V. Lion's Rolls Royce, A.V. Lion however resigned in a similar manner being his Chairman. His children, Deborah and Lawrence, recently bought another 17,000 shares in the company.

You can bet that any employees who lose their jobs as a result

All this & Moore

We don't suppose too many of our readers have \$275 to spare. But if you do you could spend six days at Earle Page College at the weekend of New England, Armidale, NSW next week. For your money you would get a number of meals, a visit to a lake, a camp, an 18 hole golf course and a lot of booze. You would participate in the Management Forum Journal's Management Symposium. There you would get to meet some very important people, the usual list of big bosses, politicians, etc.

The keynote address will be delivered by Justice Moore of Arbitration Court and Wage Indentation Fall. The speech won't announce the topic of his own but we believe it will be on conditions of work and financial aid. The next speech will be John Simpson, the Australian Party who founded the fighting Women's Party and prepared the 1974 strikes advertising in the 1974 election. He will speak on "The Dynamics of Advertising" - or how to sell big boys' lies.

Also speaking will be Justice Moore, speaking on "Corporate Finance - Some Short and Long Term Problems" - or how to get the most out of your money. Mr. Winter, NSW, will discuss "The implications of the Value Pien Award" and Mr. Winter runs an industrial organization of the company. It helps business and it helps management and education. It helps business and it helps management and education.

For \$275, you get quite a good value. But frankly, if you don't give away \$275 bucks, we suggest you put it into the Battler fighting class struggle. You can bet that any employees who lose their jobs as a result

STOP PRESS

Last week Victorian Education Minister, Lindsay Thomson announced that Argo Street will be re-opened at another site. We won our campaign because of the high level of solidarity and determination. It is no wonder there were less than 100 people all over the Christmas and holiday period by sitting together and being persistent. We had an excellent submission of ourselves to everyone we lobbied. We had an excellent submission with which we lobbied and with a state election due shortly, the Liberal government found it easier to back down.

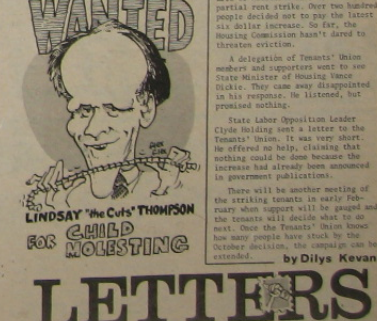
BROOKBROOK RENT STRIKE CONTINUES

SINCE OCTOBER 27, Housing Commission tenants in the Brookbrooke-Haldon State Rental Scheme have been on a partial rent strike. Over two hundred people decided not to pay the latest six dollar increase. So far, the Housing Commission hasn't dared to threaten eviction.

A delegation of Tenants' Union members and supporters went to see State Minister of Housing Val Duncan. They came away disappointed in his response. He listened, but refused to budge.

State Labor Opposition Leader Clyde Holding sent a letter to the Tenants' Union. It was very short. He offered no help, claiming that nothing could be done because the increase had already been announced in government publications.

There will be another meeting of the striking tenants in early February when support will be sought and the tenants will decide what to do next. Once the Tenants' Union knows how many people have stood by the October decision, the campaign can be extended.



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Picketers, stopping trucks from entering and leaving the Oakleigh Municipal Abattoirs.

COURAGE CALLS CAPS TO SACK STEWARD

ONE WEEK AFTER the strike last month at Courage Breweries in Broadmeadows, management sacked a shop steward and called police in to arrest him.

On Wednesday January 8, Courage workers voted at a mass meeting to go on strike after rejecting an offer made by the company following negotiations with union officials over a log of claims. One of the speakers at this meeting, Johnny Skidmore, urged taking strike action and to meet again on the following Monday.

However, this next meeting voted to return to work, mainly because national divisions between the ethnic groups at Courage provided obstacles to united action and some sections were poorly informed on the struggle and on the necessity to take strike action. Courage, taking advantage of these divisions, had provided buses to take some groups of workers to the Trades Hall to vote against continuing the strike. They sent telegram to all workers to tell them to go to the meeting and about the buses provided.

At this meeting Johnny Skidmore was elected shop steward, and for the next week actively pursued the grievances of the workers with the management, in particular over the position of casual workers (who make up a large number of the workers at Courage) and over extending minutes to half an hour.

On Sunday 19 January, John took up the complaints of the afternoon shift who were not getting a wage increase.

by JEFF SOAR

had been sent for an early lunch break after an electrical fault had stopped the production line - Courage wanted stoppages to be in the men's own time and not theirs. Shortly after a heated argument with the foreman over this, John was told that he was sacked for allegedly having drunk beer on the job earlier in the day.

In point of fact, being a hot day, he had taken an empty beer bottle filled with water on the job, a common practice at Courage. The offence was supposed to have occurred some five hours earlier. Courage management was quite clearly desperately looking for something to pin on the active shop steward.

A meeting was called immediately which voted to stop work in support of John. Meanwhile, Courage called in the cops, who, while John was trying to address the workers, grabbed him, and escorted him to the floor, but

BUTCHERS LEFT WITH SCRAPS

First the union leaders were too busy organising the Butchers' picnics, then they were away on holiday. Meanwhile the strike by meatworkers at the Oakleigh, South Melbourne and City Abattoirs collapsed.

The strike -- for a \$30 rise, five weeks holiday and 25 other claims -- lasted over three weeks. But last Friday, the demoralised strikers voted 53-41 for a return to work.

They had enough problems as it was. First, the union (the AMIEU) is split in three. So while the strikers -- who are on a State award -- were out, the "chain" (meatworkers who process the slaughtered animals which hang from a conveyor chain) were still working because they're on a Federal award.

And like bosses everywhere else, the Master Butchers were howling "we can't go outside the indexation guidelines". We bet they can't! The strikers got around \$109 a week... they haven't had a pay rise in two years.

When the strike started, the mood was militant. Then at the second strike meeting, the negotiating committee, after getting only trivial concessions from the bosses, refused to make any recommendations about future action. The reason? No officials would be available the next week because they'd be too busy organising Butchers' picnics. Surely the AMIEU has enough officials to be able to organise both strikes and picnics effectively!

The meeting voted unanimously to strike and to picket anyway. Pickets were set up at the abattoirs, trucks

were stopped, and the men tried to prevent the Master Butchers from working. However, the officials did... ever... the officials did... want to call out the "chain" because it would involve a much broader struggle and... secure the original issues.

The "chain" men at the City Abattoirs came out in a patchy ambush on Wednesday 28th. But by the time the meeting on Friday 30th, the union leaders had still not tried to bring out all the "chain" men. According to Jack Timms, a member of the negotiating committee, this was because the chain had a Federal award... a pretty irrelevant reason. The union leaders simply ignored calls for "one out, all out", a "state stoppage", and "a national stoppage".

Instead of spreading the strike to really squeeze the bosses, the union leaders did nothing. At the final strike meeting, there was simply a report of the unsuccessful negotiations and the meeting was thrown open to questions. No suggestions or proposals on how to continue the strike -- because according to Jack Timms, "secretary Kelly Moran and the assistant secretary are on holiday." So what started as a very militant strike meeting soon degenerated into a very demoralising affair.

A spokesman for the "chain" recommended that the strikers should return to work and try to get everyone in the abattoirs out in the near future.

This set the tone for the rest of the meeting. The men voted against continuing the strike, and returned to work last Monday.



FRASER THREATENS TO PUT YOU IN THIS PICTURE!



Jobless men hoping for casual work wait in Sydney's Railway Square at 6 a.m.

FIGHT THE CUTS

see page 6 for details

A vote against Hamer is a vote against Fraser

LAST NOVEMBER when the Federal elections were on Dick Hamer tried to tell Victorians that Fraser was good for Victoria. His Liberal Party spent a lot of money placing large ads in the papers selling Fraser as the best thing to happen to Victoria since Prince Charles came to Timbortoo. Four months later with an election of his own to worry about Hamer has changed his tune.

Since the elections Fraser has reneged on his support for wage indexation. Hamer wouldn't support him at the arbitration

court because he didn't want to look a liar before the elections. But he supported the liar in December and he belongs to the same party as the liar, and he was quite prepared to have the liar sitting on his platform at the State campaign opening at the new Civic Centre.

Fraser's cut backs mean that there will be less Federal money for Victoria and the State Government will have to raise unpopular taxes. Hamer doesn't want to explain this cut to his electors either, but he was all in favour of

Fraser's cuts last December.

The Victorian State elections will be the first chance that any large group of voters has had to record their response to Fraser's cuts and... working class voters should make their response loud and clear and noisy.

Of course there are reasons to vote against Hamer in his own right. The chaos in Health, Education and Public Transport, is all his own work. With a bit of help from some vicious and incompetent cabinet ministers and a lot of help from

big business. Hamer's record is examined inside (pages 8 and 9).

But most of all Hamer should be rejected because a setback for the Liberals anywhere will be correctly interpreted as a rejection of Fraser. And that will help raise morale for the industrial fight that we must mount against Fraser. Three months ago the liar asked us to turn on the lights, now we must turn on the LIAR!

EVERHOT BLS

by a metal worker at Everhot.

AFTER THREE WORKERS' MEETINGS, a mass meeting called by management and ten hours of negotiations on our claim of \$12 (20 for management), the bosses at Everhot made an offer. EVIDENTLY THIS IS the kind of typical of the course of the dispute and the way Doug Draffin treats his workers in general.

In October last year the claim was put in to Draffin. He offered the usual industrial (stable) at the Baywater plant was accepted. In fact, it was because of his own arrogance and pig-headedness that the Baywater profit levels dropped. If he had given in and re-buffed the Draffin profit levels, he would have made some profit. But for Doug, who had been sacked he would have made some profit. But for Doug, who had been sacked he would have made some profit. But for Doug, who had been sacked he would have made some profit.

Just under two weeks ago, our official, Ken Mochley, came down and "re-opened" the claim. In other words, he re-negotiated the wage to consider how much they'd give us on the basis of the price increases in 2 years: up 24%. Surprised, surprised! A week later, they said we couldn't give us anything. "The economic situation hasn't changed" they said. He told the store Draffin that they expected their usual profits now that they'd crushed the workers at Baywater.

By this time, we had enough. We passed a resolution to stop work for the rest of the day, all of Friday and one day a week plus overtime while the company at least paid us an offer.

Just before morning tea on Monday, we were handed a company circular which began, "In the past communications have been our workers. This note is straight talk about our situation."

It's surprising how communications bosses behave when they're faced with strikes in a tough position. They followed some "statistical" outlining the sad state of the company.

Year	1972	1973	1974
1972	\$11.00	\$12.00	\$14.00
1973	\$12.00	\$13.75	\$15.00
1974	\$13.00	\$15.00	\$16.00

Doug Draffin turned on the charm as he faced the workers' tips off. He went on about the company's "obligation" to improve the terrible condition and generally tried every trick in the book to get out of actually paying money in our pay packets. For those who weren't convinced, there was an ominous undertone: those who didn't like it they were "welcome to leave".

There were plenty of workers disappointed at the lack of results of a day and a half of the workers' fight to Doug's shop. The shop reward was able to push through a motion to stop working in return for negotiations.

These began the two day and lasted the whole day. The rank and file workers went along as well as the official and the shop steward. The first thing that management did was object to a leaflet called Rank and File Metal which was the true picture of company profits, and although the bosses could not deny a single fact in it, they said it "clouded the issue". Their tactic was to drag out the whole day.

EVERHOT, PORT MELBOURNE, the press shop on the left is due for flooding at the first rain. On the right, is the assembly and packing plant where conditions are better.

The negotiations to wear the workers down and to drive them away from the shop. At the next meeting, the workers were told that the company was "not interested" in the workers' demands. There was a 90% turnout for the meeting. The workers were told that the company was "not interested" in the workers' demands. There was a 90% turnout for the meeting.

Doug Draffin has read his "How to lie with statistics" well. His factory is as broke as he claims. He doesn't want it over the workers' heads. He doesn't want to pay the workers. He doesn't want to pay the workers. He doesn't want to pay the workers.

INTERVIEW with Dave Kerin, BLF member

"We're working ... and Gallagher's working on us"

In January, Norm Gallagher ran to the press to announce he was suing for libel against the BLF. In the news-sheet of the Rank and File Committee in the Builders' Labourers Federation and it had been filed federal secretary of the BLF. It now appears that Dave Kerin is bluffing.

Dave Kerin, a member of the Rank and File Committee told us: "I'm sure you've been lying. In fact what he did was illegal in itself - you're not allowed to file the claim until you've issued the writ."

"I'm sure you've been lying. In fact what he did was illegal in itself - you're not allowed to file the claim until you've issued the writ."

Lies

Doug Draffin has read his "How to lie with statistics" well. His factory is as broke as he claims. He doesn't want it over the workers' heads. He doesn't want to pay the workers. He doesn't want to pay the workers.

Trampled on

A twenty-four hour strike in February 24 by the ironing shop workers which could have halted Melbourne's major transport and services. The BLF has little effect. The strikers, members of the Municipal Employees' Union, wanted better wages and conditions. The strikers, members of the Municipal Employees' Union, wanted better wages and conditions.

Demo for Compo

Marchers demonstrated outside the Victorian State Accident Insurance office last week in protest at delays in workers' compensation payments. Workers have been waiting over forty days to receive compo. The demonstrators, led by the Victorian State Accident Insurance office last week in protest at delays in workers' compensation payments.

Making a killing

Just in case any of your friends or workmates still believe the line that strikes are caused by company losses, which are caused by excessive wage demands! See then this -

Meat guru sacks men

Color and Son, the Commonwealth Meat Processing Co., has sacked 100 workers for a strike over a 10% wage increase. The workers were demanding a 10% wage increase.

Private enterprise smells

Garbage workers in Sydney recently shooed the city council to what they thought of their plans to hand over the tenders to "private enterprise". The workers were demanding a 10% wage increase.

Strike one at Siemens

Trade union at Siemens' factories in Melbourne and elsewhere have their first ever strike meeting last week. The workers were demanding a 10% wage increase.

THE RANK AND FILE COMMITTEE in the BLF will be holding a national meeting in Melbourne on March 20 and 21. The Rank and File Committee is not connected with any political party or group. The national meeting will be held at the Melbourne Convention Centre. The Rank and File Committee is not connected with any political party or group.

"That's not to say we don't have a leader prepared for making money, we produced very good leaders on our politics, including Gallagher's medical qualifications. We've got plenty of money to work under capitalism, and therefore it's no surprise for it."

We need people working on all Builders' initiatives. They're also going to come from the rest of the building industry. The type of people we need are people who are not afraid of the whole building industry. The type of people we need are people who are not afraid of the whole building industry.

SELL-OUT!

That's what outraged VSA members will be upset about the fact that Helen Rawicki has been sacked in one of the most blatant cases of victimisation seen in this State.

Helen Rawicki is a progressive leader who has spent years in an active role in the BLF. She was sacked in the department where she was working. She was sacked in the department where she was working.

"We're not saying the employers are going to stand anything more. It's not going to stop. It's not going to stop. It's not going to stop. It's not going to stop. It's not going to stop."

Helen Rawicki

She was sacked in the department where she was working. She was sacked in the department where she was working.

Strike

Belton workers' decision immediately in a simple manner, the BLF is not going to be a strike. The BLF is not going to be a strike.

The Central Council will immediately afterwards and Helen Rawicki will be sacked. The Central Council will immediately afterwards and Helen Rawicki will be sacked.

By Tess Lee Ack VSTA member

STREET

SEND us your column. Write to us at: PO BOX 7, MELBOURNE, VIC. 3121.

Eise told: 'Truck off!'

Last month, six Brighton City Councilors, led by a certain ... Eise, earned themselves some cheap publicity by banning a motor from Council-controlled roads in Brighton. The trucks that were taken off the roads were taken off the roads.

With a week, the Councilors ... Brighton Councilors' political career. The Brighton Councilors' political career.

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THE Battler

KODAK EXPOSED

Bosses Provoke Strike

by Jeff Soar

FOUR SACKED SHEET-METAL WORKERS have been reinstated at Kodak in Coburg after a strike lasting ten days. The four men had been sacked for refusing to scab on the plumbers who've been on strike since November 11 -- four months -- over a loss of claims. The workers at Kodak have not had a pay rise for over two years and the plumbers were leading the struggle for a long overdue wage increase.

On Monday February 16, the four sheet-metal workers were ordered to complete work on a nitrate retort -- a job left unfinished by the striking plumbers and declared black by the other unions. The men all refused and Kodak sacked them on the spot; they paid had already been made up. It was a set-up, Kodak was forcing the metal workers out.

The four sheeties included a shop steward and a worker who had won the Kodak apprentice of the year award. The section the sheeties were working in walked out in sympathy and a strike meeting of all AMU members was held the next morning at the factory gates. A delegation sent into the factory was told; "Kodak has no intention whatsoever of reinstating the 4 sheet metal workers, however if there was an immediate resumption of work then a fine would be allocated in the near future for a discussion of the men's position". The meeting voted overwhelmingly to go on strike, realising this was what Kodak wanted but seeing no alternate way. A suggestion to occupy the plant until the four were reinstated was not taken up by the AMU organiser Norm Clapton.

On the Monday -- the day of the sackings -- Kodak had put out a broadsheet "to the people of Kodak" whining about falling profits and talking about imminent lay-offs. A leaflet put out by the Miscellaneous Workers showed the profit drop from \$6.4 million to \$2.1 million had gone into capital outlay, quoting from the Financial Review. It appeared to the



Heated disputes broke out at this meeting

Kodak appear to have achieved what they set out to do -- to stop production and lay off workers for a period. The following week the miscellaneous workers were reinstated.

It's clearly not enough just to go on strike in a situation like this. Other actions must be taken as

well to bring pressure to bear on the company. Overseas and in some factories elsewhere in Australia, workers have organised picket occupations and even taken companies and demanded nationalisation under workers' control in order to save their jobs.

NSW SCHOOLS Teachers stay out

FIFTY TEACHERS at Warilla High School in Wollongong are on strike over the transfer of a teacher needed to teach a full load of science. The Principal agrees that the science teacher is needed, and that the need to reduce class sizes at Warilla -- a disadvantaged school -- is urgent.

Sydney teachers have launched rolling strikes in support. 300 Wollongong high school students also held a march to support them.

The NSW Teachers Federation had agreed to recommend a return to work, so that arbitration hearings could begin. They made only one condition -- that all parties agree to accept the decisions of the Arbitration Commission. The Education Department refused to agree to this.

On the same day, when the local member tried to raise the issue in State Parliament the Minister tied him up in procedural points until his time was expired. Then he wouldn't even reply.

In the face of the State Government's arrogant behaviour, the Warilla teachers voted on February 26 to stay out on strike. The vote was 49 to 1.

NSW teachers are becoming increasingly militant as a result of the wholesale sackings which have been taking place. The Warilla incident is just the latest in a series of liberal attacks on NSW education.

ILLAWARRA: BRUXNER BACKS DOWN

WOLLONGONG ROAD WORKERS have shown the NSW Transport Minister that they can't be pushed around. Bruxner had only had his job for a few days when he ordered that 48 workers from the Bellambi depot of the Main Roads Department be retrenched. He then threatened that 100 more might go.

The 400 workers left at Bellambi wouldn't have it. They went on strike and got the support of the entire South Coast Trades and Labour Council, in particular the Transport workers and the Miners.

The Mr. Duxley Rd, Bulli, Pais and South Coast Rd which service the mines need constant maintenance. That means more money and more jobs; as one worker commented -- "when the lights go on in Illawarra work commences".

The strikers held demonstrations in both Sydney and Wollongong. Delegations were sent to the Premier and the Transport Minister. Public meetings were called on the South Coast.

After a month, Bruxner had crumbled. 27 have been reinstated -- the other 21 have got new jobs.

13 APR 1976

THE Battler

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS



LAST WEEK, a young woman was murdered in this building.

She worked here, in a clothing goods discount warehouse. It was a fire trap from top to bottom ... Jammed full of inflammable cotton and synthetic goods with even the most primitive safety conditions ignored.

An electrical fault caused a fire in some cotton goods. It spread and most of the women working inside could not escape.

Ann Garland never really had a chance. She

was declared a ward of the state at an early age and spent much of her childhood being shunted from social welfare cottages to foster parents. The last few weeks before she died she was living in a Salvation Army hostel.

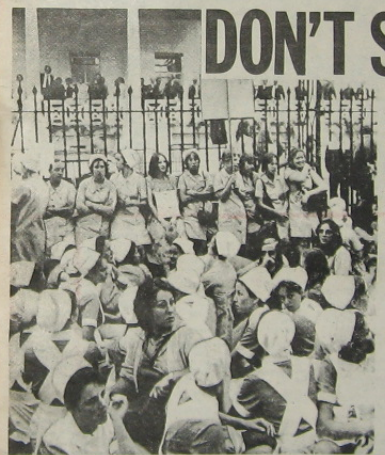
Her life's ambition was to become a nurse but she was not accepted to a nursing course. So she had to go knocking on doors to get a job as a machinist at sweat-shops. Eight weeks later she was dead.

Ann Garland was killed

by the drive for profits. The fire should not have happened. If the passages had been kept clear, the workers could have escaped. Instead, the passages were jammed with inflammable textiles. All for a few job more.

Capitalism has no regard for human life. It can't afford to have. If a boss had any compassion, he'd be less "efficient" and his competitors would undercut him.

Can we afford to let the system do this to us and our friends?



DON'T STARE TO SAVE INDEXATION

Fraser is going to wreck it anyway

THE WAGE INDEXATION guidelines are finished. No-one wants them. Fraser is trying to rat on his side of the deal. He wants a wage cut. So does Justice Moore.

Workers are ready to throw out indexation as well. We want quarterly cost of living rises, but we don't want the guidelines that go with them.

Woolhandlers, transport workers, storemen and packers, painters and dockers, railway employees... all have claims for \$20 rises. And they're all saying "To hell with indexation".

The bosses are furious. When Fraser attacked our wages in January, he thought we'd lie back and take it. Instead, thousands of unionists have

seen how quickly the bosses and their friends will change their tune... when it suits them.

Justice Moore has moved to either scrap or modify indexation this coming week. Whatever he tries to sell us, it will still be designed to make us pay for the bosses' crisis.

We must keep the pressure up. The struggles for decent wages must be drawn together into a powerful movement that can win us automatic compensation for price rises without any strings attached.

This isn't our crisis. We don't want it. We didn't cause it, and we don't get anything out of the system that did. We are not going to sit back and pay for it.

"This is the first time ordinary nurses have gone out and told people what they want".

A mass meeting on March 23 called for rolling stopwork meetings, bans on non-nursing duties, bans on overtime and elective surgery, acceptance of emergency admissions only, and the wearing of civilian clothes.

That's what Nurses' Association member Margaret McHugh told the Battler outside Parliament House, Sydney.

Then they marched through the city and set up a picket at Parliament House which has continued day and night for over a week.

Support for the nurses is coming in from all directions: from the unions, from the ALP, even the press and the police, on the picket lines are sympa-

thetic. When it started to rain, the Parliamentary big-shots would not allow the pickets to shelter under the roof, so the wharfies constructed a shelter donated by BMW members.

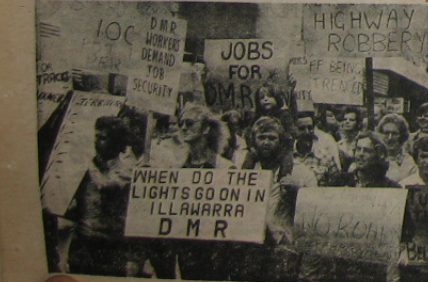
But if the government expected the nurses' dedication to keep them quiet, they were wrong.

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INSIDE

HELEN RAWICKI interview

PAGES 4 and 5



SUNSHINE COUNCIL ENQUIRY

Still more dole threats

TWO WEEKS ago, Fraser and Street made a lot of fuss about new regulations to stop "dole blackmail".

Their own plan involves stopping the dole to school leavers for the first six weeks. One third of the people on the dole are under 21. Fraser wants to sink these kids into people who've already hit the mot.

Then they are planning to force skilled workers to take 30 days of unpaid work. There were 40,000 of them and 35,000 jobs going in January. It's just as well to get them to intimidate people. Ad there are some nasty side-effects.

Unskilled workers are going to be hit more. Why keep a semi-

skilled worker when you can employ a tradesman being forced to take any work given by the employer a typhoid than you can get a person with bookkeeping skills to do even more... and for the same money?

The new regulations would mean that if you leave work, you have to make sure that you have been fired, otherwise you miss out on the dole. But if you say you were fired, it makes it harder to get a job and get out of the dole. You would have to fight to change jobs for health or any other reasons.

Mind you, Fraser hasn't done anything in the past two weeks to actually implement the new proposals. Nothing has been

"It's about time that unions did something" is the line of the Government from the Brotherhood's "review". After all, unemployment and degredating dole have hit all workers. "Apartheid" is not new from the AMU, the Trade Unionists' Association (TUA).

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It's about time the officials woke up. We're all getting scared.

It's right, a charity hood cannot lead a fight against unemployment. It can only supply bandaids and make excuses. Trade Unions can actually fight back. The union men and women who have been trade union members.

Same Old Pig Iron Bob

SIR ROBERT MENZIES, Knight of the Thistle, Lord Warden of the Exchequer, Minister for the Brotherhood's "review". After all, unemployment and degredating dole have hit all workers. "Apartheid" is not new from the AMU, the Trade Unionists' Association (TUA).

The NA's main program is for White Australia, conscription, the monarchy and all things British, and a return to the death penalty for rape and murder. It's a spin-off of its Anglo-Saxon racism. It also regards non-British immigrants as second class citizens. Every one of these policies, with the exception of the death penalty for rape, was implemented by such menials when we have to do so.

The NA is led by Brigadier Richard Easton, head of the Country Fire Authority, a hysterical monarchist and militarist and the most "respectable" figure on the far right. Easton has been criticised for using CIA facilities to campaign for

his policies.

In Australia, as you know, we have a very strict immigration policy, primarily because we don't wish to see another race in our country. The Immigration Act is a racist law which you have to denounce.

Under Menzies, White Australia was rigidly enforced, even to the extent of depriving children (Nancy Praxada, a six year old Filipina, for example). The Menzies government refused to accept even refugee camp inmates. In 1961 they refused an assisted passage to Kenneth McBride, McBride and both his parents had been born in Glasgow, he was believed to have been a black prapander.

The Menzies government did carry out a policy of non-British mass migration from Europe. But throughout, it attempted to give migrants the worst possible jobs, culturally "misfitting" them and generally treat them as second class citizens. Menzies wanted European migrants for the "boobies" - and they wanted factor jobs.

There is nothing new or horrifying about Menzies' proposals for racial discrimination. He founded one 32 years ago. It was called the Liberal Party. And while Menzies is an irrelevant old has-been, the Liberal Party is still in government. And it's still racist.

Anthony, who is also Minister for National Resources (or Minister for disposal of same), made his "meat or me" speech at the annual dinner of the Australian Mining Industry Council (where is).

His threat followed a more explicit threat from former Atomic Energy Commission Chairman Sir Phillip Baxter. Baxter claimed that Japanese officials had told him Jagan was prepared to trade Australia if it does not sell the uranium.

A few years ago, he publicly admitted that he had an Australian bomb so that we could keep other people out of the uranium. In the event of ecological disaster overseas.

Of course, Australia is not in a danger of being invaded by its uranium. Anthony, whose party is financed by a uranium company, is trying to undermine the widespread opposition to uranium mining.

Will the real Opposition please stand up

DICK HAMES GOT BACK for another three years, Labor may save which means that the electorate are dropped over a third of its vote and disappeared. A lot of people called the Victorian elections a non-event, and you can see why.

So it looks like there has a lot of friends in Victoria. But has he got patients, nurses and how doctors going to the mass Scanlon made of Health, Teachers and students who have been training for years about the situation in the schools. Computers and transport workers deplore Hames for his neglect of public transport.

Housing commission tenants have no confidence in the Housing Commission and environmentalists and some of the major trade unions have fought a battle over Newport power station for years about standing in the last three years.

So how did he get re-elected with such a dumping great majority?

Nobody believes that the Labor Party is the Opposition to Hames. It's not surprising. In every one of the issues I mentioned above, the opposition has been led by trade unions and community groups. The Labor Party has along behind. Sometimes, like with the Newport power station, which Labor originally supported, it's years behind. Sometimes it sits on the fence and doesn't get involved.

During the current victimisation fight in the High Schools (see page 4), the best Labor could do was offer its Education spokesman Bob Fordham as a neutral arbitrator between the VTA and the Education Department. When I challenged John Cain, ALP candidate and now member for Sandhurst, to support the teachers at an ALP branch meeting, he refused. Instead he made a long-winded speech which could be summarised in one sentence: "I don't think there are any votes in striking teachers."

But what's the job of a working class party? To promote struggles of different sections of the workforce against the same boss and the same boss' government.

After all, teachers use trains and railway workers have lunch in schools. Both are employed by the State government. And the same laws can be made between public hospital workers, Housing Commission tenants and western suburbs students whose health is threatened by Newport.

So we have another three years of Hames. And another three years in which there will be massive opposition to Hames at the industrial, ALP, trade union, while Holding and the ALP parliamentarians allow each struggle to be isolated and smashed.

If the Labor party cannot do its job and unify all the forces opposed to Hames, it can expect to stay in opposition forever. Menzies' workers are going to be forced to build a party a little braver and a little more serious about smashing Hames.

These are just a few of the savage, waterfowl cuts that the Labor government has planned, and all just to put a few more people into the pockets of businessmen.

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So how did he get re-elected with such a dumping great majority?

Nobody believes that the Labor Party is the Opposition to Hames. It's not surprising. In every one of the issues I mentioned above, the opposition has been led by trade unions and community groups. The Labor Party has along behind. Sometimes, like with the Newport power station, which Labor originally supported, it's years behind. Sometimes it sits on the fence and doesn't get involved.

During the current victimisation fight in the High Schools (see page 4), the best Labor could do was offer its Education spokesman Bob Fordham as a neutral arbitrator between the VTA and the Education Department. When I challenged John Cain, ALP candidate and now member for Sandhurst, to support the teachers at an ALP branch meeting, he refused. Instead he made a long-winded speech which could be summarised in one sentence: "I don't think there are any votes in striking teachers."

But what's the job of a working class party? To promote struggles of different sections of the workforce against the same boss and the same boss' government.

After all, teachers use trains and railway workers have lunch in schools. Both are employed by the State government. And the same laws can be made between public hospital workers, Housing Commission tenants and western suburbs students whose health is threatened by Newport.

So we have another three years of Hames. And another three years in which there will be massive opposition to Hames at the industrial, ALP, trade union, while Holding and the ALP parliamentarians allow each struggle to be isolated and smashed.

If the Labor party cannot do its job and unify all the forces opposed to Hames, it can expect to stay in opposition forever. Menzies' workers are going to be forced to build a party a little braver and a little more serious about smashing Hames.

These are just a few of the savage, waterfowl cuts that the Labor government has planned, and all just to put a few more people into the pockets of businessmen.

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WITCHAMOUNT

THE HAMES GOVERNMENT in Victoria is conducting a witchhunt against left-wing Sunshine Labor Party councillors.

Using a group of fake independents and 61 faceless, un-named accounts, it is trying to pin original charges against a group of Labor councillors led by Ian Hill, the Mayor and a member of the Socialist Left.

Sunshine Council is being subjected to an enquiry, the first judicial enquiry ever held into a local council in Australia.

Local Government bodies get involved in controversies all the time. May, like the Labor council in Richmond (Vic) or the provisional Council in Brunswick (Vic) are infamous for corruption without there ever being a hint of State intervention.

suspended

Local councils get suspended and replaced by administrators quite regularly. It happened in Liverpool, NSW last week and Kellar (Vic) last year.

But this enquiry is different. Because it is a judicial enquiry, criminal offences can follow. Normally, when you face possible criminal charges, you have the right to confront your accusers, to deny, to give evidence and call witnesses. Every one of these rights is denied to the Sunshine councillors.

WITCHAMOUNT

The enquiry was instigated by a petition of 61 ratayers. The board of enquiry, the Minister for Local Government, refused to release the names of the petitioners.

The three independent councillors spent last year campaigning against the Labor majority on council for alleged financial mismanagement.

Financial mismanagement included breaking a contract with Hensch Bros, Melbourne, for the supply of new Ford cars.

unstuck

The left-wing councillors had made a gesture of solidarity with the Ford strike of 1973 by refusing to deal with businesses that had a bad industrial relations record.

Their gesture was bound to come unstuck (after all, most companies here had industrial relations)... and it did when they bought the Leyland P76 instead. Leyland went broke throwing thousands of workers onto the scrapheap.

There were a number of well-meaning gestures; some of them slightly effective, many of them useless.

Local Government Departments and Social Welfare departments which weakened the power of the Town Clerk and individual councillors. It also improved the quality of public welfare in the region.



THE PHOTOS ABOVE show a group of men in suits, likely politicians, gathered around a table. One man is pointing at a document.

THEY push G. Hollingworth into Cr. Heatley and then jump on Heatley's back. The Councillors have been denied access to both the "secret" evidence given by the Town Clerk, Bill Douthett, and the secret report made by Government investigator, Don Heathcote.

The enquiry has subordinated the minutes of the Labor Council. This is a straight out attack on the rights of workers' political parties to function.

There has been no suggestion that the Labor councillors were involved in graft or corruption. They are on trial for the policies of the Labor caucus and Hames and Hunt are going to read lengthy to find charges to mail them on.

The State Labor Party's defence of the Sunshine members has been utterly inadequate. The ALP Administration came out with a weak down resolution against the enquiry.

The campaign last year was organised by the Sunshine Advocate, the Local Paper owned by Rupert Murdoch, that well-known friend of labor.

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THE SECOND Harrold Abortion Bill has been introduced after its second reading. It's unlikely that any more will be heard about it. It's more than served its purpose.

Later this year, Attorney General Heddon is expected to introduce legislation that is more "moderate". Unlike the Harrold Bill it won't take the possibility of up to 20 years in jail for carrying out abortions and women not on the verge of death will still be able to have operations. Big deal while appearing to steer

WHAT DON'T YOU DO FOR MONEY

NATIONAL COUNTRY PARTY Leader Angus Fraser has called to sell uranium for his multi-national mining mates that he is ever prepared to trade Australia if it does not sell the uranium.

Anthony, who is also Minister for National Resources (or Minister for disposal of same), made his "meat or me" speech at the annual dinner of the Australian Mining Industry Council (where is).

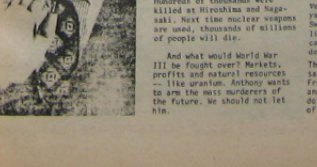
His threat followed a more explicit threat from former Atomic Energy Commission Chairman Sir Phillip Baxter. Baxter claimed that Japanese officials had told him Jagan was prepared to trade Australia if it does not sell the uranium.

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Weapons

Nuclear weapons in the hands of menzies like Nixon and Hames... and the people who are supposed to be invading us from over the horizon... hundreds of thousands were killed at Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Next time nuclear weapons are used, thousands of billions of people will die.

And what would Mr. Markets III be fought over? Markets profits and nuclear resources. The like uranium, Anthony wants to be the mass murderers of the future, he should not let him.



WIDESPREAD OPPOSITION

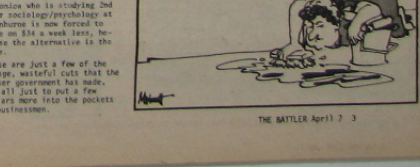
That's why Labor lost the elections and hasn't been able to mobilise new lists of widespread opposition to Hames. Politicians like Cain and Holding do not believe that working class parents can be won to support teachers' striking for better conditions in the schools. They also don't believe that working class train passengers can be won to support railway workers' striking for better conditions in public transport.

But what's the job of a working class party? To promote struggles of different sections of the workforce against the same boss and the same boss' government.

After all, teachers use trains and railway workers have lunch in schools. Both are employed by the State government. And the same laws can be made between public hospital workers, Housing Commission tenants and western suburbs students whose health is threatened by Newport.

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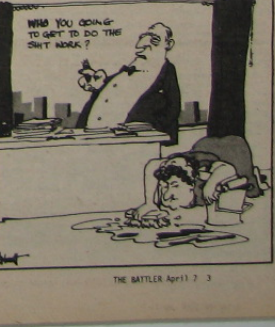
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GOOD ARGUMENTS AGAINST SOCIALISM



WORLD REVOLUTION



In 1973-74, three countries destroyed a long-standing dictatorship: Portugal, Ethiopia and Thailand. In two of the countries, Ethiopia and Thailand, a new working class played a vital role in the overthrow of the old order and emerged for the first time as an important force. Nigel Harris reports from Bangkok, capital of Thailand.

Between October 7 and 14, 1973, Rajdamman Square in the center of this city was the scene of unprecedented demonstrations. On the 14th, nearly half a million people demanded a new constitution and the release of 11 prisoners seized by the military dictatorship.

A delegation marched to the King's palace to plead for a civilian government. The dictator turned out the machine guns which machine-gunned the crowd — between 400 and 800 were killed.

It was the end of the dictatorship. The oligarchy which new Thailand — the military, the state bureaucracy, Chinese and foreign business — could no longer afford the dictator. He and his two closest supporters fled to Taiwan and finally the United States.

Students

This gigantic popular movement represented many different things. It was led by nearly the whole student body, but with it a whole Thailand's new working class. And there were interesting movements of poor and landless peasants.

In 1973, there were more strikes than in all the preceding twenty years put together — 111 without legal strike



unions (banned until January 1972).

In 1974, the student movement moved sharply to the left. In January, they started to raise socialist slogans and demonstrated against US bases and the 32,000 US troops then in Thailand. The bookshops were suddenly filled with previously banned left-wing literature.

The workers spontaneously moved into increasing militancy. Conditions were appalling — in many factories, workers were let out for only one day a fortnight, there were no safety rules or measures, and the hourly wage was, statistically, too damn low for the safety of the foreman.



HARA OCCUPATION

Population: 39 million
Major exports: rice, sugar, tapioca, rubber
Income per head: about \$220 per year
Employment: 75% in agriculture
Foreign investment: Japanese business owns 12 per cent of all capital. Thailand is the biggest group. Many foreign companies have plants in Thailand.

Workers' Struggle

The Federation of Trade Unions struck. The government cracked down, and to avoid being placed by a coalition of liberal parties, called general elections for April 4.

It seeks to block every initiative of the Left. For example, the students forced the government into ending the US military presence by March 20 this year, and protested mass demonstrations in Rajdamman Square if this did not happen.
Now a new body, backed by Red Guard Clubs, the 'Anti-Communist Imperialist United Front' has said it will occupy Rajdamman Square from April 15 to 20 to destroy the student movement. An entirely new student movement has been created by the Red Guards among technical college students to break the position of the already university student movement.

Violence

The tide of violence has been appalling. Some of the most serious and the liberal party and student leaders and 12 peasant leaders were killed in recent months. The Liberal New Force was hit by military headquarters when it was bombed on February 15. The bomber was killed but later came to Bangkok to protest and reject the changes as completely inadequate.

Last week, a shower of shots poured into the car of the secretary of the Thai Socialist Party. Financial backers of both parties have been invited into withdrawing from the Thai Socialist Party parliamentary candidates have withdrawn.
Nevertheless, militancy has continued to rise. The most spectacular urban achievement was the five day general strike in January this year. The Prime Minister put up the troops. On April 10th, and by 10th,

the factory occupations in Bangkok — reported elsewhere on this page — are astonishing examples of audacity in a brand new labour movement. The Hara occupation is an even more dramatic example of how the struggle for the liberation of women grows out of the very nature of workers' struggles: it is not a magic ingredient injected from outside.

There are now dozens of similar examples of workers reaching out to control their lives collectively, challenging both the law and private ownership. Last year, workers seized and ran one of the major hotels in Kingston, Jamaica.

In Britain, there were dozens of occupations last spring. In northern England, there were hundreds. For the capitalists had to flee. At Lip in France they held the factory for months. At Leyland in England, they defied management's plan to close the factory.

Five years ago, there were scarcely any examples of workers' factories.

Since then, the British miners have broken the Heath Government, the Port of London workers have broken the state power, and Thai shipyard workers have broken the back of the Fitzroy and Halliwell Socialist dictators, the black miners of South Africa have terrified

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THE BATTLE April 7

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by
**NIGEL
HARRIS**

of the... liberal as you can get, was... If the coup can be staged... April 6 (p.m., NSW Uni... April 8 (p.m., Sydney University, Camwell Lect... Meeting, Room 13), Trades... April 9 (p.m., Macquarie University, Function Room... Invitation Meeting... For details of this and the other meetings, contact... Sydney branch at the 18 at... 1/24 Wells Street, New... NSW.

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THE POLICE AND THE ARMY... INTO THE POLICE STATION TO PROTEST... HARA IS A TRIAL OF STRENGTH... REFUSED... COMMUNE... THE BATTLE April 7

THE BATTLE April 7

Dear Battlers,

LETTERS FROM OUR READERS

Teachers Back Down

Dear Battler,
The result of the mass meeting last Wednesday was a definite victory for the teachers. It was a triumph for the teachers who stood in the

of an indefinite strike which would be necessary to get them back to work. It is the only action that had any possible chance of success. The teachers decided to put their collective voice across the Governor's ill-considered edict.
The attempt to get Helen Kunkin re-elected as a teacher was a failure. The vote was split and the gentle solution of the left wing, I hope

forward that Kunkin does not get in the staff room of some quiet waiting to be employed as a teacher. But it seems to me that Helen Kunkin may as well join the ranks of the over-educated and underemployed.

Had teachers stood up for some of the values they say they are attempting to teach and walked out the first day, they would have the first massive step forward to bring the freedom to continue to teach those values, even in the present period. Perhaps the lines will teach our over-educated and underemployed colleagues what our localities have not.

Don Hoehnle
VSA member
Jacobson Marsh

A Film About REBELLION

"Rebellion is the great if we could the teachers to get started, and all just what we need!"

It did feel like that during those boring hours back at school. You're fed up with anything about it, of course, but it was a temporary thing. It's a film about some of us still think the same sort of thing about work. It's a thoroughly healthy thought.

what it! When the ward votes in support of Murphy's request to watch the world series, the teacher says: "After an illegal party is held one night in the ward, it's only one of the inmates, it's found in bed with a girl, his parents are frightened by his sexual guilt and fear of his parents. The film shows the methods of repression that are so commonly used against us all."

Kunkin's "One Film Over the Cuckoo's Nest" shows his brilliant insight, not only into the methods of repression one can use to keep up the law, but also into the constant potential for rebellion in every situation. The tragedy is that in his own life he individualises his inmates into individuals.

"One Film Over the Cuckoo's Nest" is a film about that sort of feeling. It's a film about rebellion -- and how authorities stop it before it starts.

The story is set in a mental hospital. Here, Kunkin Murphy is sent there by prison authorities who are not sure if he's really "unbalanced" or just pretending to be so he can get out of work.

That's the thing about authoritarianism -- whether they are bosses, dictators, generals or cops. They call our normal impulses "crazy" or "justified" the authority that they have grabbed.

Over the Cuckoo's Nest" in 1962, Kunkin became a pioneer of the LSD cult, largely using the royalties from the book, he and his friends (The Merry Franksters) lived out two of its main themes. First, they took a bus trip across America on LSD -- escapism just like the bus trip that Murphy and the inmates take in the film. Then Kunkin introduced LSD to the Hell's Angels -- reflecting

Inmates

Murphy realises from the start that his fellow inmates don't belong there. "You guys are no madder than the average asshole in the street," he says. He decides to challenge the authority of the warden, Nurse Patched, and gets for a small change in their daily routine so that they can watch the Baseball World Series.

Ultimately, the inmates revolt against Nurse Patched and the warden. But the system can handle isolated revolts -- all it takes is a phone call and reinforcements can rush in to put down the revolt.

Jack Nicholson as Murphy and some of the inmates in "One Film Over the Cuckoo's Nest".

STAGGING IT

"The Gates" by Leslie Milder and Bill Howe (Lester's Publishing Project)

"That's the trouble with the world today, people are forced to do too many things they don't want to do, but it happens all the time."

So says David Cook, a four-year-old child, and one of the two main characters of the Gates. The author of the book writes themselves. Their look is an account of the boys' reactions to rigid, compulsory schooling. It is set in the East End of London, and centres around one year in the life of David Cook and Geoff Miller.

Teachers fighting the boys -- innocent of any mind -- have a run in with the cops. It shows the "pully school" in the Battle! should not forget that students do suffer from an authoritarian system. The Gates gives an insight into one of the crucial problems facing teachers -- and it does so from the students' point of view.

of their new schools, they both react in the same way -- by waging it. Once they kept them away.

The only way the education system can cope with the problem is to provide the boys with a certain amount of freedom and then a small school which operates on friendly, flexible lines. As a teacher, the Gates said we far more than the trendy educationalists that we read over the last three years.

As Murphy picks the support of the inmates, Nurse Patched resorts to more blatant forms of repression. When Kunkin goes for the warden in the ward to be turned down, the warden can call the warden's "last authority" -- the warden's wife. She is the warden's wife, she is the warden's wife, she is the warden's wife.

For the previous couple of years the boys had suffered from the transition from primary school to secondary school. Terrified by the site, the demands and the anxiety



Write to The Battler, P.O. Box 7, Richmond, Vic.

reviewed by Alec Kahn

ing his idea that only the strongest can find freedom. Ultimately, Kunkin's radicalism led him to get up at a Victoria Bay march and accuse 15,000 demonstrators of "playing Mansell's game" -- because they were attending a rally!

So after writing a great anti-authoritarian book like "One Film Over the Cuckoo's Nest", Kunkin ended up opposing the anti-work movement which mounted the greatest challenge to authority in a decade.



John Somerville-Saith writes columns for the two worst papers in Melbourne -- the Sunday Observer and The Times. Somerville-Saith is also an ex-convict, convicted felon and declared bankrupt. He is the most sophisticated racist, sexist and anti-Semitic in print.

So it probably won't surprise anyone to read that in his column last week (Torak Times March 21) Somerville-Saith called for taking the right to vote away from migrants, to allow the migrant

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IS COOLS

'The Gates'
by Leslie Milder & Bill Howe
School from the point of view of the boys who couldn't attack it.

2nd Floor, 28 Block Place
Melbourne (03) 654 2411

We explained the logic behind "the left's" counter-revolutionary foreign policy and gave examples of the exploitation of workers in China and the quiting from the Government's own newspapers.

Harris' most successful meeting has been the combined 1975 Conference Branches General Meeting where he spoke on "The Crisis in the Capitalist System" and the need to build a revolutionary party. He

HARRIS TOUR SUCCESS

NIGEL HARRIS, a leading member of the Communist Party of Great Britain (CPGB) is in the United States on a week-long organising and speaking tour for the Australian 15.

As we go to press, Nigel has visited Hobart, Melbourne, Adelaide and Wellington and has spoken at over 20 meetings. In his keynote lecture, at the Victoria Bay march and accurate 15,000 demonstrators of "playing Mansell's game" -- because they were attending a rally!

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UP SCHOOL!

As part of the much publicised ABC outbacks Channel is not starting before four in the afternoon. However you will be pleased to learn that this decision is being suspended for an expensive live sporting telecast on April 10.



Nigel's other engagements have included student meetings at Victoria University, a radio interview and a two day Cadzow school.

In the coming week he speaks at several meetings in Sydney and Canberra. He will be returning to London. Full details in the centre pages.

CHANGES IN THE BATTLE

There have been some staff changes on the staff. We prepare to go fortnightly. The paper has been appointed full-time Editor, leaving Dave Haddad to concentrate on the paper's political coverage. Phil was Industrial Editor last year and has been appointed as a working holiday looking at the papers put out by other workers around the world. He has appointed a new Managing Editor and we now have a full time Sydney Editor.

The next issue of the Battle will be published on 22 or 29. We do our first fortnightly issue.

'Supergirl' joins the Superrich

Supergirl has joined the Superrich. She is a woman of power who controls the energy resources of Australia and how and to what ends. (See page 12).

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What We Stand For

The International Socialists are a revolutionary socialist organisation, open to all who accept our basic principles and are willing to work to achieve them.

WORKERS' POWERS. Workers' control over the whole of society based on workers' control of the factories and offices. Only the organised working class has the power to create a society free of exploitation and oppression. We stand for a socialist revolution because they are based on the exploitation of workers by a bourgeoisie ruling class.

REVOLUTION, NOT REFORMISM. We believe in overthrowing the capitalist system, not patching it up or gradually trying to change it.

SMASHING THE CAPITALIST STATE. The state machine -- parliament, courts, the law, police and army -- is a weapon of capitalist class rule and can never be used to serve the interests of the working class. There is no parliamentary road to socialism.

INTERNATIONALISM. A socialist revolution cannot survive in one country. It must help build revolutions in other countries or it will be defeated like the Russian Revolution of 1917. We are building an international revolutionary movement, opposed to patriots and working to overcome national divisions.

FULL EQUALITY AND LIBERATION for women, black migrants and all oppressed groups. Racism, sexism and discrimination against all minorities are all pillars of the capitalist system.

REVOLUTIONARY PARTY. To smash the capitalist system we need a revolutionary party, organised and built in the workplaces. Without a revolutionary party, the revolutionary struggles of workers will be crushed.

RANK AND FILE ORGANISATION. Workers need their own rank and file organisations to fight the bosses when the paid officials are unwilling to work within the trade unions and fight to bring them under rank and file control.

IS WORKS TO BUILD A REVOLUTIONARY PARTY out of the strength workers are winning today. We need a program of industrial and political demands that can strengthen the self-confidence, organisation and socialist consciousness of the working class.

If that's the sort of work you want to do... JOIN US!

SAA
SOUTH AFRICA ASSOCIATION

Police tour of South Africa 1976.

Where do police go for their holidays? To a police state.

The rich get Rydges

How would like an extra \$1,000 each year? How about \$100,000? Well, you can get it by buying and selling shares. The only way you can get it is by buying and selling shares. The only way you can get it is by buying and selling shares.

And they used to call it a WORKERS' game!

And as the football season begins for the workers, the rich are still reaping the benefits. The only way you can get it is by buying and selling shares. The only way you can get it is by buying and selling shares.



1 During their four-week strike last month, tradesmen at Siemens Industries didn't sit still. They picketed and demonstrated at the company's headquarters in Richmond.

2 Although they had only unionised last year, the mood was militant. When the company refusing to give them an \$11.50 rise to catch up to the average in the area, they marched into the company's office.

3 Inside, they went into the theatre on a mass to confront company negotiators. Siemens immediately ran to Arbitration to get things cooled down. The tradesmen have since gone back to work to wait for a settlement proposal.

AIRLINE COMPANIES RISK LIVES TO BREAK STRIKE

by Phil Griffiths

WHAT WE THINK

AIRPORT WORKERS haven't had a pay rise in two years. They intend to change that -- fast.

A Qantas worker told us he generally takes home \$110. Sometimes it's as low as \$92. It depends on what shift he works. This man has a wife and four kids. They badly need the \$20 that the TWU is claiming.

operation from the people bringing supplies to Tullamarine. "One bloke came to the airport, picked up a load and drove off down the freeway. Then he thought again. He turned around, came back and unloaded it."

But one thing kept the airlines flying -- the refuelers in Sydney kept working.

Sydney refuelers have a State Award while the strike was over a Federal claim. Planes got no fuel in Melbourne but they could fly up the east coast and to Adelaide because they could get fuel in Sydney. If Sydney had struck the airlines would have been grounded immediately.

Fat cats

Reg Ansett and the fat-cats running TAA and Qantas disagree. When 2500 airport workers round Australia went out for a week the bosses risked passengers' lives to smash the strike.

Refuelers imposed bans to prevent massive scabbing by bosses and supervisors, so the airlines set up "secret refueling bases" at country airports -- which are not equipped to handle large passenger aircraft safely.

TWU members closed the refueling bases in WA, despite police harassment. But they couldn't stop the ones on Air Force property -- like Laverton in Victoria.

Pickets were set up around all major airports to stop cargo. Shop Steward Peter Currie told the Battler that there had been a lot of co-

Guerilla

After a week the companies offered to negotiate. The airport workers went back and are running a guerrilla campaign for a week while negotiations take place. By working-to-rule they are slowing things down enormously -- for example luggage is placed rather than slid or thrown, causing long delays.

On April 6 there are more mass meetings to hear the result of negotiations. The feeling amongst the TWU members is that they're in for a long campaign.

THE UNION HANDLING of the airline workers' campaign reads like a saga of lost opportunities.

First, the Sydney refuelers were allowed to have a separate award and allowed to work through the dispute.

Second, the clerks, maintenance workers and engineers at the airlines have similar claims served on the airlines. There was no attempt by officials to organise a common front to the bosses. Quite the opposite.

When one of the Clerks' shop stewards at Tullamarine tried to arrange a strike meeting while the transport workers were out, the Federated Clerks Union vetoed it. In fact, they would not allow any strike meeting till the TWU members were back at work on Wednesday!

And when TAA workers wanted action, the TWU organiser closed one meeting without allowing a vote, and then told them it was "unauthorised" to walk off in protest.

A SHOP COMMITTEE at each airport could have co-ordinated the campaigns of all the airline workers fighting for their claims.

They could have combined the muscle of the engineers, the clerks and the loaders and refuelers at EVERY AIRPORT who could make sure the planes were empty ... of cargo, passengers and fuel ... during any dispute.

A RANK AND FILE GROUP of airline workers could have done the job the officials didn't. It could have fought for joint action by clerks and transport workers in Melbourne.

It could have intervened to talk to the Sydney refuelers -- explaining why they had to go out in support -- and for their own claims. It could have brought the maintenance workers and the engineers in with their claims, even if the officials tried to split the claims up.

If the rank and file at the airlines do not move to take control of their unions, and their claims, they will be lost short every time.



Number 18 APRIL 28, 1976 10 cents

THREE YEARS ON THE DOLE



THAT'S THE PROSPECT FOR 300,000 Australian men and women. A Secret Government report says that unemployment will stay close to 300,000 till June -- and then rise! More of us are to be thrown onto the scrapheap.

The report goes on to warn the Minister for Unemployment, Tony Street, that the level of unemployment will not drop until Christmas next year.

Already employers are using the rise in unemployment to scream for lower wages, lower taxes and higher investment allowances.

The report blames the Fraser cuts in Government spending as a major cause of the latest rise in the number of workers without jobs. In the building industry, 20,000 people are out of work because of the cuts.

The government's own report makes a lie out of all the "dole bludger" hysteria whipped up by the press. It makes a lie out of their claim that the cuts are need-

ed for "economic recovery". Meanwhile Hawke and the Labor Party leaders are telling us that it would have all been much better if Labor had won in December. Which is absolutely no use to the people on the dole.

What they ought to be doing is following the example of the Sydney branch of the ASMU who are setting up an "Unemployed Committee" to do something positive about organising unemployed metalworkers through the union.

If the union officials stopped complaining about unemployment and used the power of the working class to actually fight for the 35 hour week, they'd do a whole lot more to smash Fraser and cut the number on the dole than all the talk and all the Labor governments ever.

Fighting for the 35 hour week and the rights of the unemployed is not the way to win nice comments in the press. But it is the way to start and break the power of big business, which causes unemployment and crisis.

INSIDE

Arise, Sir Scab!



The fight against the Penal Powers

PAGES 6 and 7

N.S.W. Elections - Vote Labor! PAGES 4 and 5

FOR EVERY DIRTY DEED there is a payoff. Sir John Kerr got his last week. He was given a higher grade knighthood by Malcolm Fraser obviously for services rendered last November. It makes a change to see Fraser paying off someone who helped him. Usually he stabs them in the back!

We think there is a more appropriate royal honour to be given to Kerr for his services to big business. The Royal Order of the Boot. He'll get it right after Fraser gets his.



...is the 40th anniversary of the Easter Rising in Dublin, a desperate attempt to win the fight for a free Ireland. Its failure is the reason that violence in Ireland continues today.

The leaders of the Rising wanted to prevent Ireland's partition. The socialists among them were aware that to cut off the north was to make it safe for reactionaries. They knew too that the South on its own would be a bastion of Catholic reaction. The labour movement would be stunted, incapable of growth.

This is what happened when Ireland was divided in 1921.

Had the rising succeeded, had they managed to make Ireland united and free, the built-in injustice of Northern Ireland would never have been. The reaction's nightmare would have been prevented.

That's one reason to remember Ireland's Easter Rising.

AT FIRST SIGHT the 1916 Easter Rising was a mad-charge by anyone took seriously the implications of the 1916 Easter Rising. It was a mad-charge by anyone took seriously the implications of the 1916 Easter Rising. It was a mad-charge by anyone took seriously the implications of the 1916 Easter Rising.

Then one of them came and read the "Proclamation" to a bewildered group of Irishmen and Irishwomen in the streets of Dublin. The group of the dead receives her old tradition of Nationalism in Ireland, through up, summer the British Empire, her flag and her stripes for her freedom.

Their aim was to throw off the British rule that had oppressed and exploited Ireland for 300 years.

Elsewhere in Dublin small groups were setting other strategic buildings.

The rebels complained from the Irish Volunteers, led by Patrick Pearse, and from James Connolly's Citizen Army. The citizens, based mainly in the Temple and General Moore's, had emerged during the Dublin lock-out three years earlier.

The Rising was intended to be nationwide, but confusion and lack of co-ordination defeated some of the leaders of the Volunteers - left Dublin isolated. Nevertheless, the fighting raged all week.

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By Friday British Army artillery bombardment reduced the center of Dublin to rubble. There had been more than a thousand casualties. The Post Office was in flames.

Pearse and Connolly were directed "to go to prevent the further slaughter of Dublin citizens".

From a military standpoint, the rebels had failed. Their leaders were denounced as "mad, wild, Celtic Brehon" by the newspapers. They demanded that "the worst of the rebel leaders to be singled out for death with the same traditional traitor".

A faction in the British cabinet led by Churchill, Blyden and Joyce-Killick - the same trio who later were to mastermind the bombing of the General Sir John French's house later - were in favour of repression.

Pearse, Connolly and 11 others were shot.

It has also been hit by the world crisis, which prevents it increasing its exports to pay for modern machinery from the west.

The problems of a massively impoverished country cannot be solved without the spread of revolution to other countries.

But the Chinese leadership are incapable of giving real encouragement to that - was shown by their disputing support for American and South Africa backed forces in Angola.

Thousands joined the "Irish Republican Army" and in January 1919 the British independence engaged across the country.

The war ended with the slaughter of 2000 Irishmen. The far right Orange was a right-wing nationalist party. The Irish people, Irish workers in particular have been paying for that sell-out.



BY DAVE NADEL

IN SYDNEY LAST month a black man from Brisbane killed a black man from Cleveland, U.S.A. in front of a white audience. Hector Thompson did not want to kill Chuck Williams but the Blacktown NSL Club did not plan to stage a murder, but that's what happened. It wasn't a coincidence.

Hector Thompson has killed two men in the ring. Six years ago he killed Williams without regarding consciousness after being knocked out by Thompson. The final fight the trap for Thompson is that he cannot afford to stop fighting.

Hector Thompson was caught up in a boy-hunt left by the Labor Council which, though it has made one blunder, has done more to improve the quality of life in Sunshine. It could also result in some Council members facing criminal charges.

It's only way I can see this happening is for me to criminal fighting.

"I must make another bid for the world title. I would not set my life with my own life."

Hector usually comes from oppressed sections of society. In Australia they are mostly Aboriginals and Southern European migrants.

In the US they are Blacks and Puerto Ricans. Before that they were Italians, Swedes, Jews and still earlier Irish. Whoever was living in the ghetto at the time. Nobody gets that hard punched in if there is one other way they can afford to make a living.

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The trouble is that most people who try to punch their way out of the ghetto don't make it. For every All there are a hundred men willing to punch punch (with punches, physical or mental damage). And even the Australian Blacks aren't the champions. Don't necessarily die rich.

Mr Richards ended his days on Palm Island shortly after being charged with the murder of a woman who died while at Chertburg Mission. He was a black man who was sent to a prison for white men.

Some of the papers are now calling for a white man to be named. That won't help Hector Thompson and his thousands of mates. We have to get rid of the sort of white man that France can't kill other men and themselves to give us a little decent life.

EGERTON HELPS FRASER ORGANISE A WAGE CUT

ON APRIL 13, Jack Egerton dined at the Lodge with Michael Fraser. The two men met after dinner chat was about the industrial situation.

Egerton is president of the Queensland Trades and Labor Union and is also vice-president of the AFL. He is one of the most powerful men in the labor movement.

Egerton told Fraser he "could" discuss industrial information to useful, that it is going to be the basis of the Government's economic plan against wage reduction in the current hearing.

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Egerton later stated, "my sympathy is with the workers. I am not in favor of a wage cut. I am not in favor of a wage cut. I am not in favor of a wage cut."

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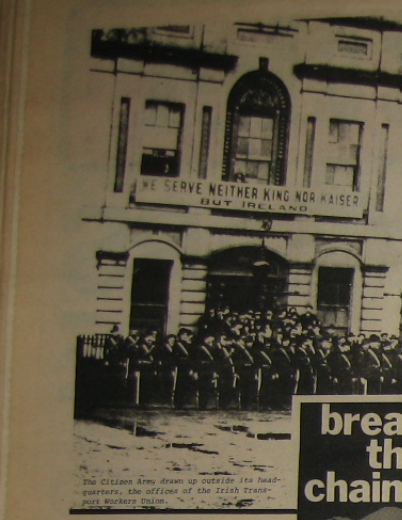
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The Citizen Army drew up outside its headquarters, the offices of the Irish Workers Union.

China

EARLY LAST MONTH there was an amazing spontaneous demonstration in Peking. Hundreds of thousands of people surrounding Chou to lead ended up fighting soldiers and security police. They set fire to military vehicles and sacked the security police HQ.

The fighting follows long internal struggles among China's rulers which first came into the open with the cultural revolution of 1966-67.

Teng Hsiao Ping who was purged during the cultural revolution as the "number two capitalist ruler" and a supporter of Liu Shao Chi re-emerged after the eclipse of Lin Biao. Under Chou protection Teng became the third most powerful figure in the country.

But they have demands of their own, as last summer's strikes in Central China showed, and could start fighting for them.

Headline China's workers

ONE ISSUE of Peking Review last week quotes approvingly from the Moscow Press and the USSR publication Newsweek. The quotations are of course anti-USA statements and are part of Peking's general diatribe against "Social Imperialism".

But what most really stick in the eyes of local supporters of movements that are following lines directly after the USSR and Newsweek and the Canberra Times.

THE EASTER RISING

by EAMMON MCCANN

breaking the chains

Then & Now

What is it all about?

Food production is barely keeping up with the increase in the population making more and more remote the Chinese leaders' dream of catching up economically with the advanced industrial countries.

On top of all this, there are the massive resources used to defend China against the further slaughter of 'liberal citizens'.

From a military standpoint, the rebels had failed. Their leaders were denounced as "mad, wild, Celtic Brehon" by the newspapers. They demanded that "the worst of the rebel leaders to be singled out for death with the same traditional traitor".

A faction in the British cabinet led by Churchill, Blyden and Joyce-Killick - the same trio who later were to mastermind the bombing of the General Sir John French's house later - were in favour of repression.

Pearse, Connolly and 11 others were shot.

It has also been hit by the world crisis, which prevents it increasing its exports to pay for modern machinery from the west.

The problems of a massively impoverished country cannot be solved without the spread of revolution to other countries.

Sunshine Enquiry

THE SUNSHINE Council Enquiry is continuing. This enquiry was set up at the instigation of the same name accusers with the open support of three "liberal" members of the Council. The whole exercise is under the control of the Liberal Party's local Government Minister, Munt.

It's aim is to smash the left-wing Labor Council which, though it has made one blunder, has done more to improve the quality of life in Sunshine. It could also result in some Council members facing criminal charges.

It's only way I can see this happening is for me to criminal fighting.

"I must make another bid for the world title. I would not set my life with my own life."

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In the US they are Blacks and Puerto Ricans. Before that they were Italians, Swedes, Jews and still earlier Irish. Whoever was living in the ghetto at the time. Nobody gets that hard punched in if there is one other way they can afford to make a living.

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Some of the papers are now calling for a white man to be named. That won't help Hector Thompson and his thousands of mates. We have to get rid of the sort of white man that France can't kill other men and themselves to give us a little decent life.

deficit

It ran a trade deficit of 1000 million dollars in 1974 and another of 500 million dollars last year.

It has also been hit by the world crisis, which prevents it increasing its exports to pay for modern machinery from the west.

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But the Chinese leadership are incapable of giving real encouragement to that - was shown by their disputing support for American and South Africa backed forces in Angola.

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Jamaican bosses waiting for a Kerr

from HOWARD SPENCER in Kingston, Jamaica

Recently, Prime Minister Michael Manley announced new economic measures - increased taxes and a restriction of \$10 a week on wage rises. This was necessary, he said, because the revenue from the two main pillars of the economy, sugar and bauxite, will go down from \$100 million to \$180 million this year. There have been strikes at the Cement Company, Caribbean Products, and many other companies. Even Dry Dock workers have been on strike over redundancy payments, and 500 workers have been laid off from Alcan bauxite works. Two other bauxite plants have closed down completely.

For two days running, the Ministry of Labour officers were stowed by employed workers demanding the right to work about a mile from Harmon barracks had to be called in to restore "law and order". On the third day the protesting workers were taken on to the Government's Crash Programme.

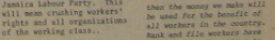
This scheme is designed to give unemployed workers something to do locally (repairing the streets), and pay just a few dollars more than the starvation level minimum wage.

It is becoming more and more clear to workers that Manley's "Democratic Socialist" Government does not represent their interests. Manley and the PUV are the only ones who are not in favour of the strike.

The latest issue of the "Socialist Weekly" (paper of the Jamaican Revolutionary Marxist League) says: "We experience ourselves as the struggle for bread and for a better government is one and the same struggle. All workers must be united at rank and file level to fight the present crisis. It is imperative we put under workers' control."

"In particular we must learn from the Jamaican workers who organized their own 'bread and butter' union to be able to do this. It is the only way we can control the state. We must not let our hands be put under workers' control."

800 workers on strike outside Segrod Factory in Kingston.



800 workers on strike outside Segrod Factory in Kingston.

But the money we made will be used for the benefit of all workers in the country. And if workers were to fight the present crisis, it would be free of leadership by capitalist political parties. We have to fight the state under the union leaders.

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WILLIS

THE WHOLE RANGE of demands and discussion that may be put up to the new State Election may be summarized in one simple question - do you want NSW to have a system of open and competitive free enterprise or a system of central and regulated socialism?

That's Eric Willis on his campaign. Sounds familiar doesn't it? It's exactly the same battle Fraser used last December to get elected big way to government.

A VOTE FOR ERIC WILLIS IS A VOTE FOR MAJORIN FRASER. The Liberal Government's record is so appalling that Willis is campaigning on Fraser's used election speeches.

What Willis says by socialism is spending money on public facilities. If he gets back, NSW workers will be left with the highest cost of living in Australia, and the worst public transport system their lids will go to the worst schools. Their hospitals will remain understaffed and poorly equipped.

If they lose their jobs, there's the threat of prosecution by the NSW Trade Union Affairs Commission. And if they are thrown out of work, Majorin Fraser has ways to keep your knicker.

Inflation

Willis' Liberal Party is the party of big business. So naturally Willis doesn't believe that profits cause inflation. He thinks inflation is caused by indirect taxes.

He so intends to abolish it and replace it with a second slug of income tax.

He is also preparing to abolish land tax and stamp duties. That's a hand out of thousands of dollars to land speculators. Meanwhile nurses are told that their rent has come up \$10 and they can't even get the rise that Willis stole from them.

The Willis government is going to boost profits for big business by developing a 'world class port' at Botany Bay. In the process Willis is destroying the port. It's part of a massive planned industrial complex, the most critical part of which is a proposed \$540 coal loader.

Below: Willis has no money for nurses, but plenty for land speculators. The nurse wears 'I'm not impressed'.

WHEN NEVILLE WIAN announced that he didn't want Gough Whitlam to be involved in his election campaign, the press was delighted. Another split in the Labor Party?

But from Wian, who is just a cheap election trick, an everything that counts on everything that counts. He agrees with Gough Whitlam down the line. He just doesn't want to take responsibility for the 'failure' of the Federal Party, there are no votes in Gough's name.

Disowning

Meanwhile, Wian is doing what Don Dunstan did in South Australia last year, disowning the Federal Party and campaigning specifically on State issues.

Public transport is to be the first priority. They're planning to spend \$80 million over the next five years. Rail fares are to be reduced by 20 per cent.

In education, they intend to reduce class sizes, establish a full system of pre-schools, introduce special classes for migrant children and establish an Education Commission which will include teachers and parents.

Others will be broken for life, all because of inadequate plans to control the coal dust.

Broken

The coal will be transferred to the silos by rail. Their will be broken for the complex who will contract operators. Some will die, others will be broken for life, all because of inadequate plans to control the coal dust.

The Botany Bay complex can still be stopped if Labor wins the elections and the Trade Unions put a total ban on the silos.

One of the big issues in this election is the price of milk. This is because milk costs 10 per cent more in Sydney than in any other Australian city. The State government has drawn a big circle around the city. Farmers are insisting the 'quota' can sell their milk inside Sydney. Nine MF's are on quota.

Quota areas of the quota area is allowed to sell in Sydney. They lose access to a large market and we pay more for milk. But a few government politicians and their mates make a lot of money.

Willis and the Liberals are the backs of big business and the most critical part of which is a proposed \$540 coal loader.

The Minister for Education, Phipps, is saying that it doesn't matter what the size of school classes is. Willis says it's not possible for saying that workers shouldn't get full pay while on workers' compensation, because it encourages bludgers and loafers.

The Country Party is distinguished by two features: first, the lack of any principle whatsoever; second, a consistent tendency to side towards any issue that arises.

The Government's record? It's very easy to say. It's the record is: It hasn't done anything; NSW has the worst transport system in Australia; if you travel from Perth to Sydney, the worst section of the line is in NSW because they simply

form which isn't being pushed by him is the 35-hour week, which shows you how committed he is to the idea. Power workers are supposed to be it immediately.

Wian is also 'forgetting' to mention the abolition of all penalties against the trade unions, full pay on workers' compensation and equal pay for women. These policies are in the Labor Party platform because the union movement fought for them.

Gough Whitlam had also promised the 35-hour week under union pressure. When he decided that saving capitalists' profits was more important than saving workers' lives, the leadership of the NSW trade union movement sat back and watched while Whitlam

Indexation

These union officials also accepted the wage indexation proposals that came out of the Territorial conference.

Electing a Labor State government in NSW will give us a weapon to fight an Education Commission which will include teachers and parents.

And they will demand it with unemployment higher than in the rest of Australia and the state's services completely run down. Labor may win office, but they won't be allowed to govern.

George Petersen speaks:

GEORGE PETERSEN is the Labor member for Trawlunga, one of the most militant pro-Labor electorates in NSW. He's also a socialist. He asked him to give us his views on the State elections.

"If the NSW government were to be elected, it would be a Liberal government in Australia. If there is one thing that unites all the parties is that they will attack the working class in all times and under all circumstances. This was evident when they refused to give a \$9 increase to the nurses, and the intransigent attitude of the Minister for Education in the Ministerial strike is an indication of the basic class position of the government."

"The Minister for Education, Phipps, is saying that it doesn't matter what the size of school classes is. Willis says it's not possible for saying that workers shouldn't get full pay while on workers' compensation, because it encourages bludgers and loafers."

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"The Government's record? It's very easy to say. It's the record is: It hasn't done anything; NSW has the worst transport system in Australia; if you travel from Perth to Sydney, the worst section of the line is in NSW because they simply

haven't spent any money on it. That's only part of the total neglect of public transport."

"During the last three years, you can see that the government for thinking you were in Canberra instead of Sydney. The actual legislation that came up was relatively unimportant, but was always important was question time which the government members used to attack the Labor government in Canberra. What riled them was that riled them was that Labor made money that was in their hands available in the form of grants. The Libs were more concerned with maintaining their own bureaucratic structures than with providing essential services."

"It will be worse with the Liberals in power in Canberra. We need a Labor government in NSW to present an alternative. A new system of transport,

WHITLAM

There is no way that the bosses are going to allow all of Labor's expensive social service schemes to be abandoned. There's no way the press is going to allow it to bring in the 35-hour week, especially since he doesn't want it himself.

And because Labor cars more about winning election than changing society, they will capitulate, every time.

That's why electing a Labor government isn't enough. It must be safe, well-paid jobs, decent public transport and education, we will have to fight for them ourselves; through our unions, through Labor Party branches, through action on the job.

It's not enough to elect union officials and politicians and expect our problems to be solved for three years. The bosses won't allow it.

Even though the new electric passenger rolling stock is pretty standard, it is still vastly superior to any non-electric rolling stock bought in recent years.

The number of stainless steel rail diesel cars is being increased to 100. The Rivieria Express in recent years has been used as a total filler. Some were sold to the Victorian Railways where they were completely rebuilt. A few are still in use on the South Coast, where they spend more time being repaired than they spend in service.

It is indicative of the priorities of the present NSW government that the vast majority of new rolling stock is stainless steel. The products of capitalists must be transported, but the people can die.

No matter how good the rolling stock is, a railway cannot be operated with poorly maintained track. Today, rail travellers who are literally taking their lives in their hands by travelling in this way. The number of the large reduction in the number of men employed on

adequate education - that is, only possible through Labor. And that's not to be achieved by stringent penal clauses. Labor is one way to restrict. Workers were disappointed by the defeat of Labor in December. The election of a Labor government under Neville Wran would do much to restore the morale of the organized working class.

At the Territorial Conference in 1975, Labor made a commitment to guarantee the professional services. Seven months ago, this included the health service. I agree with Wran on this in respect.

Since Labor takes the view that it is certainly not the workers' but only on Parliament, they must rely on their struggles outside Parliament.

'THE PUBLIC CAN WHISTLE'

THE PRESENT CHAOTIC STATE of the Rail Division of the New South Wales Public Transport Commission is entirely due to the deliberate neglect of the rail ways by the Liberal-Country Party coalition government.

The present New South Wales government continues to be the stooge of private industry. Public Transport is neglected so that oil companies and car manufacturers can continue to exploit the travelling public. Profitable freight traffic is allowed to be subsidised by the \$100-million dollar expressways continue to be built instead of improving rail transport to a colossus where the public will prefer it to private transport.

Most NSW passenger rolling stock is poorly maintained and outdated. The poor maintenance is the result of too few people being employed to carry out this job, coupled with the PTCo's practice of not bothering with maintenance until the equipment breaks.

The Liberal-Country Party makes a lot of noise about the new suburban and interurban carriages presently being delivered. This is fine, until you realise that these carriages are poorly designed, poorly built, underpowered and, by overseas standards, poorly maintained. You only have to travel from Gosford to Sydney to see these inadequacies.

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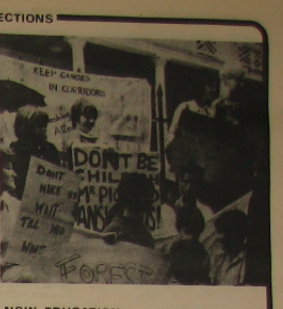
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NSW EDUCATION

In a class of its own

by Peter Carruthers, NSW Teachers' Federation

On the issue of education alone, the Willis Liberal-Country government must be got rid of on May 1.

Class sizes in NSW government schools are the highest when compared to class sizes in other states. New South Wales is the only state in Australia which has teacher unemployment reaching 1,000 teachers can't obtain a teaching job. This is despite the fact that the Willis government continues to hire overseas teachers.

It will stop recruiting teachers from overseas. It plans to establish an Education Commission which will include middle class elements and the Willis government.

Preference will be given to teachers of the Federation with regard to employment.

Teachers will have access to the Industrial Commission in working conditions, a dubious concession.

Teachers will be given representation to Teachers' Federation bureaucrats.

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most of overseas teachers. Labor's ability to handle these problems will no doubt be seriously hampered by the cutbacks in education spending currently being plotted by Fraser.

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Battler Fighting Fund

We need \$750 a month

with a small donation - or take out a supporting subscription for \$20 - or you can make a pledge of \$5, \$10 or \$20 a month. That gives us a regular source of funds to keep the Battler fighting.

That means we've got to quickly build the Battler Fighting Fund so that the Battler can keep up the fight against Fraser and the bosses.

You can help the Battler

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THE PENAL POWERS

70 Years of the Ball and Chain

WITH THE RETURN of the Liberal Penal Powers has once again arisen. Fraser's Industrial policy states clearly that he will re-introduce them, with an "industrial relations bureau" to police them.

The Penal Powers have been through three phases up to now.

The Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act was brought in in 1904 with the explicit aim of preventing strikes and lockouts. Workers were forbidden to take strike action to defend their living standards - penalty one thousand pounds! They were expected to trust the tender mercies of the capitalist State in the form of the Arbitration Court, instead of relying on their own strength.

In 1930 the Scullin Labor Government removed the ban on strikes and lockouts, but introduced Clarrifé O'Shea's penal powers as substitutes.

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found muscles. The first ban clause was inserted in the Retail Trades Award in 1911. By 1914 nearly 400 such orders had been made up against unions. In the period 1914-19, unions incurred sixty four thousand pounds in fines and another fifty thousand pounds in court costs. The fines on employers in the same period were laughably small - a total of seven pounds in 1927 for example.

Fines were not the only way the Arbitration Court punished the unions. In 1919, the Assistant Secretary of the IFA got 30 days' jail for criticising the Arbitration Court at a job-delegates' meeting. And in 1931, the Waterside Workers' Assistant Secretary was jailed for 12 months for an article and cartoon in the union journal which criticised the Court.

In Queensland, a Meat Industry Employees' Union official was fined 10 pounds and 186 pounds costs for advising a meatworker to refrain from doing work not covered by his award. The official paid the fine, but "it tended to influence the conduct of the union, deterred the employer from seeking relief and suggested the strikers had no valid grievance."

Needless to say, the Unions bitterly resented the Penal Powers. In 1969, the showdown came.

In 1969, the Rollmakers appealed to the High Court against the Arbitration Court's ability to exercise both arbitral (making awards) and judicial (enforcing awards) powers. The appeal was upheld, so the Government simply split the Arbitration Court into two - the Arbitration Commission and the Industrial Court.

While it was the Industrial Court that imposed fines, the Arbitration Commission was the real power. It laid down the ban clauses which formed the basis for the fines. The Arbitration Commission "placed the noose around the neck of a union... the Industrial Court just had to pull the rope."

In 1969, even a capitalist newspaper got into trouble for making a statement the Industrial Court disliked. The Brisbane "Courier-Mail" got a suspended fine of 200 dollars when it said, in an editorial, that some employer was ill advised in seeking a ban clause over a strike at his factory. This was held to be contempt of court, since "it tended to influence the conduct of the union, deterred the employer from seeking relief and suggested the strikers had no valid grievance."

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FRASER
O'SHEA
BANK

MAY DAY 1976

EIGHTY-SEVEN years ago, the International Workingmen's Association put out a call for a one-day strike in support of their demand for the eight hour day. They called for international solidarity by workers all over the world against international capitalism.

The day chosen was May 1, May Day. Ever since, workers everywhere have celebrated it as a day of international workers' solidarity.

May Day 1976 sees capitalism in its deepest crisis for 40 years. Around the world there is unemployment, falling production, social services and living standards are being slashed. In the underdeveloped countries, the crisis means starvation for hundreds of thousands and millions of people. They cannot afford the grain that the American farmers are burning.

In Australia, we have 300,000 of our fellow workers unemployed and the prospect of no more work for two years.

But with it, the world crisis has bought a resurgence in the working class movement, the only force capable of smashing capitalism.

In Portugal, the workers are demanding more power, control of industry, control of

the state, control of the schools. In Portugal, the workers are fighting for socialism.

And the whole world is against them. The other capitalist countries have set up an "unofficial" economic boycott and unemployment has rocketed to 20%.

In Thailand, where years of guerrilla activity has not succeeded in dislodging a string of CIA controlled generals and politicians, an erupting wave of strikes and occupations is turning the society upside down. The students overthrew the military in 1973, but the workers in

1976 are threatening to overthrow the whole system.

In Argentina the Peron government was removed because it couldn't control the workers, now the government in Jamaica is under the same threat.

In the USA, the very heart of capitalism, the rebirth of a militant labour movement is beginning, with the strike by half a million teachers in April and the mass occupations and pickets by coalminers last year.

It is now becoming possible to rebuild a world-wide working class revolutionary movement.

a movement dedicated to smashing the bosses and the state in all countries of the world - rich and poor, "communist" and capitalist, developed and underdeveloped.

That's why we support our comrades in the revolutionary movement in Portugal - organised into the PEP-88. That's why we support the initiatives of the International Socialists in Britain, the USA, Canada and other countries around the world.

That's why Marx raised the slogan "Workers of the World Unite!"



1976 - THE YEAR OF THE BOSSES' ATTACK

SINCE MAY DAY last year the world wide crisis of capitalism has hit Australia with a vengeance.

This May Day Australian workers are faced with the most right-wing government in fifty years, pledged to the most vicious attacks on workers' rights, jobs and living standards since Lord Bruce in the twenties.

They're after our rights

They're planning penal powers and court controlled lockouts to try and tame the unions, to take them out of the hands of the members and stop us using our unions to fight.

There must be complete non-cooperation with Court, bailiffs and national strike action to break the penal powers.

They're after our jobs

The Government has started a deliberate policy of increasing unemployment, lowering the dole and making it harder to get.

We have the right to work. In the crisis, we have to fight for it. That means that the unions and the rank and file must take the initiative -- set up unemployed committees uniting the unemployed in the fight to protect jobs and maintain welfare benefits.

They're after our living standards

The government is also attacking our social services. Under the slogan of cutting government spending and cutting taxes, it is stealing our right to an education, and the pensions we've worked all our lives for.

AND WE HAVE TO FIGHT BACK!

The First May Day demanded an eight hour day. It was later organised in memory of a fighting movement. Over the years, it has degenerated into a reunion day for tired sect-

arians and a picnic for bureaucrats and parliamentarians. As the bosses become more determined and more desperate in their attacks,

the real spirit of May Day -- a day to organise working class struggle -- will once again be revived.

MARCH WITH IS

Melbourne Sunday, May 2, Trades Hall (corner Lyson and Victoria Streets, Carlton), between 1.30 and 2.00 p.m.

MAYDAY BBQ -- Proceeds in aid of the Battler. Meet after the march, at 5.00 p.m. at 32 Brougham St., North Melbourne.

Admission price of \$3 includes meat and salads. Pensioners, students and unemployed -- \$2 Children -- \$1.

Sydney Sunday, May 2, Haymarket, 2.00 p.m.

Wollongong Saturday, May 1, Gladstone Avenue, 10.30 a.m.

Workers of the World Unite!

BATTLER SUPPLEMENT Mayday 1976



HOW WE WIPPED THEM IN '69

In 1964, the Tramways Employees Association was involved in a prolonged strike on the Port Melbourne and Mulgrave bus routes over the introduction of one-man buses.

The union built up \$15,410 in fines because the strike was in defiance of a ban issued by the Arbitration Court. The TEA tried to pay the fine in instalments of \$100 a month. That wasn't enough for the Industrial Court, so they confiscated the unions bank account of \$3,700 in late 1967.

With over \$6,000 still owing Clarrifé O'Shea, the TEA secretary, was called before the court on April 10 to do divvy where the funds were.

He refused to appear and was fined \$500 which he refused to pay.

The more militant unions - MEU, AMU, FBU, TBU, were joined by the so-called "rebel unions" in pledging strike action if O'Shea was arrested.

On the bench of the Industrial Court were the Chief Justice, Sir John Spicer, Mr Justice Dunphy and Mr Justice Kerr, who had made a name for himself in the 30's as a legal crusader against communists in the trade unions. He was later to send O'Shea to jail.

On May 3, the Court ordered a levy on O'Shea's personal assets. He promptly quit and other assets were declared and created, 20,000 would take to the

On May 1, the Appeal Court, Clarrifé O'Shea's massive bank account was refused to take an affirmation in union books and questions. Mr. O'Shea said that he had no assets and was not a member of the union. He refused to take an affirmation in union books and questions. Mr. O'Shea said that he had no assets and was not a member of the union.

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FRASER
O'SHEA
BANK



THE **Battler**

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

HANDS OFF 'THE UNIONS!



No to Court Ballots! No to Penal Powers!

PHOTO - Chris Lee Ack

Published by the International Socialists
Box 187, Fitzroy, Victoria, 3065

Things to throttle the bosses with

THE RED FLAG

The workers' flag is deepest red: It shrouded off our martyred dead. And now their limbs grew stiff and cold, Their life-blood dyed its every fold.

CHORUS:
So raise the scarlet standard high! Beneath its shade, we'll live and die. Thoughwards flinch and traitors sneer, We'll keep the red flag flying here!

It flew above our infant might When all around seemed dark as night. It witnessed many a deed and vow We shall not change its colour now!

THE INTERNATIONALE

Arise, ye workers from your slumbers, Arise, ye prisoners of want. For reason in revolt now thunders, And at last ends the age of cast. Then away with all superstition, Servile masses, arise, arise! We'll change henceforth the old conditions And scorn the dust to pin the prize.

So comrades, come rally, And the last fight let us face!
The Internationale unites the human race!
So comrades, come rally, And the last fight let us face!
The Internationale unites the human race!

We want no condescending saviours To rule us from a judgement hall; We workers ask not for their favours: Let us consult for all. To make the thief disgorge his booty, To free the spirit from its coil, We must ourselves decide our duty, We must decide and do it well.

So comrades, come rally, And the last fight let us face!
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So comrades, come rally, And the last fight let us face!
The Internationale unites the human race.

THE UNION MAID

There once was a union maid Who never was afraid Of the goons and the ginks and the rascals And the deputy sheriff who made the raid. (She'd go to the union hall) When a meeting it was called, And when the company guards came 'round She always stood her ground.

CHORUS:
Oh you can't scare me, I'm sticking to the union. I'm sticking to the union, I'm sticking to the union. Oh you can't scare me, I'm sticking to the union. I'm sticking to the union, I'm sticking to the union. I'll stick to the union Till the day I die.

The union maid was wise To the tricks of company spies, She'd never be fooled by the company stoops, She'd always organize the guys. She'd always get her way When she struck for higher pay, She'd show her card to the National Guard And this is what she'd say.

CHORUS:

BUMP ME INTO PARLIAMENT

Come listen all kind friends of mine, I want to move a motion To make an elderhood here, I've got a bonzer notion!

CHORUS:
Bump me into Parliament, bounce me any way at all, Bump me into Parliament on next election day! Some very wealthy friends of mine declare I am most clever, While some may talk for an hour or so, who I may talk for ever.

CHORUS:
I know the Arbitration Court, but I'm ignorant of law So if you want a small advance I'll talk to Justice Moore.

CHORUS:
Oh, yes I am a Labor man, I believe in Revolution, The quickest way to bring it on is talking Constitution.

CHORUS:
I've read my Bible ten times through, and Jesus justifies me The man who doesn't vote for me, by Christ, he crucifies me!

SOLIDARITY FOREVER

When the union's inspiration through the workers' blood shall run There can be no power greater anywhere beneath the sun. Yet what force on earth is weaker than the feeble strength of one? But the union makes us strong!

CHORUS:
Solidarity forever, Solidarity forever, Solidarity forever, For the union makes us strong!

It is we who plowed the prairies, built the cities where they trade, dug the mines and built the workshops, endless miles of railroad here. Now we stand outcast and starving 'mid the wonders we have made, But the union makes us strong!

CHORUS:
They have taken untold millions that they never toiled to earn, But without our brain and muscle not a single wheel could turn, We can break their haughty power, gain our freedom when we learn That the union makes us strong!

CHORUS:
In our hands is placed a power greater than their hoarded gold, We are toiling on like chattel slaves of old, We can bring to birth a new world from the ashes of the old, For the union makes us strong!

CHORUS:
Our living standards are being cut day after day, We need every ounce of muscle we can get, We need our union organization intact, And it looks as if we're going to have to fight for it.

CHORUS:
But to do that they need to cripple the union - our only real self defence. That's why they put Fraser in, so that he can pass a whole battery of laws to make it illegal for us to fight back.

And when workers do fight back, the bosses will have a special squad of hand-picked cops and thugs to eat us up and beat us up. The gentlemen and lords of the Courts will then obligingly look us up.

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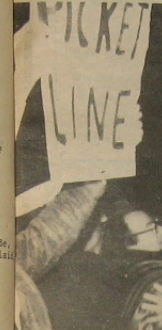
CHORUS:
They would keep us cowed and beaten, cringing meekly at their feet, They would stand between each worker and his bread, Shall we yield our lives up to them for the bitter crust we eat? Shall we only hope for heaven when we're dead?

CHORUS:
When our cause is all triumphant and we claim our mother earth And the nightmare of the present fades away And we'll not regret the price we have to pay!

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FRASER GETS T THE STICK



THE DAY WHEN MALCOLM FRASER reintroduced the penal powers is drawing closer. At the 100th anniversary of the Parliament - but now he's decided to bring the August Budget session for the big crackdown.

So, over the next few months, we're going to hear more and more clamour from Malcolm's side about the need to introduce what they want the penal powers and they're going to create headlines like 'Stetson Back to Back' and 'The A-1 Act'.

You can see why they want to put it off. It's not just that at what Fraser wants to do. In his 'Stetson Back to Back' plan, he wants to outlaw closed shop agreements, blacklists, picket, surplus, strikes which are 'against an arbitrator's decision', and failure to stick to the new dispute procedures that Fraser is going to lay down.

Over roughing up a pen at Fraser's side. Fraser plans to make things worse.

...and these are the arguments he'll use

1. Unions are too powerful. They are threat-ening the authority of Parliament and must be stopped.

2. This SORT OF ARGUMENT usually appears under screaming headlines - "Who's Running the Country - Parliament or the Unions?"

3. And where was the last time you heard of a union standing down a hundred employees? Or a building a steelworks? Or a mining company? Or a transport and communication in the public interest?

4. Let's stop the ambulance drivers from striking for better salaries, let's prevent the railway workers from demanding better rates. That's the way to safeguard the public interest. Well, hell!

5. It's crucial that we defend the right to strike in essential services. Workers in essential services have the muscle to bring this country to a halt. We're going to need that muscle when Fraser tries to attack our wages.

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HANDS OFF THE UNIONS

THE BASH IS ON, Malcolm Fraser promised to kick us and he's going to. Penal Powers, Sports Backlist and special strike-breaking cops are all in the pipeline.

The bosses want a wage cut. They want the power to destroy the job conditions we've won through a hundred years of struggle.

But to do that they need to cripple the union - our only real self defence. That's why they put Fraser in, so that he can pass a whole battery of laws to make it illegal for us to fight back.

And when workers do fight back, the bosses will have a special squad of hand-picked cops and thugs to eat us up and beat us up. The gentlemen and lords of the Courts will then obligingly look us up.

Our living standards are being cut day after day, We need every ounce of muscle we can get, We need our union organization intact, And it looks as if we're going to have to fight for it.

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Fraser wants to outlaw "political hands" like Green and the sharlies' ban on picketing. He wants to stop us having any control over the product of our labor. He wants to stop international solidarity between workers.

The ruling classes in Chile, Spain and Indonesia are getting on their knees to Fraser. Fraser wants to stop us getting together to fight back.

We must safeguard the public interest in essential services.

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Black-ban

Building contractors, Max Carter and Robinson Jones were workers from Frankston Development Office in Melbourne, as builders' labourers at \$2 an hour. That's less than half the award -- and under the minimum wage.

Each time IGF organizer Martin O'neary investigated the case, the men were sacked the same day. The company later threatened

along with police officers. The IGF found one job for the men on the night pay. The men were arranged to be sacked from April 20 until the common law suit was up. The men's pay for the period worked, and they agreed to pay the full rate in future. It's a classic case of what the bosses will try under the new State Awards.

Nurses wait
Nurses in NSW have lifted their wages and are waiting for the rest of their work value case. It's late-1974 but nurses should have to prove to the courts that they are worth that. They have already had grants to them. With the amount of union and public support they had, the indefensible should have been demoted to the ordinary jobs.

Rawicki
Melbourne Rawicki Bus Works work as a teacher aide at the school. The school management says that as a first aid course is not available, stop towards full employment on an indefinite term. The school says that the Rawicki's were 'hired to quickly fill the vacancy' and that they were not on a stop-work notice. The three included two Central Committee members.

Last Laugh
On Friday April 5 a storeman at Gordon and Gotch in Melbourne played a small joke on the IGF. He was amused by the fact that she used to ring a tiny bell in front of the classroom and the whole factory.

Airport
Airport workers have lost their battle for better pay. They won only a couple of weekly 30 cent improvements in allowances, but nothing more. They were beaten because the Sydney refineries didn't go out, and because the union public support was weak. Other unions, for example, airport maintenance (AMU) went out for forty-eight hours, just a few days after the 300 numbers dropped their bids.

Woolhandlers
3,000 wool storemen, roustabouts, Australia have gone back after a seven week lockout. The lockout had to concede better sick leave and an afternoon break. Claims for 5p and lighter wool will come now before Arbitration.

OFFICIALS WORK OVERTIME TO LIFT BAN

by John Wollin, VBU, AMI

THE VEHICLE BUILDERS' Union has forced IGA members at AMI, Port Melbourne, to remove the overtime ban which has been applied for several weeks.

At a manipulated stop-work meeting on April 21, workers assembly line workers were not given a chance to talk about the matter. The meeting also decided they would take the AMI lockout on Monday April 22.

Union organizer Co. Zangalis told us to lift the ban because management had agreed to let union representatives witness the pressures on the line at full speed. The VBU is also workers that AMI will persuade the Arbitration Commission to insert a stand-down clause in our award.

Only six working days before, a meeting had been held to discuss the possibility of maintaining the overtime ban. The union leaders, a state branch meeting of the IGF followed this, and state secretary Cliff Jurek said that he, Zangalis and his shop stewards would arrange another meeting to get the overtime ban lifted, so we can get inside the plant and have a look at what the men are doing on the line are about.

Once again, car workers have been let down by their union. This is a defeat for the company will once again be able to force us to go back to work as they did. Only a few will get overtime, the rest will have to work in the same 40 hours.

The only bright spot at Port Melbourne is that many workers objected mainly to the union's trickery. They might not be able to get with it again.

If we can just convert some of our noisy objections into rank and file organization, we'll be able to take on the boss and stop the union's backtracking.

Price of his Courage
LAST MONTH, sacked Courier shop steward, Johnny Skirring fronted before the Broadmeadows District Court. He faced the charges that he was involved in January with the transport charge and the cops were called in to arrest him, just one week after the strike began in which he played a leading part. The charges were sacked. The transport charge and the cops in.

SOUTH COAST STEELWORKERS' AWARD

'We're running out of patience!'

THE SOUTH COAST AREA of NSW is dominated by the steel mills and steelworks. The Ironworkers are now fighting for a new award. To win their claims for better conditions, they have to take on the IGF, the biggest, wealthiest monopoly in Australia, and the strongest who run the IGF.

In Port Kembla, the IGA is run by the militant Rank and File Committee, KEITH NOORT has been secretary of the Committee since 1972. In 1974, he unsuccessfully challenged organizer Laurie Short for federal Secretary. Keith writes for the BATTLE on the struggle for a new steel award.

THE STEEL AWARD comes in two parts. The first part is the improvement in wages. This was quickly settled for us when the Arbitration Commission decided to introduce wage indexation and lay out guidelines as to how a worker's wage should be decided. When the guidelines were decided on the money part of the Ironworkers' award was then to be reviewed. But our genuine catch-up claim has been dismissed.

In our fight to renew our award in Port Kembla, we have been severely hampered by the so-called leadership provided by the NSW Labor Council. The Newcastle and Sydney branches of the IGA hardly know of our struggle to improve the conditions part of the award. In the past six years, we have been running out of patience, and if the renewal part of the award is not fixed quickly, militant action will be taken.

But it still hasn't been recommended. The April 5 recommendation was made because of the isolation and lack of support for the Rank and File Committee's efforts to renew the steel award. The Rank and File in Port Kembla must be prepared to strike if the award doesn't come up with the goods, which is very likely.

There are small rank and file groups in the IGA in both Sydney and Newcastle. But Burgess doesn't like anything that stops Australia's biggest monopoly in its ceaseless drive for profits.

In fact, they'll go to any lengths to screw out the last dollars from their 20,000 employees... just look at their record in the last month or so.

We were wrong
In last month's book 'New on Farmers' and Contractors' networks, we inaccurately reported that union delegate Ron Cook began to organize a mass meeting to discuss a six-week strike. In fact, it was held delegate Bill Jenkins.

has been elected in Port Kembla, the reactionary federal and state leadership of the IGA have never ceased in their efforts to stop the Port Kembla branch from fighting for improved benefits for its members.

At the last meeting on Monday April 5, it was decided to give the NSW Labor Council another chance to negotiate.

Hampered
In our fight to renew our award in Port Kembla, we have been severely hampered by the so-called leadership provided by the NSW Labor Council. The Newcastle and Sydney branches of the IGA hardly know of our struggle to improve the conditions part of the award. In the past six years, we have been running out of patience, and if the renewal part of the award is not fixed quickly, militant action will be taken.



WHAT IS WRONG WITH UNIONISM in the Port Kembla district? Is it sick or heaven bent on a course of militancy? ... The record in this Port Kembla/Woolmeadows district is very poor.

AI&S: The Company's Record
March 16: Tens by the State Pollution Control Commission have stated that the cyanide level in Port Kembla Harbour was an incredible 5.12 mg. per litre. The Narrabri Nurseries Federation immediately called for prosecution, but AI&S' lawyers in the courts gave them till June 1 to come up with a pollution control program. It's a bit bloody late now!

AI&S Boss Burgess
The only problem with unions at Port Kembla is that they're not strong enough to get rid of Burgess and his staff.

PARENTS SUPPORT EFFORTS TO STOP

by Peter Gerrard, TTA/V Footscray Tech.

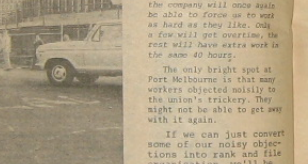
ROBERT FORBAM, Victorian Schools Minister for Education was hissed when his name was mentioned at a large public meeting in Footscray, Town Hall.

The meeting of Footscray Technical School parents, the second in a fortnight, thoroughly enjoyed the strike by the school's 77 teachers. Parents resolved to send their kids away from this hated hazing school on Thursday, to enable teachers to report for duty long enough to collect later pay that will help them continue their two week old strike.

Justified
Education Department spokesman admitted to the meeting that the strike was largely justified, and from its beginning both parents and kids have attended daily strike meetings and have been active in organizing the strike.

Sunday Win
The Public Transport Commission has been trying to make sure the railworkers' strike is an after midnight Sunday. Instead of on Sunday - during the one Sunday in which they have any MCR - Port Kembla also reports.

The compromise agreement between the sub-branch rank and file representatives was not endorsed by the rank and file. A meeting held on Saturday April 1 revealed that no guard was to come out before ten for any reason. This was countered to Baly who stated that the guard would be out by ten. The Baly was booked to strike yesterday. A meeting on Thursday April 4,



there is more playing space per inmate at Fentrige Gail than at the school. Classes are scheduled for lunch hour and can become space is so tight. Construction sites at FET put on a steady 90 degrees or more into FTS classrooms 20 metres away. Concrete is spilled from cranes onto a crowded playground. Boys recently rolled into it teachers' cars. Fortunately the kids were in class. A boy was run down outside the school which has no crossing.

Siemens win \$4-70
A feature of last month's four week strike by Siemens tradesmen in Melbourne was that they demonstrated at company headquarters, BARRI MOUNTAIN, A.S.E. shop steward, who reports on the result.

The Monday demonstration was highly successful in that it convinced the company that we were serious. For the first time the union officials and stewards were able to have constructive talks with the company -- with the result that the company agreed to go to arbitration as soon as possible.

WHAT WE THINK
THE CASE OF THE STEEL AWARD is a perfect illustration of why we should not rely on the IGF. The union officials to get us a better deal. The IGF's record in this Port Kembla/Woolmeadows district is very poor.

The 'compromise' on Newport

How the West was lost

THE TRADES HALL COUNCIL in Melbourne is selling us down the drain over the proposed Newport Power Station.

Under the leadership of the right-wing, Ken Stone, it has put forward a "compromise" proposal to Hauer and the SEC. This involves the capacity of Newport being "only" half that originally planned, as well as other limitations on its operations. So now you'll only get cancer in one lung.

Stone and the right-wing unions have opposed the ban all along. Now the Left unions have caved in under the pressure of the high unemployment and the weakened position of the builders' labourers. The BL's dropped their ban on Newport in a deal over compensation with the Government. They then relapsed it, but dropped it again as one of the bosses' conditions for re-registration of the union.

The BLF would be the union most involved in the building of Newport. The other left unions who originally placed the ban have also crumbled under the pressure of the crisis.

They have failed to fight for the 35 hour week to create more employment - instead they cave in for 1000 jobs.

The AMU is against the building of Newport, but it has copped out by agreeing to support any decision of the TWC to preserve unity. Capitulating over Newport has got

absolutely nothing to do with preserving trade union unity.

The TWC 'compromise' means more deaths than jobs. Perhaps 1000 workers will be employed for a few years, but more than 1000 workers living in Melbourne's western suburbs will be killed by the cancer and lung diseases caused by the power station's smog.

In the same month as the Trades Hall sold out Newport, the State government controlled Environment Protection Authority allowed the release of industrial waste in the western end of the Bay and the dumping of dangerous chemicals into Sunshine tip. Melbourne's western suburbs will soon be unfit for human habitation.

Fortunately, a small group of unions, including the Electrical Trades and the Plumbers and Gasfitters are still holding out. They deserve the support of every unionist.

After all, it is a matter of life or death.

THE Battler



The foundations for Newport. That's all there's been for years, though completion was set for 1972. The old powerhouse is in the background.

Let them truckers roll, ten-four

By now probably everyone has heard the song "Convoy" by C.W. McCall. It's been on the charts both here and overseas for weeks. Ever wondered why Australian truckers don't travel in convoys? In America Citizen Band Radio (C.B.R.) has been available for twenty years. In Australia it is heavily controlled and licensed and you have to own a taxi or a delivery van company before you have any real chance of being issued with a license.

If you listen to the song you can see why governments are not too keen to allow individuals to own two-way radios. Because "Convoy" is not just a piece of C.W. McCall's imagination, American truckers actually do use CB to avoid highway patrols. They have to, because they couldn't make a living if they had to stick to the legal limits on speed, weight of load and hours of driving. In 1971 they actually organised a massive road block and strike to protest against the huge jump in petrol prices. Now American truckers are organising for better pay and conditions.

Working conditions for truckies in Australia, especially employees of small firms and owner-drivers are worse than in the States. They have

added problems like the conditions of interstate out-trucks (the Hume for example). All Australian truck drivers need to catch up to their American counterparts are modern highways, modern truck Citizen Band radio and a strong union.

TEAMSTERS STRIKE

EARLIER THIS MONTH, half-a-million American truckers and warehouse workers went on strike for better pay and conditions in their new contract.

The first national teamsters strike ever, it was forced by rank-and-file anger, organised through Teamsters for a Decent Contract - the national teamsters rank and file group.

TDC was formed last August by teamster militants including members of the American International Socialists. In Detroit TDC led a two day wildcat strike after the union officials started sending the strikers back to work.

And in the depots and garages across the States, the spirit of the 30's, when socialists built the teamsters, is being revived.

THE Battler

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

STOP THE COURTS BALLOTS

THE CRUNCH IS COMING! Fraser is moving to carry out his promise to control OUR union elections. His Industrial Relations Minister, Tony Street, has drafted the legislation. It will come up soon in Parliament.

Under the guise of "protecting democracy", Fraser is moving into Phase One of his plan to crush our unions. After he's got control of union elections, we'll have Phase Two - the Penal Powers and

Phase Three will be control of strike decisions and union action.

Fraser's Court Ballot legislation will give the government, through the Courts and the Electoral Office, complete control over our union elections. They'll make the rules, they'll decide who can stand, they'll decide who can vote. The government will even control what sort of ballot is used.

You'd think trade unions were cricket clubs or public service institutions the way they're being approached. Well, they're not. They're the front line of our defence against Fraser and the system he stands for.

Fraser is too crafty to take on the whole union movement with his legislation. Instead, he's doing a deal with the worst scab in the unions - right-wing groupie bureaucrats like Short of the FIA and Maynes of the Federated Clerks. In return for their connivance, he's going to let them keep the outrageous "collegiate" system of elections that the Labor Government moved to get rid of.

In collegiate elections, the rank and file do not decide who will be the officials. We only get to vote for faceless men who supposedly make the decision on our behalf. It's a system that gives some branches much less say than others - and it's a godsend for numbers men and wheeler-dealers.

So, not only do we have to beat Fraser and the might of the Liberal government, but we also have to take on the collaborators in our own ranks.

Your new-look Battler



From next issue, The Battler goes typeset. And this is what it will look like! The typesetting will make the paper look better. It will be easier to read and give us more space for more news.

DON'T MISS IT!

INSIDE: ITALY - On the brink p 2
NEWPORT page 4
STEEL AWARD page 12

NUMBER 19, MAY 12, 1976. 10 CENTS.

HANDS OFF THE UNIONS!

No to Court Ballots
 No to Collegiate Elections

Copies of this special A4 poster are available from IS Books, 28 Block Place, Melbourne. Single copies, 10c each. Union branches 20 for 21, post free.

It's going to be one hell of a fight!

The only reason Fraser will win any support amongst the rank and file is because many union members feel they have no say in the running of their union and no control over the officials.

That means that not only must we smash Fraser's Court Ballot scheme, but bring the unions under rank and file control as well. Then ruling class witch-hunts won't get any support inside our organisations.

We need regular rank and file election of all officials with the elections held at either workplace or union branch meetings. We need the right to recall and sack officials who sell-out or misrepresent the members.

And for members worried about manipulation of ballots, we need ACTU controlled ballots and rank and file supervising committees rather than Fraser's electoral police.

At the moment, the people fighting Fraser's ballots the hardest are the officials themselves. It's a pity these same officials haven't fought as hard over wage indexation and unemployment. A lot of rank and file unionists feel that the only time the officials fight is when they are threatened themselves.

And they're right. But we still have to defend the officials from Fraser. Then we can take care of union democracy ourselves, in our own way and in our own time.

Metal Trades Award

Claims discussed by KEVIN BAIN AMWU, MELBOURNE

THE 1976 METAL TRADES LOG is currently being compiled by the Metal Trades Federation of unions. This year, the 1975 log is being discussed at workshop meetings as a model for the 1976 log.

Meanwhile, the Arbitration Commission is still stalling over last year's rise. Commissioner Heagney has finished his "enquiry" into over-award payments, and the results are in the hands of Justice Moore. But there's still no decision.

Paid Rates

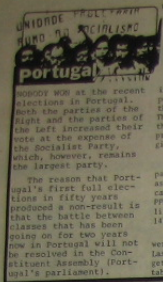
by TOM O'DINCLIN AMWU, SYDNEY

THE NSW AMWU State Conference decision on the concept of a paid rates award has caused some consternation among rank and file members. Conference endorsed "the principle of a paid rates award" and called for "a campaign of explanation" - that is, a campaign of propaganda for the idea. Conference attempted to

A 'paid rates award' will probably be introduced for a trial period of one year. It is very important that this be fought by the metal unions from the start.

It is another attempt to weaken the trade union movement by giving the court more control over wage fixation. make the pill more palatable by adding some phrases about the need to "ensure that metal workers receive a wage in conformity to wage standards consistent with AMWU policies." But since acceptance of a paid rates award is itself a modification of policy, this seems to be nothing but waffle.

Sydney branch has refused to ratify the motion, and some rank and file resistance can be expected if other branches express similar feelings.



The elections that nobody won

There will be no let-up in the bomb throwings and political assassinations in Portugal. The recent elections confirmed the recent gains made by the pro-capitalist forces without giving them decisive strength.

The openly pro-capitalist forces did not do as well as they expected. The CDS (PP) with 24%, while the CP lifted its vote from 12% to 14%.

The losers in the elections were the Socialist Party. Last week's CDS leader could get away with making respectable speeches in the parliament.

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let our own fight have got muddled the strength to reach their opponents. The final decisions will continue to be made as a result of the conflict in the factories and on the streets, rather than in the Constituent Assembly.

The attacks on workers by the government and the attacks on workers' political organizations by the fascists will continue. So will the occupations, the strikes and the demonstrations in defiance.

The parties of the revolutionary left, including the Revolutionary Party of the Proletariat (RPP), won 200,000 votes. They must use these as a base to build the workers' fight back and quickly complete the revolution, before disillusionment sets in and the right wing is able to mobilize enough strength to crush the working class.

—Senator Earl Wickers, Minister for Australia in his visit to the Cocos Islands.

Clunies-Ross: just another boss

I see the same role for Clunies Ross as the owner of private property. He is the same as the boss who doesn't want to lose his job. He doesn't want to lose his job. He doesn't want to lose his job. He doesn't want to lose his job.

MILLIONAIRE SQUARE

The MELBOURNE CITY COUNCIL announced last week that it is banning demonstrations and rallies in the City Square. It has been done by law under which to book demonstrators by-law 489. On Friday, State Opposition Leader Clyde McEwen was booked to do it.

The Civic Group that runs the Melbourne City Council is something of a millionaire club. Most of its members are businessmen or businessmen; many are Liberal Party members; all are Liberal supporters.

Last year, after Ierv had sacked Whitlam, there was virtually no demonstration of 5,000 people in the City Square. The sacking was announced at 2:05 p.m. and trade unionists and other labor supporters automatically went to the City Square after 7:00, because it was obvious that there should be a demonstration there.

Later in the night, occupied demonstrators drew crowds of up to 80,000 to the Square. That a why millions of people would have had done there. The Square provides a central rallying point for protesters, and more often than not, the demonstrations are against them and everything they stand for.

This is not the first time the Civic Group has used by-laws and cops to silence opponents. In 1963 they dragged up an obscure by-law to stop a group of people holding out pamphlets against conscription for Vietnam.

This led to a massive campaign during which trade union officials, labor politicians and rank and file workers and students were arrested for handing out leaflets. What finally forced the Council to amend its by-law was the threat by the Chairman of Courage at the time was Sir Maurice Nathan, who was also Lord Mayor.

If the Council persists with its ban on demonstrations in the City Square, it could come to that again.



ITALY IS IN THE THROES of its most serious political crisis for years. Following the fall of the Moro government, the allegations that a top member of the ruling Christian Democratic party was involved in the Lockheed bribery case, it is certain that the center-right majority to the Communist and Socialist parties.

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The background to the crisis lies in the deteriorating economic situation. In the past few weeks, the Italian lira has been falling in value even faster than the pound.

There has been a huge wave of protest over the legal issue -- the law which gives police the right to shoot suspects who do not stop when cautioned. A youth was shot dead in Rome on April 4, and since then the city has been full of tension.

In a single day, for instance, there was a demonstration of thousands of students from the schools protesting at the killing by the police. In the afternoon there was a demonstration of 50,000 building workers, protesting at government economic policy and against state repression.

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from Tim Potter in Rome

There have been massive demonstrations for the right to abortion, since the governmental party, the Christian Democrats decided to vote to allow to impose any changes on the law that now makes abortion illegal.

Italy is in the throes of its most serious political crisis for years. Following the fall of the Moro government, the allegations that a top member of the ruling Christian Democratic party was involved in the Lockheed bribery case, it is certain that the center-right majority to the Communist and Socialist parties.

Demonstrations

This was followed by a demonstration called by the revolutionary left, which brought thousands of workers from all the most important industries, with slogans against the government against the legal Repeal and for abortion on demand.

Although the Communists and Socialists are expected to get a majority between them, they are often run by factory committees -- 20 have been constituted in this way in Milan alone -- although they are illegal.

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Sovereignty

Clunies Ross told the Liberal Minister to the Cocos Islands (Andrew Peacock) that he would like to see sovereignty over the islands. Even Peacock was not happy to set-up a trust, but he didn't change it either. Wickers approves of it.

THE LAST TIME

THE LAST TIME there was a 78 swing to a political party was last December. It got Malcolm Fraser a majority of 55 seats. With the same swing and a similar percentage of the vote, Neville Wran only got it by the skin of his teeth.

It will get here have a majority of one or depend on an independent to govern. They don't make it easy for Labor to win elections.

Slavery

It means that Clunies Ross's subjects cannot move from one island to another or from one job to another without their land permission. This lifestyle is usually described as slavery.

Wran says his first task

Wran says his first task in government will be to lower unemployment and improve public transport. Sounds good, except that his last act of government was to change Labor's policies away from increased employment. He did a deal with the Trades and Labor Council to drop the 35 hour week from Labor's election platform. Since supporters are entitled to ask just how Wran plans to lower unemployment.

COONS Island residents

COONS Island residents got paid and allowed freedom of movement or the freedom to change jobs. This is not justifiable under the rights of private property. All owners of private property should have the same rights.

Daily farmers handed out free milk

Daily farmers handed out free milk in Sydney to publicize a movement whereby a few farmers with liberal and Country Party connections will high priced milk to the city and the rest of farmers are ignored. Labor won a 78 swing in country areas.

NOTE: No. after you Berlinquelet, leader of the Italian Communist Party, and de Martino of the Socialist Party, both eager for the "Historic Compromise".

GUNS, NOT BUTTER

IN A FURTHER ATTEMPT to cut government spending, the Fraser government has just announced that it is to add \$660,000,000 to the army budget over the next five years.

The money will be used to increase the size of the army from 31,200 to 39,000. It would be the largest "peace-time" army in our history.

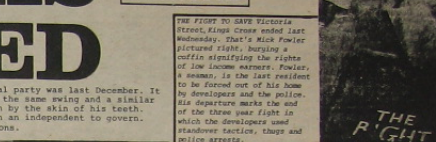
While schools rot, pensioners starve and unemployment rises, the Fed's have decided to spend billions more on

HOLDING HAWKS FEAT AT SUNSHINE

THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE of the Victorian branch of the ALP has finally thrown itself fully behind the Sunshiners under attack by the State Government Enquiry. They have told independent Councilor Jack Tighe and his associates to unite with the threatened Labor Caucus of farm party discipline. (One of Tighe's associates, Owen O'Connell, was elected to the Council for the ALP, has publicly endorsed the Enquiry).

THE PENNSYLVANIA

THE PENNSYLVANIA council workers who live in these flats are going to get checked out. But because the flats are in bad condition, but because the tenants have got somewhere else to go, but because the Sydney City Council wants to make some money by selling them. The 54 flats are in the State Street, Newsworld. Altogether 211 flats have been stamped for sale.



Leichhardt residents fight Council

THE LEICHHARDT COUNCIL has just lost one fight. They had been forced by union pressure to lift their ban on Communist Party public meetings in the municipality. But this is not the only fight the right-wing Labor machine is going to lose. The high rise will be demolished in Sydney, and the increase will be disastrous.

In August 1974, the Council released a plan which opposed further development until special studies were made. But in December, the old Greater Machine won control of the Council. It amended the August plan to double the number of residents. In its display, the Council tried to pretend that the new building would be "new houses and terraces with small gardens, two-story flats, boarding houses, hotels and aged people's homes with ample landscaping and carparking at ground or basement level, open air parking."

Objections

The Leichhardt scheme was released in 1964. 25% of the municipality will be used high-rise. Objections started in 1965, but none of the objections were properly processed. In 1977, the State Planning Authority released the balance study. It recommended that high rise be built on the ridges, medium rise on the slopes and low rise on the waterfront. For the developers, this was called progress. It was reduced to zero. It meant reduced costs. At this stage the Council was not yet controlled by the right-wing Aldermen called

Pledge

On March 2, a thousand residents turned up to the Council meeting to oppose the carried Aldermen pledge to limit residential buildings to four stories. This was a pledge because a couple of the Council members were taken up with parking facilities.

The Leichhardt Council has given planners an open go. They'll probably be doing a lot of discreet signing and dining with developers in the near future.

The residents are fighting back. It's 6000 signed petition condemning the scheme. That's more signatures than votes cast in the Council election. They have also contacted their so-called colleagues on the Council members. In branches like Balmain where the chairman barely ever sees the book, there's a mysterious silence.

THE UNITED BOILERMAKERS REPORT

THE BELLTOP on Newport has been stopped... for the moment!

Despite words of manoeuvring by Victorian Trades Hall Council secretary, Ian Stone, and central committee officials, the ban on the building of Newport Power Station was reiterated by a vote of 152 to 84 at last Thursday's TUC meeting.

Right-wingers like Stone have been against the ban for a long time. They don't have the numbers, so they lay low. In March, they threatened...

First, the ALP was crushed in the state election. The union officials who had been praying for an ALP government to let them off the hook had their hopes smashed. With Labor's huge victory, they now faced the prospect of three more years' fight over Newport.

What's more, the BIF was trying to get itself re-registered. To do up to the Arbitration Court, BIF officials were heading off every ban the union had. That meant harking out of the Newport ban as well.

So rather than carry on the fight, certain left and centre union officials looked for a compromise.

The TUC Executive found that one. They decided agreement with Labor about building "half a power station" in a 10-point compromise. The central president union leadership to back the compromise was the AMU.

At AMU local branch meetings in April organizers strongly recommended to members that they accept the compromise with Labor. One organizer admitted that AMU delegates to the TUC had been heavily involved in framing the compromise, because they feared they had lost the numbers to maintain a ban.

Another told members that Labor was ready for a show-down. He was going to carry supplies to create shortages, and reactivate the AMU at Richmond and Spencer Street power stations, creating more pollution. He would scream: "We need Newport" and stage public opinion against the unions.

Rather than fight such a risky war with Labor at Richmond and Spencer Street and elsewhere, the AMU officials called "Compromise!"

Rather than force winning officials in other unions to stage a firm stand by publicly denouncing any compromise, the AMU officials decided to vote in favour of it.

But they found that the reaction in the branches was terrible. Many were not satisfied with the compromise.

that had been forced. Meanwhile, some left-wing unions were against any compromise at all. The ITU, FIPA and the Plumbers and Gasfitters rallied support from the BIF and the Trainers Union. The AMU leadership was being outflanked. The respect that it commands from many militants was being threatened.

Workers at Hillmston Naval yard - one of the AMU's strongest shops - rallied a strong calling for

a tougher stance. So did quite a few branches.

At the Victorian AMU shop stewards' meeting in late April, the AMU leadership started to bend to the militants' pressure. John Halpinney moved a motion approving meeting of part of the committee during the State Conference and revoked the policy that had been previously decided.

And late in the afternoon on May 10, the left wing of the TUC Council meeting that

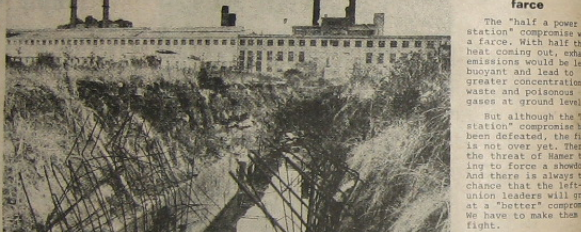
evening, Ken Stone "received approval" to "write a letter from Moser, offering further talks with the TUC writing committee - over a whole month in which the committee had not seen Cabot." This was intended to try and adjourn the debate until the Council meeting of the second month of the year.

Stone failed. The left wing centre unions, under pressure from rank and file militants, and organized by left-wing ALP members, voted in support of an amendment restoring the ban.

So far, the May Fund has gone well. We've received \$311.20 - our thanks go to:

PC \$50	GP \$20	MC \$1.40
RM \$10	KN \$16.25	KN \$1.00
GL \$10	GL \$10	Don \$7
AO \$10	RM \$10	

Mayday Party \$40
Trash and Treasure \$35
Donations from individual sales \$7.85



Charlie Faure speaks to The Battler

Charlie Faure is the Victorian state secretary of the Electrical Trades Union. The ETU has been one of the unions maintaining the strongest opposition to the building of the Newport Power Station.

BATTler: Why does the ETU want to maintain its base on the Newport Power Station?

CHARLIE FAURE: We imposed the ban originally because of the effects on the environment. That's still our principal objection. Secondly, the wasteful use of natural gas. They're using two main reasons. Thirdly, the location, which is one of the principal objections with regard to the effect on the environment.

BATTler: What's your opinion of the 10 point compromise?

CHARLIE FAURE: The 10 point compromise is not worth the paper it's written on. The four main points were offered to the Trades Hall Council in '70 and they have not seen fit to do just now to bring them forward. One was the reduced usage of gas by 25%. That's in the annual report of the SEC for 1975.

BATTler: Why are there now quite a few people in the Trades Hall who want to change their stance?

CHARLIE FAURE: It's a question I haven't been able to get to the bottom of. It appears it is political and it seems that some people are now prepared to build half a power station. But the power station will create pollution and will create a similar cost to the whole power station.

I believe that people within the Trades Hall movement referred the matter to the Trades Hall under the guise of getting the maximum support to implement a program on the Newport Power Station site. But when the vast majority of delegates used in support of the ban, they had to look

The Battler Fighting Fund

KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR THE NEW LOOK BATTLER! As from next issue our articles will be set professionally on a new typesetting machine. This has been made possible by the success of our fighting funds - this year and last year.

But it has also increased costs. Improving the Battler, fighting for the equipment will be adding \$50 a week to our bill. With the move to fortnightly production, it means we're paying more than ever on our readers to sell the paper, who pay us, and help keep up the Fighting Fund. We're raising the Fighting Fund target to \$750 a month. We need all that money now to break even!

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course. At the ALP State Conference, Neil Ames of the Conservation and Environment Policy Committee was supposed to present his committee's policy in favour of continuing the ban. But Stone put the pressure on him. Ames went and held an approximate meeting of part of the committee during the State Conference and revoked the policy that had been previously decided.

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farce

The "half a power station" compromise was a farce and led to greater concentration of waste and poisonous gases at ground level.

But although the "half a power station" compromise has been defeated, the fight is not over yet. There's the threat of a shoddy attempt to force a shoddy compromise on the left-wing union leaders will grab at a "better" compromise we have to make this fight.

for somewhere else to turn, because they were in an industrial situation in which they controlled a prime political objective of the Liberal and Country Party in Victoria and they were trying to do an embarrassing situation. They also maintain that because of Trade Union support and public opinion.

Now in my opinion, they don't want to be in the position of really controlling situations; they want to be absorbed in verbal opposition.

ETU has been suggested that the unemployment situation has been so dire that it's by building Newport, they're creating 100 extra jobs.

CHARLIE FAURE: Where ever the power station's built, it will create employment in the short term. But it will create a decentralization issue, then it would create employment in areas that are greatly more depressed than the City of Melbourne or the western suburbs.

But when you look at the long term of employment, the new Newport Power Station will employ less than the present Newport Power Station. It will also mean that the Melbourne City Council power station in London St will be phased out, and 165 people that are employed there will be unemployed. But it would mean the loss of the Newport Power Station. So it won't - in the long term - create employment. It will mean that people in those areas will lose jobs.

BATTler: It's been suggested that this 10 point compromise is a kind of honourable retreat.

CHARLIE FAURE: I don't think there's anything honourable in it at all. The proposal, as I've indicated earlier, are not worth the paper they're written on. It may mean that some people will get a job in the plant. But it lets them off the hook, and lets them move away from the position that they've found themselves in which they didn't really want to find themselves in.

BATTler: How did it support have had from other unions?

CHARLIE FAURE: I've had some support from unions that don't traditionally support the so-called left. I'm not prepared to name them, the same as I wasn't prepared to name them at the meeting of the 23 or 26 so-called left unions last year. I'm not prepared to name the white areas getting the vote, but unions that have not traditionally supported any opposition against the officials of the Victorian Trades Hall Council have indicated their total opposition to Newport.

COURT BALLOTS - A VEHICLE FOR THE RIGHT



by ALEC KAHN, Industrial Editor

Just how neutral are Court Ballots?

IN THE LATE FORTIES and early fifties a series of court ballots and decisions were used by the groups (Santamaria's National Civic Council and the Future 21) with assistance from men like (Sir) John Kerr and (Senator) Diamond Jim McElduff to defeat the left and the rank and file in union after union.

1 AUSTRALIAN RAILWAYS UNION Victorian Branch 1952

500 signatures force the ARU into a court ballot. ARU requires safeguards from the electoral officer:

1. Scrutinizers to be allowed to observe printing of ballot papers.
2. Candidates' representatives be allowed to initial the ballot papers.
3. AMU sent to be put on the ballot papers.
4. A sealed ballot box in the Post Office to receive the ballot papers.
5. Scrutinizers to be present when ballot papers are collected from the Post Office, and ballot papers to be placed under seal upon collection each day.

Every one of these is rejected.

The union runs its own check ballot, and more than 10,000 members are returned. In the check ballot, left-wingers from West and Williams win by 10 to 1 against the right wing group opponent. In the court ballot, Brown scrapes in 600-547 while Williams loses 529-490.

Return of court ballots is 95% - utterly unheard of in union elections. In Rolling Stock Division, voters is OVER 100%.

Returning officer in the court ballot, Nature, admits in affidavit that at least 230 eligible voters did not receive a ballot paper. Yet on his own figures Williams lost by only 10 votes. Court completely ignores this.

2 FEDERATED IRONWORKERS ASSOCIATION 1949

Rightwingers Laurie Short ignores offer by rank and file to investigate 1949 union election with a rank and file committee of six, including 10 to be appointed by rank and file. Instead he goes to court, and is installed as National Secretary EVEN BEFORE THE ELECTIONS HAVE BEEN INVESTIGATED.

Judge declares election invalid due to 1951 allegedly fake ballots - then throws out left-wingers elected with majorities of over 3,500.

3 FEDERATED CLERKS UNION NSW Branch 1949

Group member Nelson tries to interfere with postal ballots through contact at Base Bay Post Office.

Groupers attempt to enroll non-union members as members to recall group leaders. They are expelled by union executive.

4 BOILERMAKERS SOCIETY NSW Branch 1950

Court ballot ordered by Justice Dugby despite no evidence of corruption in union-run elections.

In the court ballot there is no check on number of ballot papers printed. Scrutinizers only allowed at final count. Names and addresses of all members made available - Groupers collect ballot papers from members' homes and fill them in at home.

MEGGS MEETINGS OF BOILERMAKERS CONCERN THE COURT BALLOT.

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5 AMALGAMATED ENGINEERING UNION 1962

In 1961 interstate rank and file AMU conference unanimously proposed court ballot. Yet in 1962, two Commonwealth Councilors - Shearer and McElduff - wait until their 3 executive members are interviewed by McElduff, then hold two men executive meeting and organize court ballot for election of Federal President.

B.A. Santamaria publicly boasts that Shearer and McElduff were elected through heavy MCC campaigning in previous court ballots in AEU.

6 BOILERMAKERS & AEU 1955-1965

Consistent interference in court ballots by MCC elements. In one Boilermakers postal ballot a whole bag of voting papers is "lost". The return would have been 103% with this bagful of AMU ballot papers are stolen in the post.

People pretending to act for the electoral officer collect AEU ballots from voters.

IS THIS HOW WE WANT OUR OFFICIALS ELECTED ?

LAST YEAR during the election campaign, Malcolm Fraser put on his secretary and revealed that he was in favour of secret ballots for union elections.

He claimed he was going to "strengthen rank and file control" of the unions.

Since Fraser was also proposing power to strengthen his own control of the unions, most of us took this to be the barest token of secret ballots - which are a cliché for the press, right wing judges and the MCC to manipulate.

Government appointed officials in the Electoral Commission and the Electoral Office will decide who can nominate, who can vote - in fact they will run the whole election.

The electoral Office is shown as "independence" is the Arbitration Commission on the comp. It is not surprising that Fraser is not going to get any votes if we want court ballots. He is going to have "democracy" his way, whether we like it or not.

Fraser knows very well that his move in the present can't interfere with union elections. He is elected by secret ballot - through or general meetings. This is because the people who attend union meetings, those who are active in the union are not going to be influenced by newspaper campaigns in the newspaper run by editors who conceal the real issues.

He knows that when elections are held at workplace meetings we can discuss the issues before we vote. In smart campaigns can be countered by argument.

That's why he's pushing court ballots on hand. He knows that when we're in the power about "communist manipulation".

Look at the NSW elections in Britain last November. The ALP is the British equivalent of the AMU. It covers engineering workers. It was covered like a General Election, with daily reports and newspaper campaigns against the left. The result - the right wing won an unprecedented election.

Fraser has another reason for pushing court ballots. He knows that we can't win in the ground for union ballots over office elections. He knows that we can't win being the right wing. He'll be able to recall on a technical one.

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ON AUGUST 1 MAY 1926, THE TRADE UNIONS OF BRITAIN VOTED FOR A GENERAL STRIKE AGAINST GOVERNMENT.

On August 1, 1926, a million British workers began the following strike. All the mines for free energy were closed; the government had smashed the strike. All the mines for free energy were closed; the government had smashed the strike. All the mines for free energy were closed; the government had smashed the strike. All the mines for free energy were closed; the government had smashed the strike.

**Amid slaughter
They promised a Land for Heroes.
Amid peace
They offered starvation.
But the workers refused to starve.
The showdown came 50 years ago
this week.**

BEAT THE BOTS ~ 1926

FROM 1914 to 1918, British workers had been sent to die in the mud of the Western Front.

The Great War for markets and profits was won by British and American capital. The losers were the workers who made up the conscript armies on both sides and the workers who sweated day and night to make bombs and tanks with which to kill each other.

And the slaughter and the trenches, the British rulers had promised a Land for Heroes. Amid peace, they offered starvation. Soldiers returned from the hell of war to a land of unskilled employment, unemployment and high taxes and rents.

The soldiers turned to the unions and industrial action in the fight for a better life back home. There were great struggles for an eight-hour workday in Glasgow where the movement led by the Clyde Workers Committee, with the government called "bolshevik" was put down with troops, shootings and jailings.

Before long, the centers of the workers' struggle shifted to the mining industry. The government, anxious not to have to fight in the Clyde and in the mines at the same time, had set up an inquiry headed by Lord Horder, to give themselves breathing space.

The government, headed by Lloyd George, thought it had the inquiry properly stalling

The Government prepares

EVEN BEFORE the Samuel Inquiry opened public proceedings on 13 October 1925 the government was working overtime to finish the preparations for the final struggle. Sir John Wood directed "by Sir John Anderson, who had already had experience of civil war in Ireland."

"On October 10, the country was divided into ten emergency districts, each under a Commissioner with his own apparatus and chain of command. The volunteer scab-busters joined the Organization for the Maintenance of Supplies, as set up.

Troop deployments were effected, "Gas Companies" operations were carried out to test the efficiency of the state machine, and an energetic stockpiling of coal began.

At the Conservative party conference on October 12, Baldwin announced to wild applause that the government was contemplating prosecution of Communists. Two days later, eight leaders of the 5,000 Strong Communist Party were arrested and four more followed shortly afterwards.

In South Wales miners got jail sentences for their part in an earlier strike.

By contrast, the trade union leaders did nothing to prepare for a confrontation they did not want but were forced to go ahead with.

"An organization, local or national, to carry out a general strike was contemplated, let alone started for example, proposals for the miners' defense corps were rejected in alarm. The Council, indeed, reaffirmed its support for the miners, but many of its members had reached the conclusion that a fall in wages was inevitable."

On March 6, 1926, the Samuel Commission delivered its report. It was, predictably, in favor of reorganization of the mines at some time in the future and wage cuts in the present.

"The stage was set.

Red Friday

That was Black Friday, 15 April, 1921.

In 1925, the Government moved again. Winston Churchill, as Chancellor for the Exchequer (Finance Minister), had revealed the

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How they fought

EVER BEFORE the DEADLINE for industrial action expired, there was impressive evidence of a truly revolutionary response. In the East End of London, hush pickets closed the roads from early on Tuesday to deal with strike-breaking.

Despite confusing instructions calling out a first line of strikers, the response in the industrial heartlands of Britain was grand and solid. The main problem the strike committees faced was keeping the so-called second line workers from coming out as well.

In Lisaneli, South Wales, for instance, the trades council was immediately converted into a Council of Action which issued TUC instructions and called out steel, gas, electricity and brewery workers.

The market and the police stations were commandeered by the strikers to turn back blacking lorries. What's more, the police showed that they would announce their intention to raid this or that farm and to steal the hens. There were all the police accompanying off to jail.

"On 19th of October, from many miles, some 1,500 to 2,000 fish-nier drove their boats to London. Unidentifiable as they were, they got to Edinburgh Public House on 11th May 1926 in."

break the chains

Days of struggle

Thursday 24 April TUC calls a special day of trade union action and the Municipal Board to discuss the legislation out in the mine. In decision to support miners is taken with 400 delegates present.

Monday 3 May In a stage-managed parliamentary debate the government tries to raise middle class public opinion.

Friday 30 April Attempts to smash a lock-out notices and miners' lives are begun.

Saturday 1 May Early morning meeting of the divisional trade union leaders to discuss withdrawal of the TUC actions. At the Union of Hallamshire, the general meeting of members to keep on members to keep on water any supporters.

From early morning on May Day demonstrations and strikes are held in London. At noon, the Opposition of trade union action is a general strike.

The vote goes 3 to 1, 50,000 for a general strike all day on Saturday.

Monday 2 May The second day of the strike. The second day of the strike. The second day of the strike. The second day of the strike. The second day of the strike.

Sunday 7 May J.H. Thomas, the TUC secretary, is killed in the East End of London. The second day of the strike. The second day of the strike. The second day of the strike. The second day of the strike.

Thursday 8 May John Doherty strikes in London. The second day of the strike. The second day of the strike. The second day of the strike. The second day of the strike.

of Chat directed to prevent a serious crisis, they tried the police station team.

All over Britain, workers were in motion attempting to break the strike. At Caernarfon Bridge, they diverted a Volunteer-manned train on to a siding and ambushed their owners. At Manchester, Woodhouse, scabbing trains were smashed to pieces. In strikers who had been occupied by fear.

The TUC leadership and their local executive boys were trying to bribe and influence. They sent out instructions forbidding the formation of workers' defence committees, instructions which in several cases were defied.

By the second week of the strike, the TUC ordered withdrawal of all strike committees permits, to avoid any developing conflict with the police. They also tried to shut down local strike bulletins.

Even so the TUC leadership were conducting their secret talks, the workers were moving towards a higher stage of the struggle. Mass pickets, defence corps, propaganda commission and federation over wider areas... all these were just coming into play.

Just then the dirty deed was done. The workers were sold by the bureaucrats of the TUC.

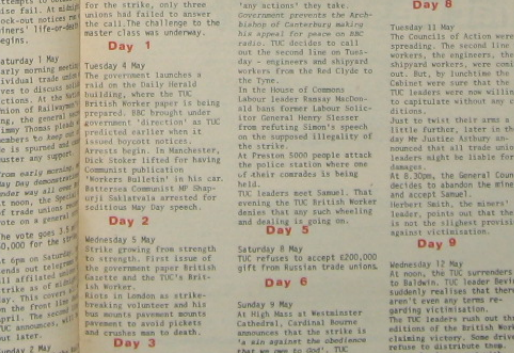
Ernest Bevin, secretary of the Transport Union, described the situation as follows: "The most way to describe it if we are not quick to start on any committee abuses, thousands of men were being vaccinated as a result of this day's work."

And thousands upon thousands were victimized. Forty-five thousand on the railways had no jobs six months after the strike. In Glasgow, 100 dockers went down the road. In the city's Transport Department, it was 200. In newspapers and printshops across the country the employers set out to break the backs of the miners.

In every case, they were prevented from a really big success by the persistence and courage of the rank file, who found the will to fight.

For the more than three million men, women and children of the mining communities of England, Scotland and Wales, the struggle did not cease in May. The mining communities fought desperately on for another seven months before they were starved out to be long before 1926. And that, tragically, they had succeeded in doing that to the "compromisers," head-creators and leaders who led the movement and the trust that was invested in them.

The British employers are even now plotting new battles in an old war. Once again, the parasites and killers are demanding more. But the British fight desperately on for another seven months before they were starved out to be long before 1926. And that, tragically, they had succeeded in doing that to the "compromisers," head-creators and leaders who led the movement and the trust that was invested in them.



Defeat then Victimisation

HOW WERE NO TEMPER THE STRIKE MOVEMENT HAS COMPLETE AND UNCONDITIONAL.

As the word spread outwards from London, the strikers were dumfounded. At one time they were told they could not be May thought for a while that workers everywhere tried to resist victimisation in the member of the Manchester and Liverpool dockers who struck in defence of the railway workers. The risk and fear prevented a terrible defeat into a catastrophe.

No sooner had Prime Minister Baldwin imposed the punitive 1925 Prices and Incomes Act, than Sir Alfred Mond, boss of the giant Imperial Chemical Industries, engaged in a series of talks with his god friend, Bevin, of the TUC General Council.

The talks came to nothing, but for the employers, they had served their purpose. They washed the iron fist of Mond over the heads of the coal floor. And they boosted the whole nation of "industrial peace" and "co-operation."

The terrible defeat of the General Strike led to the masters another valuable prize. When the great depression came when they wanted out wages, public opinion, and they despise the lives of working people, as they bring to the scale down, they found they had broken the back of the movement.

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into victimisation. They were cruel, murderous methods.

Once November, the mine owners had won their victory and refused fully to give up their gains for the miners to get their revenge.

On the day after the strike was called off, there were actually more people out than on the day before the strike.

The second wave of workers the employers and shipyard employees had not only come out for a while that workers everywhere tried to resist victimisation in the member of the Manchester and Liverpool dockers who struck in defence of the railway workers. The risk and fear prevented a terrible defeat into a catastrophe.

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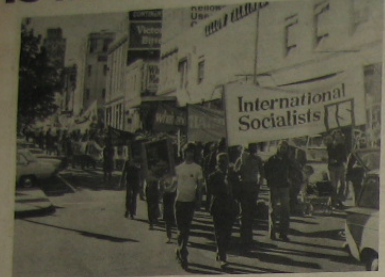
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Stagnant Soviet level supplied strikers with coal in 1926.

IS MARCHES ON MAY DAY



news

Eight spot was some outdoor theatre on the Robinson invasion of East France. The atmosphere was so passive that the Communist League who were charged by the police were refused the use of the platform to build support for their defence.

15 members and Battler readers carried placards demanding 'Hands off the Polona' and was led by a sound track playing revolutionary songs from Australia, Portugal and other countries.

In the evening the Northern Beach ran a very successful 800 which raised \$40 for the striking fighting fund.

MAY DAY GREETINGS

from Canada

Dear Comrades,
The International Socialist of Canada send fraternal greetings to our comrades in the Australian May Day greeting to your recent political successes and your decision to publish the battler on a fortnightly basis.

With the reurgence of the workers' movement throughout the world, May Day may once again take its place as the international working class day of celebration and demonstration.

For an international struggle for socialist workers of the world unite.

Revolutionary greetings,
David McNally

from India

Dear Comrades,
The Central Secretariat of the Revolutionary Socialist Party (India) sends the Party's fraternal May Day greeting to the International Socialist, vanguard of the Australian working class, on behalf of the working class of India, who carry their struggle for toilers' democracy and socialism against great odds as you very well know.

Many thanks for the Battler which we follow avidly because the cause represented by the Battler and IS is our own.

Fraternately yours,
Tripathi Chaudhuri

Workers' Action

MONTHLY PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

What we stand for

The International Socialist are a revolutionary socialist organisation, open to all who accept our basic principles and are willing to work to achieve them.

WORKERS' POWER Workers' control over the whole of society based on workers' control of the factories and workplaces, only the organised working class has the power to create a society free of exploitation, oppression and waste. Russia and China are not socialist because they are based on the exploitation of workers by a bureaucratic ruling class.

REVOLUTION, NOT REFORMISM. We believe in overthrowing the capitalist system, not patching it up or gradually trying to change it.

SMASHING THE CAPITALIST STATE. The state machine - Parliament, courts, the law, police and army - is a weapon of the capitalist ruling class and can never be used to bring the interests of the working class. There is no parliamentary road to socialism.

INTERNATIONALISM. A socialist revolution cannot be won in one country. It may help build revolutions in other countries if it is not defeated, like the Russian Revolution of 1917.

The Battler is edited by Paul Griffiths, 28 Fairfield St., West Brunswick, who accepts responsibility for all actions contained. Published by Battler Printing and Distribution, PO Box 187, Fitzroy, for the International Socialists. Printed by Media Press, 13 Shurton St., Northcote, Vic.

What's On

VICTORIAN LABOR COLLEGE
MAY 24 "Fricols of Social History and Philosophy" with Fred Tripp
MAY 25 "History of Labor Movement" with Chris Gaffney
MAY 26 "Marxist Economics" with Robert Dunning
All classes run from 6.00 to 7.30 all students free - fees provided by affiliated unions.
Lectures in Room 8, Basement, Trades Hall, Victoria St.

MAY 15 - Melbourne
Chile Solidarity committee film tonight "Comandante" and "Tuparek" upstairs room, 205 Webb Street, 8.15pm Adults \$1.50; 8.15pm Tickets at door.

MAY 11 - Melbourne
Demonstration in Defence of Ulian workingtons leaders, Marie Moniz, 4.30pm

Organising something? List it in the Battler... Free! Send details for mailing to: PO Box 7, Richmond, 1121 to arrive 8 days before publication.

International Socialism



THE LATEST ISSUE of "International Socialism" journal has an important article by Duncan Hallas on the British General strike and the role of the Fighting Communist Party in the days when it could be called a revolutionary party.

Order your copy from
15 Books, 28 Block Place
Melbourne 3000
60 cents (plus post).

WORKERS' ACTION is the now-forthright paper of the **Canadian International Socialist**. To see a copy or obtain a subscription, write or call 15 BOOKS

We are building an international revolutionary movement, opposed to patriotism and working to overcome national divisions.

REVOLUTIONARY PARTY. To smash the capitalist state we need a revolutionary party, and built in the workplaces. Without a revolutionary party, the revolutionary struggle of workers will be crushed.

FULL EQUALITY AND LIBERATION for women, black migrants and all oppressed groups. Racism, sexism and discrimination against migrant peoples are all pillars of the capitalist system.

BANK AND FILE ORGANISATION. Workers need their own rank and file organisations to fight the bosses when the paid officials stop using them. Work within the trade union and fight to bring them under rank and file control.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES. We are fighting for the abolition of the weights and measures system. We fight for a program of industrial and political demands that can strengthen the self-confidence, organisation and socialist consciousness of the working class.

If that's the sort of work you want to do

tooth and nadel

Are NSW screws trained in Moscow?

As we all know Russia is a dictatorship. They don't allow even thought. They are strict in psychiatric hospitals. They even thought there is nothing wrong with them. The Russian bureaucrats figure that it's an effective way to shut their critics up.

In Sydney there is currently a postal Commission into the state of prisons. They asked for nothing to be placed in the jails so that prisoners could be offered an opportunity to make applications. One Long Bay inmate applied for the Commission by putting up his own hand written notes three weeks earlier to organise meetings of prisoners to discuss applications.

The warden responded by sending him to see the prison psychiatrist. After all it works in Moscow...

It didn't however work in Sydney. The psych declared him sane. So the prison inmate transferred to over a hundred miles to Newcastle. He will now be giving evidence.

Clarke out of bounds

At the time of writing the Clarke case had not been cleared up. As a Magpie supporter I'd like to believe it will stay that way, but I don't believe it will. It seems unlikely that the trouble will be over till Ern Clarke is removed as President.

Last week coach Murray Hodgson accused Clarke of trying to change the club into an "affluent society and cutting out the traditional trouble-making working class supporters".

Clarke, however is spinning the old style business men in charge and the old style workers' supporters who are using word-ramp sessions like himself.

Like most small-businessmen, Clarke isn't particularly good at business. That's why the supporters are furious about Clarke's bad deals in players bought and sold.

And like most businessmen, large and small, Clarke has an inflated sense of his own importance. Just as the players' federation calls any setback on their profits an "economic crisis", so Clarke accuses his critics of "disloyalty to the club".

But Clarke isn't the club and most of the people who've bought in have been players' lovers who played their hearts out for Collingwood in the past. But businessmen don't see shareholders and fans as the same.

Slayed

And while you're feeling sorry for the poor Trill, spare a thought for the ideas of Mr. W. R. Slayed. He happens to be the chairman of the large loose confederation "Socialist Group". He told the annual meeting of his company: "There is no doubt in my mind that the new working class in this country is the middle ranking executive. His position can frequently mean intrusions into home life and other personal, physiological and sociological nature which, given the lack of adequate after-life rewards, is unattractive."

A Paltridge sum

So it appears there was an Australian politician involved in the huge handout that locked were giving out all over the world to sell their places. It would have been surprising if there hadn't been. After all, if Lockheed could buy large pieces of the Italian and Japanese governments, not to mention the Prince Consort of Holland, then they surely shouldn't have had too much difficulty finding one Australian Liberal willing to stick his fingers in the till.

Whitlam claims it was Shane Paltridge, Minister for Civil Aviation under Menzies. He don't have any evidence either way but there are clues in his career.

Paltridge began life as a bank clerk but moved into the hotel business when he was twenty-six. By the time he got involved with the Liberal Party a few years later, he was a wealthy man, despite writing service during the same period. Shane Paltridge certainly had nothing against making a lot of money quickly.

As Minister for Civil Aviation, Paltridge was mainly responsible for the expansion of Australia's airline industry. He was certainly a strong supporter of "private enterprise" and he encouraged at the expense of TAA. Paltridge was certainly a strong supporter of "private enterprise" and he encouraged at the expense of TAA.

Sir Shane Paltridge

Wests out of the ground

THEir recent West/Souths game at Melbourne oval played the second round overflew into the ground. Club officials said this was worried about the safety of the kids and their players, but they could not decide on a action to prevent future occurrences.

Then advocates demanded their money back because their side couldn't be seen to be conceding. Wests quickly decided to play their next game at the oval.

Ern Clarke

Cricket Ground. It's hard to make decisions about Wests, but when it comes to protection games...

A woman's place

RIGHT: From the Gailloch Standards, 4/576. **BELOW:** From the Sydney Daily Telegraph, 25/4/76.

Mothers To establish a bridge issue in Brighton seem doomed to fail if Cr Ashby's Sydney goes his way. He likes himself an opponent of the city's fathers that "not too many women get harassed by their husbands."

Beware of politicians' promises

—well... he ought to know!

The Battler

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A STORY OF NEGLECT

And with the Housing Commission's well-known rapid replacement, it was in a continual state of atrophy. Once it was closed for a while finally for repairs.

THE BATTLER 12 MAY 1976 PAGE 9

WOLLONGONG

15 MENORS PARTICIPATED WITH THE 600 STRONG DEMONSTRATION THROUGH THE CENTRE OF WOLLONGONG ON SATURDAY, MAY DAY.



ANY OTHER day this demonstration was led by the ABC staff. This time the march was led by the ABC staff. The march was led by the ABC staff. The march was led by the ABC staff.



Hullbury, Victoria, Council employees meet to discuss reaction to their 'lock-out' by the Liberal controlled council.

Tech School Cleaners SWEEP AWAY THE CARPET

contributed by Beryl Armstrong
MWU Oakleigh Tech, Victoria
On Wednesday 27th April a Stop-Work Meeting of cleaners, domestic arts maids and caretakers employed in Government schools considered the threat to members employed in Technical Schools by the use of contract labour.

At a previous meeting on 16th March, members stated that the assurance given by the Minister of Education, Mr Thompson, to the effect that "contract cleaners will not be used in primary and high schools unless directly employed labour is unavailable" must also apply to technical schools.

Mr Thompson has refused to give this assurance. He claims that although the Public Service Board is responsible for setting out wages and conditions, individual Technical School Councils are responsible for setting the terms of employment.

Yet the State Government has already passed an act empowering all school councils to employ their own ancillary staff.

There is no doubt that Mr Thompson has the power to give the guarantee but High and Primary School Councils had to take strike action to gain their assurance and it seems the Tech-

Maintaining bans
Airport maintenance workers are still handling repairs to domestic airfield plants, 1200 members of the AMMU, ETU and other unions at Tullamarine and Essendon have a log of claims in which includes a 50 cent strike over a travel allowance.

Eight weeks out
Now's this for a manna? 900 AMMU and ETU maintenance workers on Melbourne underground rail loop construction on a log claim. But Codelite and the other contractors won't pay up - they say they can't afford to because of their contracts.

Council Stinks say Garbos

Residents of Heidelberg (Vic) have a vitriolic re- minder of their Council's attitude to its garbage collectors and outdoor files.

The garbage garage has been accumulating throughout the city since the 150 Municipal Employees Union (MEU) members went on strike a fortnight ago claiming a 35 per cent pay rise. The MEU controlled Heidelberg Council has consistently refused to negotiate in the 35 hour week and is being introduced in the surrounding (Labor) Councils for some time.

David Palmer from Parks and Gardens Staff
The only way the Council will listen to us is if we go out.

STOP THE PAD RATES FRAUD!

A GROUP of metalworkers in Sydney has decided to fight the introduction of a Paid Rate Award into the metal industry.

The Paid Rates Award has been opposed since the Victorian AMU and John Halpin, the state secretary has written a pamphlet which explains the award. It will have strips attached which will ensure that the militant workers are no longer able to do so.

In addition, the Paid Rates Award gives the Arbitration Court far tighter control over socialists, say.

settling over-award payments. It is noted that only improvements for any metalworkers come through the award... for as, though the award is not...

As an alternative, the Sydney Metalworkers are calling for a united national boycott and the economic hardships of the power station, the metal workers voted for a continuation of the ban until a better compromise was found.

Stewards firm on Newport
LAST MONTH'S quarterly Victorian AMU officials were pushing a 'back out and drop the ban' line in the branches.

In my own branch, the militants rejected this and passed a motion calling for the ban to stay until a better compromise was found. The form of the motion was very similar to that which the Halpin group later moved at the city stewards meeting.

Indoxation

The meeting also discussed the Indoxation of the press. It was noted that the press is full of stories about the industrialists.

We saw the Indoxation plan at large... the plan will collect money to help finance the struggle and also inform their members of the Party's struggle.

Timor
We also carried a resolution supporting the call for a united front with unions based on financial support for freedom of movement.

School of tents

IT TAKES ONLY twenty-four hours for a batch of several classrooms to be erected at Seven Hills High School, NSW last week. The 'block' consists of tents erected by teachers at which school officials are in the process of erecting the entire top floor of the school building - almost half the classrooms in the school.

Parents and teachers have been complaining to the Education Department for years - not nothing has been done. Two years ago the school was promised a new building to be erected for the building but only 25% has been spent.

At the meeting, six members were nominated to form a committee whose immediate task is to frame recommendations on industrial action, to be presented to the meeting on 25th May.

Supreme Court to try and get back the profits they've lost as a result of the strike and are raising four union officials for damages. The NSW Trades and Labor Council has pledged to enter the case on their strike for party with Victoria officials in the case.

Help McGrath's protection racket?
THE STRIKE TAKES TO THE INTER-AND PACIFIC HOUSE, in a motion which will be a life time fun for their employees, decided to send them one.

The letter was not exactly what you'd want at this time of year. It didn't even contain Mundy's greeting.

This is a bit sick when you remember that Fraser was pushed as a boss man... all ready to do the right thing by our long suffering employees.

Repro workers will appreciate the company's concern for their jobs. After all, last year they were out of over six jobs workers in its plants (2550 out of

PICKER'S COURT

HANDS OFF THE UNIONS
The action began when a man by the name of Bernard Clark, who has been in the industry for a long time, was 'elevated' to the staff of Consolidated Press.

Shortly after his 'elevation' Clark began appearing as a member of a strike breaking force that was sent to work in any Packer subsidiary newspaper (such in the Mandy Daily) where there was an industrial dispute.

After scabbing on 2 occasions Clark was brought before the NSW branch of the PFU and immediately expelled. Clark then applied to the Australian Industrial Court to be reinstated as a Union member and so began the long Court proceedings that now loom as the employer's favour.

On March 15th 1976 a preliminary hearing was held at which Clark's lawyer (from then on Tom Hughes - the former Liberal Attorney-General) tried to have the first motion 'set' and it ruled out of order by the Court.

Under Rule 10 every person seeking a job in the industry must firstly obtain a OS card from the Union and present this to the Union reps at his work place. Although it was hard to get this OS card to do with Clark's particular case the Court immediately accepted Clark's application.

Since March 15 two further hearings have been held and the Council for the Packer through cross-examination of Clark, has been able to establish that the Packer is covering all his legal fees and that the Pickers themselves employed Tom Hughes (Control) and discussed tactics for the case.

NW NURSES' LEAD SOLD OUT

NURSES ARE BEING ROBBED!
THEY HAVE BEEN ROBBED! THEY HAVE BEEN ROBBED! THE OFFICIALS IN GOING THROUGH THE CASE WAS 'done for' consideration soon after May 31st... the nurses are going to be used to try to do nurses out of their 30 catch-up claim.



STRUKO
Tugmen fight
Repro who fall to stop up getting the 4-8 London... they are going to be used to try to do nurses out of their 30 catch-up claim.

Garden Island
800 Garden Island painters and dockers have gone back after a 14 week strike for 37%... they are going to be used to try to do nurses out of their 30 catch-up claim.



Steve Benns
At Gladville there was a 24 hour strike over the NSW Nurses Association members voted to impose bans at all other hospitals.

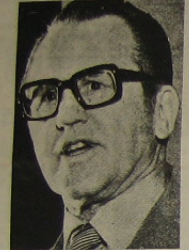
One of the major problems nurses is their separation times. They are producing a lot of babies which is being distributed to nurses from all three unions. No money, 7000 per year... they are going to be used to try to do nurses out of their 30 catch-up claim.

Steel Claim: 'PAPER AN LEGAL JARGON'

BY KEITH NOORT, SECRETARY, FIA RANK & FILE COMMITTEE, PORT KEMBLA

AFTER it was decided that the conditions part of the Steel Award was to be arbitrated, Judge Cahill decided to set aside a few days to hear submissions by both the unions and steel companies.

At the start of court proceedings, workers have to overcome an enormous obstacle. The companies' barrister is on his feet right away to complain about a strike in a certain department of either the Port Kembla or the Newcastle steel making plants. It happens every day that in one of the numerous departments in both steel making plants a dispute is in progress, caused by the fascist attitude of foremen or superintendents, who think we are still living in medieval times.



Laurie Short - Federal Secretary of the Federated Ironworkers, a little concern for the needs of rank and file steelworkers.

Open Slather

The judge, of course, sides with the companies, who maintain that, while there is a strike on somewhere, court proceedings should be suspended until this dispute is settled and the men are back on the job.

This could lead to open slather by the companies. They could have the issue delayed whenever they found themselves in difficulty in court and need time for further research to solve their problems.

So far, one day of the arbitration programs has been suspended, caused by a strike in the 36' mill in the Port Kembla steelworks.

In the two days that I attended court, I sat there bathed in a cold sweat. Our

wise men in Sydney have decided to employ what they call a barrister. This "barrister" appears to have no experience in industrial matters whatever. It is believed that at one time he was a solicitor and is now employed in the research department of the Federated Ironworkers Association.

Incompetent

His stammering and stuttering under the stern and reproving eyes of Judge Cahill, gives you the impression that our "barrister" is an incompetent nondescript.

They thought that the mixed functions clauses of the steel award could be dealt with in 15 or 20 minutes, but the Rank and File officials in Port Kembla considered this issue as one of the most important clauses.

WHAT WE'RE FIGHTING FOR

- Increases in the rates of overtime worked
- Anzac Day to be recognised by the B.H.F.P.
- Increases in sick leave, and also in compassionate leave
- extra leave with pay when an employee is unable to attend work because of sickness in the family etc.
- protective clothing
- an industrial allowance
- the 35 hour week
- heat money
- dirt money
- raise the paltry shift allowance
- retirement at 60
- morning and afternoon tea breaks
- transport costs incurred
- shower time
- a 24 hour day rescue squad to at least keep deaths in the steel industry down
- safety meetings once a month
- first aid classes
- leave of absence with pay to attend education courses
- increases in payment when on long service leave
- extra payments for D.L.I. ticket holders
- the right of entry for union officials
- annual leave claims
- subsidised dental and optical services
- public phones
- improvements in canteen facilities

Mixed Functions deal with rates of pay and reclassification. If, for example, an employee over the years has worked himself up to a higher rate of pay in a higher classification, the company on seven days notice can downgrade this man to a classification which could pay 50 or 60 cents per hour less.

Over the last three months steel companies have taken a shocking advantage of this clause in the award.

In the case of a worker employed at the Rank and File in the Port Kembla steel works who was badly hurt at work and had to claim compensation make-up pay was withheld whilst on light duties. On enquiries it was found that this worker was downgraded to general labourer whilst on light duties. Result: a loss of 60 cents per hour.

When the Port Kembla F.I.A. Secretary Wando Leill testified on this man's behalf,

and showed compassion for his plight, the judge coldly reminded him to stick to the issue at hand because this was not for him to adjudicate.

The rest of the first day that I was there was spent in tendering an avalanche of paper and legal jargon, which could only be understood by ironworkers with a degree in law.

The second day I attended lasted exactly 35 minutes. The first half hour was spent by tendering more and more paper and exhibits until it was found that out of all those reams of paper, one page was missing and the judge had no alternative but to adjourn for one week.

You can only come to one conclusion, and that is that the Australian workers could be held in ridicule by workers outside Australia for falling into a ludicrous system, invented by someone who should have been hung years ago.

to try and solve the noise problem from Ballarat Rd. and building sites.

In addition, a pedestrian crossing will be placed outside the school to safeguard students from the heavy traffic.

There's still a problem with encroachment on the school site by extensions to Footscray Institute of Technology and the danger of noise caused by the new constructions.

Footscray Tech teachers will be concentrating on this matter.

TEACHERS' VICTORY

TEACHERS AT Footscray Technical School (Vic) have won their fight with the Education Department. Last month, they went out on indefinite strike with the active support of parents.

They've won assurances about getting a new school (see last issue of The Battler) and the current school will get attention from acoustics engineers

The 'Give and Take' Budget...

WE GET TAKE

URANIUM Rail workers refuse to carry death

SIXTY-FIVE thousand railway workers fought a fight for us all this week.

They struck a major blow against uranium mining in Australia and they made a couple of pretty important points about the rights of trade unionists as well.

What ARU members said to the rest of Australia was this: "We have the right to take up major social issues that our members cannot be victimised for carrying out union policy."

The national railway strike on Monday won back the job of Jim Aasenbuck, who was suspended by the Queensland Railways for carrying out union policy.

Jim Aasenbuck a shunting supervisor in Townsville had refused to order his men to handle wagons loaded with sulphur bound for the Mary Kathleen uranium mine. His action was fine with ARU policy adopted on April 30 and the policy passed at last year's ACTU Congress.

However, since the Congress the ACTU has done absolutely nothing to implement the uranium policy. Joe Ferguson, a senior ACTU vice-president is over on the board of directors of Mary Kathleen.

According to Ralph Taylor, Federal Secretary of the ARU, "Other unions have carried on as if through the ACTU policy on uranium just brings in a record book. They officials have negotiated rights of pay for mining uranium. And someone brought that load of sulphur to Townsville."

The Press all around the country rose as one and screamed "irresponsible".



HIROSHIMA, 1945. This is what the ARU is fighting to stop.

Actually the ARU has just proved itself one of the most responsible organisations in Australia. Considerably more responsible than the Liberal government which wants to mine and export all the Uranium the mining companies can dig out the previous Labor government whose only opposition to uranium mining was that the mining companies were owned overseas.

And much, much more responsible than the newspaper proprietors who own shares in mining companies.

The policy the railway workers are enforcing is a policy for world survival. Uranium is being mined for nuclear weapons and nuclear energy. Even if the world nuclear powers can avoid using their vast arsenal of bombs (and it is not clear if they can) nuclear reactors could still destroy mankind.

Last week it was announced that three Californian high-risk parts of the San Andre fault. A repeat of the 1906 San Francisco Earthquake

would kill over 3 million people and make a large part of the West Coast of America uninhabitable for a quarter of a million years.

There is no such thing as safe nuclear power. And they sack men for trying to stop the uranium mining.

On Monday, Commissioner Lee directed that Jim Aasenbuck be reinstated and the men go back to work. In view of the appalling disaster in union bans on movement of goods for uranium mining until the outcome of a special meeting of the 12 unions involved in uranium mining.

The special meeting, called by the ACTU under pressure from the ARU, will discuss enforcing ACTU policy. Since the ACTU executive is opposed to ACTU policy — in fact it wanted to go soft on uranium it is asked to take pressure from the rank to keep the bans in force and make them stick.

And we have to make them stick. For our survival.

The Battler

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

Number 20 26 MAY 1976 10 CENTS

FRASER, LYNCH and the press presented Thursday's mini-budget as a "Give and Take" affair. The average Australian gets some tax relief through indexation, there's higher child endowment, but you lose with the Medibank levy.

That's the way they've presented it. Here are the things they haven't said. They haven't told us that most average Australian, the 57% of us with jobs and incomes around \$100 to \$150 less. They've presented it as a budget for the poor. They haven't told us how much the poor lose with the new tax on unemployment benefits, sickness benefits and widow's pensions.

Ten Dollars have been lopped off the average single person's take by tax. They haven't told us that. Nor have they told us of the bonanza handed out to the rich who really benefit from tax indexation.

They haven't told us how much of our income we'll lose by having to pay the extra doctors can now charge. Or how much extra we'll have to pay for land and sewerage now that \$400 million has been cut from Urban development projects.

The papers presented the mini-budget as the basis for a deal over wages. What they didn't say is that we need tax indexation anyway to stop the erosion of our wages indexation rises due to tax.

The working class and the poor lose from this budget. And it won't be long before it begins to show. Any union official who talks about this trickery being the basis for a wage deal is selling us down the drain.

Organise!

The same people who threatened us with Court ballots are still threatening us with compulsory postal ballots. The same people who have publicly stated, in the press, on TV and everywhere that their budget is designed to cut us into a wage cutting deal.

Now, with our wages being once again being cut by higher taxes and levies, now with the government's social welfare program falling, now is not the time to be talking to the Liberal crooks and thieves.

It's the time to be getting out into the unions and the factories to organise our resistance to this larceny. It's the time to be working out exactly how we bring this bosses government down. It's the time to be bringing together all the working-class anger and frustration at the measure announced.

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AMERICAN WORKERS OFFERED PEARLS FOR DEBT

AMERICAN voters may be doing a neat, little banking business as president, No. 40 Jibbe-Peterson is not about to migrate (we should be lucky!) this is a description of Jimmy Carter, front running Democratic Presidential candidate.

The comparison between the former Georgia Governor and the current Queensland Premier just about stops there. The only other thing that Carter and Country do have in common is their loyalty to big business. Carter, who works very hard to avoid committing himself on any issue has developed a curious reputation for honesty, since the latest loan diaphanous not even his closest supporters would take bets on his honesty. Jibbe-Peterson is a quite open racist but Carter has managed to get himself endorsed by some quite prominent Black Americans, including Coleman Young the Black mayor of Detroit. This, despite racist remarks and a political career that began with endorsement from the segregationist Georgia Democratic Party.

The American primaries have provided interesting entertainment for the World's press as one miracle man after another is rejected by the American voters. Unfortunately American workers do not find it so funny. None of these gyps represent their interests and one of them is

going to be President next year. American voters, particularly blacks and workers have been staying away from the polls in droves. That's why Hubert H. Humphrey has not got much chance of winning at the Democratic Convention. He and his stalking horse "Scooby" Jackson were endorsed by the powerful (and corrupt) trade union leaders.

But their members know better. Humphrey supports Business and he has the bribe to prove it. Jackson is payrolled by Boeing. American workers don't have a candidate of their own. They don't even have a party of their own.

In America you can vote in a Labor government and hope that they depend on the trade union movement will stop them from selling out. If rank and file pressure is strong enough, you can even stop sellouts as we did with the wage freeze referendum.

In America workers cannot place either party under that sort of pressure. That's why American workers are a party of their own. Meantime a lot of them will be staying away from the polls, both in primaries and in November.

That's another thing that do Jibbe-Peterson and Jimmy Carter may soon have in common. Election to Office with the majority against them.

FRAMED AND FACING ELECTRIC CHAIR

GARY TYLER is a 17 year old black who has been framed for the murder of a white young man in Louisiana. He is in Death Row waiting to be electrocuted.

The white youth was shot dead during a fight that began when a group of white students started throwing bricks and bottles at a bus of black students in 1974.

After the shooting, police arrived to investigate. They searched the bus for 2 hours and found nothing. When Tyler protested that one of the cops was pointing a loaded gun at students, he was arrested for obstructing justice.

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The Other Side of the Rura Slump

STEVE MORGAN reports from BENDIGO.

FOR WEEKS NOW the daily papers have been filled with stories of starving cattle, desperate dairy farmers and the mass killing of cattle to maintain prices.

But the Press have nothing to say about the far more widespread problem of unemployment in the provincial cities. Last week I visited Bendigo in central Victoria, a rural city of over 60,000 people with 8 to 10 per cent of the working population unemployed and no future.

Currently about 1700 people are on record of unemployment benefits in the area but in a few weeks from the paper and fruit picking season end the number will jump to 2800. The working class areas of inner Bendigo, Kangaroo Flat and Englishwalk have been neglected for years.

From September 1973 it was estimated that nearly 33% of people in the Borough of Englishwalk are dependent on some form of social service benefits. Even in good times during the 1971 boom there was 2.6 per cent of the workforce unemployed in Englishwalk. From September 1975 to Jan. 76 unemployment in Kangaroo Flat and Englishwalk increased from 6.7% and 9% to 9.9% and 9.4% respectively.

As a result of unemployment large families and cramped, miserable living conditions, Englishwalk has an abnormally high incidence of mental and physical diseases.

Jeff Wallace, the Welfare Officer at the Englishwalk health centre told the Battler that their biggest problem was the incidence of marriage breakdown. The children suffer from dietary deficiencies growing up with meals often consisting of soup and dumplings. Children in need of kind forms of the High School have their teeth falling out of their heads, false teeth are useless and unable to correct up at the end of form 4 and joining the ranks of the unemployed.



Jimmy Carter

TOURIST TRAMS are more important to the Bendigo Council than jobs and houses for the unemployed.

electricity and four times as likely to be without average than elsewhere in Australia. The average rent for a modern house in Bendigo is \$35 to \$40 (about \$2,000 per annum). This is not and compared to Melbourne, you will realise that the average wage for the area is \$10 below the state average and, on 1974 figures 37% of families were living on incomes below \$5,000.

new wing three years ago, they currently make do with portables. The local VET branch is trying to have a school classified as unemployed areas.

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Not that slanking at school is an attractive prospect anyway. Englishwalk High was promised a

MURDOCH CALLED A HOUSING SCANDAL... SYDNEY BLACKS CALL IT A RACE SCANDAL

by PAUL ROWLANDS

"The Murdoch press is doing the front running for the Fraser Government." That's the opinion of Aub Phillips, secretary of the Aboriginal Housing Company. Both afternoon dailies in Sydney carried front page articles claiming "huge waste and extravagance" of funds to Aboriginals. They were paying the way for \$88 million worth of cuts for Aboriginal Affairs announced in Fraser's March Budget the next day.

A confidential report was conveniently leaked to the press who claimed that \$1 million had been spent renovating 15

terrace in Redfern (Sydney). Phillips said that in fact, these \$10,000 "homes" cost on average \$18% thousand to buy and about \$20,000 to renovate. This includes money for a scheme in which blacks are trained as tradesmen while they work on the houses.

Phillips told the Battler: "There are trainee carpenters, electricians, plumbers and painters, they will all be on the dole if the funds are cut off."

There was a spontaneous demonstration of blacks outside News Limited in Sydney soon after the papers hit the streets.



These are the "Palaces" Murdoch objects to blacks living in.

SUNSHINE COUNCIL INQUIRY SOCIAL PROBLEMS, BUT PLEASE, NO SOCIALISTS

IS IT POSSIBLE to solve social problems without having views about society? Mr William Lennon prosecuting attorney (sorry, counsel assisting the enquiry) thinks so. He asked Monica Bankoff (if she thought it was unusual that she was asked her political views at an interview for the position of social worker for Sunshine Council.

Lennon attempted to imply to the enquiry (conducted by a Liberal State government into a

Labour Council) that it was most improper for a social worker to have political views. Bankoff in a deprived working class area set up to provide factory lodges for companies like Massey-Ferguson. Even the Melbourne Herald admitted last week that Sunshine was a "forgotten" region.

Monica Bankoff is a socialist. Frankly we think it would be most improper to appoint anyone other than a socialist to tackle the social problems of the region. For one thing they

don't know where to start. Lennon's line of enquiry made it quite clear that the enquiry is about. It's a political farce designed to get left-wing Councilors and their employees.

A bunch of last week's conflict highlighted the tensions between Town Clerk Deutschmann, who opposes the current Labour majority and the other executive officers. One outcome of the enquiry could be the loss of independence of the Welfare and Town Planning departments. The whole lot would return to the control of the Town Clerk.

When Monica Bankoff was signed at last council meeting it was agreed to appoint a successor as head of Welfare, but this could be reversed by the enquiry. The people of Sunshine would lose if this happened. Meanwhile it appears as if the Councilors themselves might survive. The enquiry may only be used to destroy some executive officers and rewrite the Local Government Act so that the council can no longer do as much for their citizens as Sunshine used to do.

SOCIETY FEATHERS RUFFLE

DON DUNSTAN'S announcement that he was planning to appoint Foster Sir Douglas Nicholls as Governor of South Australia appears to have upset some of the more useful members of the community. According to the Sunday Telegraph (May 16) the appointment ousted the NSW state election as the main topic of conversation at society cocktail and dinner parties.

Many women said they would refuse invitations to Government House rather than have to curtsy to an aboriginal.

One of them delightful people is Lady Violet Bradburn who said that it was a "most unrepresentative appointment". Presumably the more traditional appointment of a broken down English aristocrat, a senile politician (Liberal) judge or general would be more "representative" of the families who rule the country.

Another upper class trait, (describable by the Telegraph as a "society matron") who at least had the sense to refuse to be named, said:



The chickens are lucky....

JANEY STONES reviews the new women's liberation paper, MABEL.

THE BERESFORD STONES plant, 14 miles from Newcastle, processes 85,000 chickens and 600 women workers a day. The chickens are lucky—they are killed as soon as they arrive, the women are destroyed physically and infections and sexually over a longer time, as ex-employees tell:

"You get bad infections there. Sometimes it's in the eye from the gall bladder if it bursts and goes in your eye, you can get real trouble. I've seen girls bleed, had flu-blow, it's so hot, they've got shit or piss in their hair and it's got blow."

"It's the joke of the club—everyone knows you are from Stieglitz because of your hands...nails falling off and infections and lumps on them as well as troubles with their wrists."

"The safety factor there is practically nil. Women are continually being injured. One had her hair caught in a machine and ripped out. Another had fingers

caught in a machine—cut from the blades. The safety shields are missing, so the way they're expected to work at."

"It's not surprising that with conditions like these the chickens are not too hygienic. Christ! It's a filthy place, chickens go down the drain they just had them out of the shit and put them back on the line. There's a girl employed full-time pulling periodically processed birds from the drain with a three pronged garden rake."

These conditions are exposed in the April/May issue of MABEL.

However, the women refuse to be "feminist" and suffer in silence. Short-term stoppages are common, and last October jobs for women in the Newcastle area. Stieglitz explains the competition for jobs by periodically large numbers of strikers, slow workers or women whose hands are too badly injured to work any longer.

It was then they get up against another obstacle. The workers placed a ban on removal of goods produced by sear—and the Meatworkers took the support Workers Union. There was no support from the union and the workers won't by putting a picket line.

Mabel was first produced during the political crisis last year when the women's liberation newspapers, it had



The women were demonstrating outside Parliament.

Mabel was produced during the political crisis last year when the women's liberation newspapers, it had

However, over the three issues, a new trend developed. There were more articles about women workers, their conditions and discrimination against them by both bosses and union officials. More women important, and fighting back.

Mabel has had articles on current struggles of nurses, teachers, women cleaners, women librarians, AIB in Wollongong, and textile workers. Through

these stories comes the clear message: if you organize you can win. But this message does not just unite together with men, but taking the lead in the struggle.

In the late 19th Century, on the northern and southern coasts of NSW, women were foremost in the fight against the wharves. They started the tactic of locking-binding letters (a strike) and night a war of nerves to drive the wharves away. In Ballin in 1887, women were organized and appeared to the wharves to give up 39 out of 40 surrendered.

During the 1930's the Women's Federation was formed. But the women didn't see this as just helping the men. As one member's wife put it: "I wasn't just supported them...it was our own survival we were fighting for. We had to convince many of the women that the struggle were necessary so we could have a better life."

Without the initiative of the women in organizing, it's likely many of our current struggles would have been lost.

The women's organized shop kitchens and every aspect of life. They spoke on the radio, wrote for the press, organized journals, organized speaking tours and picketed shops. They sold goods to the police. They demonstrated outside Parliament House in Canberra where Sir Garfield Barwick, when he was finally convinced, could only say:

"My men's eyes are only good for bearing witness to the part of their wives the women had to struggle to be allowed to

Meeting

"I remember I heard about a meeting being held last night and decided to go. We had built a little shack and it was in the doorway so could go, but I was used to being alone. I slipped out the window and was surprised to find I was not alone. I was right there. The girl used to be a member of the children and I was in all the meetings and demonstrations."

"We had long strike periods and a lot of hardship, but we stood together. There was something happening all the time every day. You know, you built those structures in '50. Somehow when you're in your own little family everything just goes on. It's different...everyone a together."

by TOM O'LINCOLN



tooth and nail

Mum's the word Life wasn't meant to be easy

The Sydney evening tabloids still only recognise two kinds of women: sex objects and mothers. So when the anarchist leader Unike Meinhof was found hanging in her cell (the jailors called it suicide, others called it murder, but that's another story) the Sydney Sun headlined it as follows:

"Rebel Mum's suicide in Cell"

Meinhof headed a terrorist group accused of a large number of killings and suicides. The West German state was so afraid of her and her relatively small group of supporters that they conducted their trial with more security precautions than they took for the Munich Olympics. The best way that the Sydney Sun can describe her is as a "rebel."

When the Sun's owner, Sir Woods Fairfax, finally got to that great golf course in the sky, no doubt his paper will headline his death "Tory Grandad's Heart Attack."

Fannie Bay High School International Solidarity

PEKING, Friday.—China has promised not to interfere in the internal affairs of Singapore.

It has pledged that it will not back communist insurgency there and agreed that it will accept deals with its communist neighbours.

McDonald said the best there was to teach them a lesson. "If they would learn the consequences of breaking the law, that they probably learned, we would be glad to see them join the Communist Party."

He said that the Singapore Government usually deals with its communists as to fill them, occasionally it kills them.

The police produced search warrants indicating that they were looking for explosives. They ransacked both houses while intimidating the occupants. From the first house, they took address books and photographs of a number of Communist Party, a bed sheet, a number of books and a possession charged with being in possession of a large bag of explosives.

Two rifles were found on either premises. There had been explosives on these premises.

The police alleged that the occupants of the second house was involved in a conspiracy to blow up a proprietor of a large tourist agency, a television director, and a prominent labor



MABEL was first produced during the political crisis last year when the women's liberation newspapers, it had

The Spirit of '76 is about a petrol dealer in America, where '76 is a well-known brand name. David Hay, the Australian who made it, lived in Los Angeles for four years, and you can tell he is familiar with American society. America is a society where the dream of owning your own business, of "being your own man" is terribly strong.

The dealer is named Mike, a worker who gets into money trouble quite soon. He finds he can't really his own house "the company" me make his life a nightmare. He has to pay a deposit to an community which agrees to be considered "civilized".

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He said that the Singapore Government usually deals with its communists as to fill them, occasionally it kills them.

Solidarity

While Mike's business is in its death throes, Helen discovers something new at work. It is trade union activity. She joins the union, and compares her own sense of solidarity with Mike's lonely battle.

When he refuses, despite her pleading, to join the petrol dealer's association, he goes back to work as a petrol dealer and as he degenerates into drunken despair she leaves him. In the end, he goes broke and dies.

The most important point, of course, is that the American dream of being your own man is really a nightmare. It would be interesting to show this film to an audience of Australian milk bar owners.

Bye-bye, you Lazy Suckers!

Kevin Dennis is probably a well known Melbourne name. He has a name that is as every Victorian knows. Dennis is probably a well known Melbourne name. He has a name that is as every Victorian knows. Dennis is probably a well known Melbourne name. He has a name that is as every Victorian knows.

"WE'RE ALL SOCIALISTS NOW" said King George V over 50 years ago. A lot of people call themselves socialists and talk about socialism. But what is socialism?

Useful

The Labor Party has a socialist objective, buried away somewhere and used for May Day speeches. But the Labor Party has a socialist objective, buried away somewhere and used for May Day speeches.

Bankrupt

Capitalism is bankrupt and discredited that a majority of the world's governments have to wrap themselves up in the red. But to understand political affairs, we have to look past the slogans.

Emancipation

In the Communist Manifesto, he described how to emancipate the state ownership of industry. The first step in the revolution was by the working class to raise the proletariat to the position of ruling class, to win the battle for democracy.

COPS RAID CL

ON APRIL 30, plain clothes police in Melbourne raided the Communist League premises.

Talking about Socialism...



Strangled

These ideas were gradually strangled by the high priests of revolutionary socialism from below, developed by Karl Marx.

Bankrupt

Capitalism is bankrupt and discredited that a majority of the world's governments have to wrap themselves up in the red. But to understand political affairs, we have to look past the slogans.

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THE Battler

Garden Island struggle:

PAINTERS DOCKERS STRIKE NAVY

"IT'S PART of Fraser's long-range plan to take on the unions and we're the first cut off the rank."

That's how Dean Barber described the two-week old strike by ships Painters and Dockers at Garden Island Naval Dockyards in Sydney. Barber is a rank and file member of the strike committee.

recognise the right of the union to control hiring through its hall in Mori St, Balmain. They wanted the right to accept or reject workers sent to them from the hall.

Painters and Dockers have had union hire through a daily roster system since 1945, when they won that right in a thirteen week struggle. They have struck repeatedly to defend union hire.

The strike seems to be very effective. Two ships are in dry dock: HMAS Supply and HMAS Brisbane. The Australian Shipyard HMAS Melbourne, is tied up at the wharf and can't move unless sailors are used to scab. All three ships are meant to travel to the USA to participate in Bicentennial celebrations.



JIM KILLEN—killed by the Painters and Dockers solidarity.

The greatest hostility has always come from the Navy.

The union has come in for wild red-baiting from employers and the press, who claim that communists are "moving into the union". Dean Barber had a blunt answer to that one.

"This branch isn't controlled by any party. Any party that's dedicated to the working class is welcome. Most workers don't belong to any party, they're just workers who believe in complete social unionism."

He said that union members who had been active in movements over Vietnam, apartheid or Timor, or just ordinary militants, would be the first to be victimised if the Navy got the right to screen workers sent down from the union hall.

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Closure

The union could force a complete closure of the whole dockyards by withdrawing essential services—such as garbage and toilet, cleaning—both of which the Navy is looking for just such an excuse to lock out.

Already on Wednesday, a Navy announced it would stand down 200 men. In response, a mass meeting at the gate declared solidarity with the Painters and Dockers, and walked off the job till Friday.

Leaves are being raised throughout Australia in support of the strike, and solidarity stoppages have taken place in other ports. There was also a 24-hour

TOP NEWS

THE PAINTERS AND DOCKERS have given the Navy—and Minister Killen—black eyes. Their two week strike ended Monday on the union's terms. Their roster system—main object of the Navy's attack—will be maintained pending negotiation.

The negotiations are almost certainly a face-saving way for the Navy to stand down. All workers who had been stood down have been reinstated.

PAINTERS DOCKERS STRIKE

1915

SHIP PAINTERS & DOCKERS UNION HALL



Dean Barber stands outside the Painters and Dockers Hiring Hall...at the centre of the Navy's attack.

coming through from Edin himself. Matthews said "We are the people who fix wages. We think we ought to have an idea whether we have a case."

Working on the idea Matt heurs and the others have on other people's cases we suggest he estimates what Communist agents require on a minimum living wage then award himself a third of the necessary rate as a "fair compromise" in this inflationary period.

But then Commissioners and Judges obviously need a lot more to live on than the rest of us. After all they believe that a reasonable salary for workers is 23% of the salary that they find inadequate. And Justice Sir John Moore recently receives over seven times the minimum wage. And he still wants more. Pity they are not as generous to us as they are to themselves. But if they were the Liberal government wouldn't let them stop judges for very long.

MEDI-STRIKE

LIKE INTERNATIONAL CALLIHO.

Justice Less asks for More

Justice Less asks for more. He says that the government is not doing enough to support the unions.

IT'S OFFICIAL! The ACTU is NOT calling a national strike on June 30.

Rather, they'll be talking to the Liberal Government about getting the Medibank levy lowered a dollar or two.

Instead of spreading the June 30 strike already called in Victoria, they'll be trying to get that action called off and planning the beer and privy for a "special unions conference" in a comfortable couple

of weeks.

That puts the responsibility fairly and squarely on the shoulders of the left unions who said, "If the ACTU doesn't call a strike, we will!"

The ACTU has "deferred" the question of a strike indefinitely. Now the left unions must act.

So far, the union movement has done little to force the Government to drop its plans to destroy the Medibank scheme. So far, it has been only rank

and file outrage that has caused any fight at all in defence of the most important reform of twenty years.

Unions leaders are letting Fraser get away with the most savage attack on our living standards since the war. We cannot afford the systematic destruction of our wage packets that the Liberals are planning.

Before we have beaten Fraser, we will have been in a position to have threatened a national strike that will go into days, not hours.

But all the rank and file has to fight the bureaucracy just to get a 24 hour strike in more than one city then Fraser has got it made.

He can sit it out and wait just as he did after November 11 while Hawke and the rest of the far brigade put out the blame and demoralise the movement.

What the ACTU leadership seems incapable of understanding is that there is more support behind them on this than on any issue since Clause D Shca.

There is a reason for this. We need Medibank. We need Medibank because of grazing doctors, granting health funds and vicious Liberal Party politicians.

We need Medibank because we can't afford to get sick in a country where a quick charge you 150 every time we cough.

We can win and we should win. If our elected leadership will not organise this fight without delay, then they should stand aside for people who will.



Melbourne strikers march in protest past the headquarters of HBA, the largest Fund.

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FREEZE ACROSS THE TASMAN

NEW ZEALAND conservative Prime Minister Robert "Piggy" Muldoon has announced a wage freeze.

New Zealand workers will get at most 7% for their next half-yearly cost-of-living adjustment—prices have risen 10% in that time. After that, no wage rises for a year.

Muldoon is doing nothing about prices, of course. As a trade unionist he is placing very violent limits on shareholders' dividends. But there is no rule to stop companies increasing profits drastically and paying them out as monster dividends next year.

Muldoon summed it up by saying that New Zealanders had to accept a drop in their standard of living.

Not so long ago the

Australian press made out that our own economic crisis was really caused by the nasty Labor Government. They held NZ up as a shining example of how capitalism could work without unemployment and inflation.

Now with New Zealand's inflation rate at 17.2% and the rising class freezing wages to make NZ workers pay for the crisis, the Australian press is keeping quiet. There's been virtually no reportage of New Zealand union response to the freeze.

The wage freeze will not pull NZ out of the crisis. It will simply create more unemployment because workers will not be able to buy as much when their wages are eroded by inflation.

"PIGGY" MULDOON—a drop in living standards for everyone else.

South Africa Explodes

THAT PICTURE below of the cop among his rifle at an unarmed crowd of demonstrating students is becoming the symbol of South Africa.

It always has been a more appropriate symbol than the springbok. For South Africa has been a violent racist state for many years.

Now the repression is beginning to show the explosion at Soweto (reported on page 11) was inevitable. Just as it is inevitable that the riots have led to the deaths of 126 people will not be the end of the violence in South Africa.

That will not end until the violent regime which the Australian Government supports is overthrown.

There have already been demonstrations against the Soweto Apartheid. That murder in Melbourne and Sydney. Union should follow the whiffling and to murder blacks because it can be done in support of the embattled black majority.

The Melbourne branch of the Water-side Workers Federation points the way.

They have banned the handling of South African goods coming into Melbourne and goods going out to South Africa. They have also banned South African ships in the Port of Melbourne and are attempting to get the banks established nationally. They also stopped work to attend the Melbourne demonstration.

Other unions handling South African goods, such as the Transport Workers Union, should follow the whiffling and to murder blacks because it can be done in support of the embattled black majority.

Australia is a significant trading partner. We ought to make it too expensive for our bosses to continue supporting these murderers.

Inside ITALIAN ELECTIONS p5
MEDIBANK... p2&3, 6&7

Dear Bathos, LETTERS FROM OUR READERS

EDUCATION IN THE BATTLEHOUSE

Dear Bathos,
I would like to make a comment on Welton Black Katter mentioned by Mark Macon in the second issue. I've only seen a couple of episodes. I agree it's certainly a change to see working class kids winning out. The remedial kids are clearly in that class to finish their learning to conform to the school system, rather than because of any mental disability.

At the beginning of this year the local borough hall was host to a "perfect induction ceremony" - a stage ritual where "uncomprehending students were hoisted for some twenty minutes by a local drome who urged them never to forget the day."

At that same ceremony the Head Master is given with musical Liberal Party connections. The students and incredulous staff sing the hymn of the country, if not the hymn. Not surprisingly the air always remains a cold labor one.

Aggravated has a government health center, but no doctor. If you would like to find children

Dear Bathos,

I would like to make a comment on Welton Black Katter mentioned by Mark Macon in the second issue. I've only seen a couple of episodes. I agree it's certainly a change to see working class kids winning out. The remedial kids are clearly in that class to finish their learning to conform to the school system, rather than because of any mental disability.

What about the girls?

But there is a serious weakness in Welton Black Katter, among your writer's donors. Although there are exceptions, the girls among the donors are few and far between, except a mildly decorative one. Occasionally they are the boys' assistants. They never participate or initiate anything themselves, but are always clever or funny.

Of course, in a real world, girls are often a real asset among the donors. These days it's impossible to jump on the bandwagon and show women in any way. So it's a little surprising that the girls are so decorative and actually receive no role of the girls. It's also surprising that the socialists never don't notice it.

A Battler Reader.



were to be associated with such an august cause of learning you there are no classes of twelve in the school.

Against that background here are a few facts. The pupil teacher ratio is much higher than that mentioned. The principal neglected to allow for part-time staff and for senior staff with low teaching loads. I can assure you there are no classes of twelve in the school.

Aggravated High School boasts fifteen potential VSTA members. I estimate that the school is already housing 200 students more than the buildings are meant to hold. This will be aggravated in the future by plans to convert Bantago High School into a senior school. Aggravated will have to accommodate some of their initial overflow.

Requests for additional periods were turned down at the start of this year by gentlemen at buildings' branches who apparently think we should be holding multi classes (25 students) in auto prec portable benches space for 18, dangerous equipment etc.

It has proved very hard to convince many people that the school is a high quality educational institution, is a great political nature.

Another thing has been heard from, to some surprise here. We hear a lot about politically conscious and communist tendencies breaking their necks to get us deprived (not in urban schools).

Anyone with a burning desire to teach working class kids, and maybe to get away from city hassles at least for a semester or two, for Aggravated, you won't have any trouble getting it.

Aggravated High School boasts fifteen potential VSTA members. I estimate that the school is already housing 200 students more than the buildings are meant to hold. This will be aggravated in the future by plans to convert Bantago High School into a senior school. Aggravated will have to accommodate some of their initial overflow.

Requests for additional periods were turned down at the start of this year by gentlemen at buildings' branches who apparently think we should be holding multi classes (25 students) in auto prec portable benches space for 18, dangerous equipment etc.

It has proved very hard to convince many people that the school is a high quality educational institution, is a great political nature.

Another thing has been heard from, to some surprise here. We hear a lot about politically conscious and communist tendencies breaking their necks to get us deprived (not in urban schools).

Anyone with a burning desire to teach working class kids, and maybe to get away from city hassles at least for a semester or two, for Aggravated, you won't have any trouble getting it.

Yours,
Ms. D. Laidlaw,
Aggravated High School

THE DREADED COMMUNIST TAKEOVER

of Italy has not yet happened. At the elections, the Christian Democrats are still the largest party, but it will take weeks of horse trading to work out exactly which parties will and will not be represented in the government. But while Henry Kissinger and the Pentagon can breathe a little easier, the elections show the increasing polarization of Italian society.

The Communist Party, far from as much as it had hoped for, the Christian Democratic Party gained, rather than were the small party.

THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS

The Christian Democrats was a lot of votes from the neo-fascists by moving to the right and adopting neo-fascist rhetoric. The Communist Party also moved to the right. The Democrats by pushing their traditional policies - moderate reforms and support for continued Italian participation in NATO. But while the Italian political parties were moving to the right, the working class has been moving to the left. Ever since 1969 when almost every major factory in the country was either occupied or on strike, the Communist class has been at the heart of industrial struggle in Europe.

As the lira continues to drop in value and Italian millionaires attempt to get their wealth abroad, Italian workers steadfastly refuse to pay the cost of Italian capitalism's

THE PCI

rise. This is the background to the deadlock in last weekend's election. A stalemate between a strong working class and a power and can master support from its great and powerful friends in the banks of Zurich and Brussels, and the corridors of power in Washington.

So now it's over to the power broken in Rome as they attempt to patch together some kind of compromise Government. The Communist Party may yet end up with some limited power. But how much could Italian workers expect from the PCI?

THE ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY (PCI)

The ITALIAN Communist Party (PCI) is the largest in the West which claims to be Marxist.

It has two million members and gets 11 million votes. It controls the largest trade union federation in Europe and already runs the provincial governments in large parts of Italy.

Yet though it calls itself Communist, its programmes are almost indistinguishable from those of the Christian Democrats.

It would keep Italy as a full and stronger partner of NATO. Nationalisation is not to be extended but instead capitalism is to be put back on its feet. Public spending would be cut. Above all it does not want to form a socialist government, but instead wants a "historic compromise" with the corrupt, right-wing Christian Democrats. The PCI candidates even refuse an ex-NATO general and a Common Market Commissioner.

It tries to justify this line by pointing to Chile. It says the only way to avoid another Chile is to win all "democratic parties" around the neck, including the government.

The PCI simply ignores the fact that Abende was overthrown by a military coup. They will be unwilling to identify policy, holding back the party from a coalition with the Communist.

If the PCI is able to form a government with the Socialist Party despite this, then the Christian Democrats and their friends in industry will do their best to ensure that the economic crisis gets worse and that, in working class areas, the government rapidly becomes unpopular.



An example of typical Communist military tactics. In February, the workers' movement in Lisbon staged a strike at a truck factory station to protest at 4,215 workers. The action stopped the flow of the train going into the city.

THE REVOLUTION IN PORTUGAL

is emerging from a long winter sleep. The revolutionary left is standing Otelio de Carvalho in the Presidential elections and his campaign is the focus for the first mass demonstrations of working class strength in a year.

Carvalho is a symbol of the revolution. He is the General who masterminded the original "Revolution of the Flowers" which overthrew the fascist regime of Salazar in April, 1974. As the former military commander of COPCON, he was closely allied with the workers up to the November 25 last year, he was arrested and jailed for several weeks and stripped of his commission.

PORTUGAL

Carvalho has no chance of winning. The major candidate is General Spínola, a symbol of the November coup which resulted in the jailing of Carvalho and many thousands of other military and working class militant names listed by the workers and supported by all the major electoral parties from the Socialists to the known party, the CDS.

Revolutionaries in Portugal understand that socialism will not be built by getting the votes for the Assembly and they are aware that Carvalho has not been a consistent revolutionary. As commander of COPCON he vacillated between the moderate and the revolutionaries.

But as Carvalho is a symbol of the Revolution, the campaign around his candidacy has been able to lead to a new workers movement.

Thousands of workers have rallied to the Carvalho campaign which calls for socialisation of the economy, workers control and popular power. In key factories like the Lincez shipyards, metal workers assemblies have elected committees to organize the campaign.

In other areas, campaign committees called "Vigilance committees of popular

The Reluctant Candidate

unity" have been created which work virtually every factory, every village, every cooperative. The rallies have been enormous. In Oporto, long a fortress of the right-wing, 100,000 people came out for Carvalho. This was larger than any of the right-wing rallies during last year's wave of terrorism and violence against the left.

In Lisbon, 60,000 people turned out to "welcome" Otelio, at last, even though there was no rally organized.

Both the Communist Party and the Socialist Party are in crisis over the Carvalho campaign. Many of the meeting class members are refusing to support Carvalho. SP and CP members speak of his platform, bitterly denouncing the gains of their own party and supporting his revolutionary platform. In the process they are being won away from the revolutionary party which has betrayed the workers movement at every important step.

Carvalho himself did not want to stand for President. He only agreed to run after the revolutionary left, led by the Revolutionary Party of the Proletariat (RPP), had organised a campaign to draft him which culminated in a mass meeting of tenants, communists which demanded that Otelio stand and which refused to take NO for an answer.

MAJOR CARVALHO

The campaign around Carvalho for President and the struggle for his campaign demands have begun to shake the confidence and organization that the Portuguese workers had in last year's coup. It has inspired a new wave of revolutionary movements and the government's austerity measures, which is what the left had hoped would happen.

And the campaign has begun to create the environment from which a mass revolutionary party can be built to lead the Portuguese workers to victory against the capitalist state.

"Peking Pin-up"

by DAVE NADOL

An editorial welcoming the square in the Peoples Daily allied to Moscow "stretching its claws every where." It praised Australia's action in "reinforcing its national defence."

Just where that leaves local Maoists is not clear. They have spent the best part of the last five years campaigning against American bases in Australia. These same American bases are central to Fraser's national defence strategy which China prizes.

Richard Nixon

Malcolm Fraser used to criticize Labor ministers for the amount of time they spent over seas last year while Australia was going through an economic crisis.

There's no such thing as a free lunch" says Fraser's old aide, Alan Rank, but Malcolm is currently dining on Peking duck at ceremonial banquets by the "communist" government of China. Fraser believes in taking a long "needed" individualistic stance: "Life's not meant to be easy." That's why he's leaving to

guess who's coming to dinner?



South Sydney still more scandals

LAST YEAR South Sydney Council received over \$100,000 from the Children's Commission for two pre school facilities in Redfern and Erskineville. Anyone would think it is difficult not to spend the money in such a densely populated area with as many problems.

But a school commission which is in charge of the money could "think about it" if the money isn't used well. It will probably result in general trouble and be a disaster.

Why does the SSC act on money that the Social Workers at the Home Study Region has been unable to find out how to use it? The SSC has been unable to find out how to use it. The SSC has been unable to find out how to use it.

At the same time as it is on transport money, the council has threatened to close a residential playground - it

South Sydney Council's Witch Hunt of Tenants!

Speakers from Black, Lebanese and Greek Community CHAMPANELLE spoke during the residence at 38 Repco St, Redfern on 11/11/74.

At the beginning of this year the local borough hall was host to a "perfect induction ceremony" - a stage ritual where "uncomprehending students were hoisted for some twenty minutes by a local drome who urged them never to forget the day."

At that same ceremony the Head Master is given with musical Liberal Party connections. The students and incredulous staff sing the hymn of the country, if not the hymn. Not surprisingly the air always remains a cold labor one.

Aggravated has a government health center, but no doctor. If you would like to find children

in the area. Many textile factories have closed. When Leyland closed over 5000 motor parts production 5000 local people lost their jobs. As Liz Duke, a social worker from migrant women Social Development says, "Many people don't realize it's a family with one parent working that's the worst off. Their first concern is to get a child. This is of course one of the best ways out of poverty. However, not all are aware of what facilities are available."

If a woman can find a job, the cost of child care can be \$13 a week with three children will have nothing left over.

The problem's not a simple one. More money is needed to expand the Durruck, but only that. It's important for the community to organize itself, not just complain. People have to decide how to get that sort of child care and other community facilities they need, and that are not controlled those that are set up

Public Hospitals

From the Public Hospitals, after more than a decade of the Fraser Government's Health package to the mini-budget, Lynch earned \$2.5 million off the hospital development program. In Melbourne, there are only two new public hospitals being built at the moment and both are nearing completion.

ACTIVITY OF A HEALTH MURDER

by PHIL GRIFFITHS

WHAT DO YOU call people who make money out of the misfortunes of others? What do you call people who build an opulent lifestyle on illness and injury, on fear and the widespread need for personal security? **YOU CALL THEM BLUDGERS.**

And that is exactly what the AMA, the General Practitioners Society, the Health Funds and the Liberal Party all are. Because these shabby, disgusting bludgers have robbed us, have exploited our sickness and now they're coming back for more.

The doctor work hard. But then, so do most of us. And we don't make \$90,000 a year out of it. Many doctors are sincere, conscientious, dedicated humanitarians, concerned only with the welfare of their patients. But many ordinary working class people are kind, sincere and conscientious too. And they don't have the advantage of a lot of money with which to be "conscienceless".

A lot of doctors take their work seriously and concern themselves mainly with the job of healing sickness and injury. But that's not the way the health system works. It is set up and run to give the crooks, the charlatans, the animals amongst the medical profession upon sickness and injury. It is designed to put huge amounts of money in doctors' pockets no matter how honest they are. It is designed to give

a cushy working life to the daughters of the newly rich (Lynch) have to work.

Then there are the bludgers supposedly owned by the public. But it's just try sometimes in running of the health funds. At the last annual meeting, employees armed with proxies at the General Meeting to vote for the bludgers standing for the board.

The health funds have poured dollars into the campaign to get this designed to advance the interests of the contributors? Or is it to protect the interests of the bludgers who run the funds and the bludgers benefit from cheap capital funds? Fund reserves (and the bludgers the animals who run the funds).

While Medibank spends five every dollar on administrative funds spend fifteen cents of it you pay them. And it doesn't employ.

Before they moved to offices, HBA employees had up with raise, poor work regime of terror from the bludgers who run the place.

The health system is a pay system. That is, a private profit health system. The bludgers work for the community, but themselves. The funds do not pay contributors, they work for profit of their rulers.

Medibank did not even

at all. It left the control of medicine in the hands of private doctors and it left the private funds with enough business to keep them going. It was merely a government-run, low class HBA.

Even so, it was a great step forward. Free, universal health insurance meant that every worker was covered. You could get poor, but you could get treatment with only nominal cost.

But little was Medibank did, it was too much for the people who make money out of sickness. So both the doctors and the private health funds and the funds and supporters, poured money into the Liberal Party.

Which proves what we always know: the Liberals are bludgers too. They have just picked up a bonanza in contributions for letting the bludgers in the medical profession and the private health funds make money out of the sick.

The first step to improve health care in this country, has to be the defence of Medibank. And it won't be easy because even if we save Medibank, the Fraser government has proven that it is determined to slash health care spending.

Once we stop the present attacks, we have to fight for the abolition of all private health care. The government must take over the hospitals as a free public service, the doctors must become employees and the private health funds abolished, with their assets going to build new hospitals.

Leaving health care in private hands gave the bludgers the ban from which to launch their counter-attack against Medibank.



TO SAVE THIS

The Government plans to double the number of private beds in public hospitals from 17% to 30%. And, at the same time, it's doubling the price of private beds from \$30 to \$60 a day.

Higher priced private beds in public hospitals will mean a boom for the private hospitals - they currently charge a lot more than the public hospitals for private care; it'll mean a boom for the doctors who get paid on a fee-for-service arrangement with private patients, but only a session by session basis in public wards.

It will mean a boom for the private health funds as they pick up business from the 57% of people who are being pushed out of Medibank and who are going to insure at intermediate or private level to get decent health care.

And it means a wealth oriented hospital system. If you have the money, you get the treatment. It means several different standards of health care based not on what you need, but on what you can afford to pay.

The cuts mean a run down in the public health system. The changes in Medibank are going to make it easier for Fraser to get away with the run down. The poor and weak will be stuck in the public system, but they don't have much power anyway. The best organized workers will be able to afford intermediate and private care, but it will be a strain on our pockets. The rich won't notice any difference unless they are part of the industry cashing in on this bonanza for the greedy.

Social Workers Speak Out:

The Battler spoke with Kay Dodd, a social worker from a Footscray (Vic) health clinic.

"Complete confusion. That will be the immediate reaction of the people who come here because so many of them are migrants, and don't speak English proficiently. Migrants, especially, are concerned because they don't understand the scheme."

Medibank was simple. You just came in with your card, filled a form and gave your date of birth.

Who knows what's going to happen with the new scheme.

Over health care becomes expensive, there is a outbreak in the health care people get. A certain percentage of people will have lower health care.

They don't come in for things like the flu. It's only the flu, you get over it. But the being a particularly virulent flu it can have nasty side effects.

When people don't come in for minor ailments, blood pressure doesn't get tested regularly - liver damage and so on are not picked up because people are not in touch with the facilities. A lot of chronic diseases will become established before they are picked up.

For example, a woman who has slight anaemia, low blood count. If the pressure are not in the pocket, they don't come in and the anaemia gets worse."

Another social worker commented,

"A lot of people I've seen have started themselves out of hospital because they cannot afford it."

I've seen people disgraced and morose because they cannot afford health care.

If health care includes the health of the whole individual - medical, social, mental health, it's a bit of a contradiction. If hospitals and doctors are using people for payment of their bills, and causing them worry."

Kay Dodd summed up,

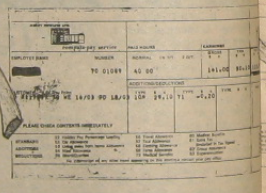
"Very high standard health care is a right of every person in this society."



Hospital Workers' Jobs

Hospital workers face the sack. As the public hospitals are further squeezed for money, there'll be ward maids, nursing aides, catering workers all on the dole looking for jobs in the private hospitals. The government is selling the responsibility to fund hospitals from Medibank and has cut funds available for hospital running expenses.

Thousands of building workers will be on the dole as the hospital building program is run down even further.



Wages

Malcolm Fraser has just given you a choice, a choice. The choice is between a wage cut and a health cut.

On the one hand, you can choose to stick with the health system that's going to be better and harder to run unless you are urgently or desperately ill.

But now health care is a scramble, a free-for-all. If you stick with basic level Medibank, you know you're down that it's going to be harder and harder to run unless you are urgently or desperately ill.

On the other hand, you can choose to pay for private health care and pay for private hospital cover or decent health care. That's going to cost the government a lot of money.

Ten dollars a week is a 7% wage cut for the average family and probably around \$3 a year's wage.

And who gets the money? The doctors and the bludgers who make money out of our illness and injury.

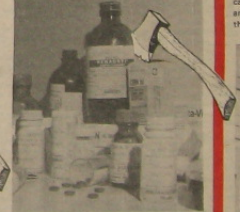
THIS IS WHAT THEY'RE AXING



Community Health Centres

When was the last time you saw a houseman, or a midwife, or a crazy gaffer in the waiting room of a Community Health Centre? These people were as well when the \$24 million that's been cut off the budget for these centres.

Workers will. These comprehensive health centres were established in many working class areas during the three years of Labor Government. Now the existing centres will have their budgets lightened and new centres will be "delayed".



Cheap Medicine

Cheap drugs are a thing of the past. The big drug companies have always ripped us off, but there was some relief. First, there was the National Health Scheme where you used to get most common drugs for a flat 30 cents. That increased to \$1.50. Now Fraser has taken a large number of community used drugs off the NHS and increased the standard charge to \$2.

A lot of people, especially the aged, cannot afford \$2 per prescription. This amounts to a large cut in the pension for a person having two or three prescriptions made up every week or more prescriptions made up every week. And many of those were made up by the Commonwealth Serum Laboratories. (For instance, the flu vaccines). Now the Government has "sold" Farmacia to private business and the budget of the CSL has been slashed by 24%.



St. Vincents Private Hospital, Melbourne

"We fired straight at them.
It's no use firing over their heads."

THE Battler



MURDER IN SOWETO

A Hundred Die in the Struggle Against Apartheid

The bullets that killed the unarmed teenage demonstrators in Soweto may turn out to be the bullets that finally killed the evil South African system of apartheid.

Certainly the anger that exploded last week throughout the urban black communities shows no sign of ending. And as the death toll mounts, the South African police seem unable to regain control.

The demonstration last Thursday began as a peaceful protest against the compulsory teaching of Afrikaans (the language of the conqueror) in black schools.

After the police fired on the crowd it escalated into a protest not only against the killings or the language but against the system of apartheid and white minority rule such as the pass system.

Soweto is a city of over a

million blacks on the outskirts of Johannesburg. Much of its housing is slums and shanties. Its residents are not considered citizens of South Africa.

They can be evicted and "deported" to "tribal homelands" (even if they were born in Soweto and have never seen their "homelands") at a moment's notice.

Soweto exists to provide cheap labour for Johannesburg, and that is what the apartheid system is all about. Profit.

Less than four million whites (seventy-eight million blacks of all political rights, treat them as third class citizens, deny them of education, housing and health care because its very profitable. South Africa survives as the last outpost of colonialism in Africa because the South African regime is heavily supported by all the Western countries who deplore its racial policies in public, while encouraging — arms sales and investment in private.

World Capitalism invests in South Africa because the Apartheid system, which bans black and multi racial trade unions, keep black wages low and company profits high.



These are the living conditions that caused the trouble.

But times are changing in Southern Africa. After the Sharpeville killings in 1960 the South African police state clamped down and crushed black opposition immediately. It cannot do that now. For one thing the black population is far more involved in industry than it was fifteen years ago. This gives it the power to hit the state and its backers where it

hurts — in the cash box. South African whites are on the defensive. The victory of the MPLA in Angola against direct South African intervention and in Mozambique by FRELIMO against the South African — assisted Portuguese have inspired South African blacks. They have proved that White Supremacist regimes are not invincible.

Within a few days the South African police state will regain control of the black towns. But the control will not be as secure. Riots alone will not overthrow apartheid, but apartheid will be overthrown. That is the message of Soweto.



This peaceful student protest was turned into a bloodbath by the cops.

when the cops shot at this peaceful demonstration

the protesters reacted with this

A Pass Holder, symbol of racial oppression, is burned to the ground.

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...and Revolution

Talking about Socialism...



THE PAINTER and docker at Garden Island looked at me with a smile. "Revolutionary, eh? They all say that."

Revolution can mean anything from a revolutionary new soap powder to screwing in the nuts.

It, to be more serious, it can mean passing some marching for power things,

urban guerrilla warfare in Latin America, or military coups. So when the US says it's for revolution, you've got to ask just what you're in mind.

I said the first comment that for Karl Marx "the emancipation of the working class is the task of workers alone."

That rules out the present armies (even if there were peasants in Australia). And it also rules out the various types of guerrilla bands. Terror and guerrilla tactics both involve the general class in the heroics taking action for the workers.

If you saw the film, *Sighe*, you see the type of organization they set up. They set up a group called the "Red Army." They could be a party, but they are mainly a group of workers.

Marxists look to the power to stop that heart beat. The fact, in times of the working class movement, is to stop that heart beat. The fact, in times of the working class movement, is to stop that heart beat.

LEBANON

THE SYRIAN takeover of Lebanon comes as the climax to more than a year of civil war.

The press present the war as being between "Christians" and Muslims." But the Muslim Syrian regime has intervened to maintain in power the Maronite Christian president Sarkis.

Why? Because the civil war was not based on religion, but on the attempt of a small, privileged ruling class to keep power by divide-and-rule.

The old system in Lebanon concentrate power in the hands of upper class from some religious groupings, especially the Maronite (Catholic) Christians. Other groupings, such as most of the Muslims and also the orthodox Christians, were excluded from power.

Side by side with these religious divisions went vast differences between the immense wealth of the rich and the poverty of the mass of people.

But the left wing forces gained the support of the Syrian guerrillas in Southern Lebanon and were able to fight back.

Every device has since been used to prop up a corrupt regime against those who want change.

best understanding of the US — and though the American — could gain the support of the "progressive" Arab regimes such as Syria in its struggle to free Palestine.

The danger now is that the Syrians will do what King Hussein did in neighbouring Jordan six years ago — wipe out the first and best Arab forces.

Finally, the Syrian invasion should be the moment of truth for the Palestinian guerrillas. The

Syrian Premier Assad and Egyptian Premier Sadat shake up over the bodies of the Lebanese and Palestinians

They do not mind what barbarities they resort to, or how many deaths they cause, their only concern is their wealth and their privileges.

They are prepared to destroy society rather than surrender these.

The rulers of Syria have also shown how little they care for their own alleged principles in the past, claiming Christian, socialist, and there are still Communist members in the Syrian government.

They have also claimed to be the "refugees" of the Palestinians by the Israelis against Egypt's attempted deal with the Arab government.

But now the Syrians have invaded Lebanon and attacked the left and the Palestinians. The London Financial Times has correctly put it as follows:

"The original Syrian intervention was undertaken with the

Palestine Liberation Organisation has always believed that it could gain the support of the "progressive" Arab regimes such as Syria in its struggle to free Palestine.

It has opposed the fight to build revolutionary socialist organisations among the workers in countries like Syria.

This mistake is now going to be paid for in blood.

Mass strikes are a very important step in the struggle for socialism. They must be because the employers will not succeed if they do not move on to political action.

The second step is to form the capitalist state into the form that it takes over the old state and to bring in socialism. It becomes transparently clear — in the United States, the army, the work of the class nature come into the open.

The only way forward is to strike the police must be split. The army must be split. The workers must be split. Their working class brotherhood system. The courts are dissolved, their offices dissolved.

In place of the worker capitalist state, the worker to build their own government. The Workers' Council set up their own government with the same wage and conditions as the workers' council.

The workers' council elected in the workers' council. The workers' council elected in the workers' council.

The Victorian Employees Federation is meanwhile presenting Dick Hunter to bring in some new industrial legislation as well. They want the Victorian Government to give its backing to each by making it illegal to "discriminate" with black-ban refuse — against members who refuse to abide by union decisions.

There's a third threat — from the Trade Practices Commission. The TPC Chairman, Bennessman, is backing up the call from the Law Council of Australia for the Government to outlaw trade bans which are "anti-competitive".

Bennessman wants to stop unions taking action against bosses who cut their prices and wages to try to get back to a winning and sweating.

What a fortnight it's been for harassed senior Foreign Affairs Department bureaucrats and whysoddden political journalists.

The Foreign Affairs heaves have had their time out on sending apologies and explanations out all over the world to explain Malcolm Fraser's gaffes in Peking.

Meanwhile, the newspaper journalists of the Canberra Press Gallery Drinking School have been filling the nation's daily and weekly papers with attempted explanations of what Fraser was really doing in China.

Below Batter Political Editor Dave Nadel, Australia's only political correspondent, explains what is left of Fraser's foreign policy after his Eastern trip.

Fraser's Trip TO THE BILL IN THE CHINA SHOP

The problem for the ruling class was not in the politics of Fraser's foreign policy, it was in the economy.

Or, to put it another way, it was a great idea, but it called for a statesman to implement it, and no statesman, Malcolm Fraser shows about as much grace as an elephant dancing on a ball.

What the ruling class is trying to do is the Australian industrial growth (that means BHP and CSR profits) are based partly on developing South East Asian markets for trade and investment. Australia however is a fairly small power, so it cannot undertake its own expansion. It doesn't have the money or the troops.

So the Australian bosses have made the way in under the umbrella of a stronger power — the United States.

Just as in earlier years Australian industrial developed its almost total dominance of the South Pacific from New Caledonia through Fiji to Tahiti under the umbrella of the British Navy.

There are three super powers in the region. In trade and investment terms, the two main contenders are the US and Russia.

China, the third super power, is not to be neglected in economic terms. However, in military terms it is Superpower and a far more effective block than Russia in South East Asia, than the United States and Australian military operations which were utterly defeated.

The Bohlen Park Lenin and Trotsky Party representatives, "communist" workers' council. The Bohlen Park Lenin and Trotsky Party representatives, "communist" workers' council.

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Further to our last column, Mal has not yet announced a date for the Indian Ocean War, and has not yet Jim Killen to tone down the publicity. Maybe Communist and Russian problems are delaying the announcement.

The Washington organs may have temporarily distracted US attention from minor trouble world war.

Russia is having trouble settling a side. At the recent East Berlin Summit, most of the 29 attending Communist Parties told Moscow that it is in no sense their boss, and only marginally ally. Worse, 82 of the invited did not turn up at all.

Mal's published comments about the Asian market are accordingly dull, although one

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It may be very important

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Sullivan's Corner

Well, Big Hat is back in town — just in time to stiffen the Libs resistance to Bob Hawke's frontal attempt to reduce the Medbank levy by 0.7%.

Further to our last column, Mal has not yet announced a date for the Indian Ocean War, and has not yet Jim Killen to tone down the publicity. Maybe Communist and Russian problems are delaying the announcement.

The Washington organs may have temporarily distracted US attention from minor trouble world war.

Russia is having trouble settling a side. At the recent East Berlin Summit, most of the 29 attending Communist Parties told Moscow that it is in no sense their boss, and only marginally ally. Worse, 82 of the invited did not turn up at all.

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of them is mildly puzzling. He asked Chinese riders if they were going to stiff up regional stability by supporting US Asian Liberation movement (which is a matter of foreign policy. What makes the statement hard to translate is the implication that in China the Communist Party and the Government are somewhat separate.

But let us just say that the rulers speak in strange codes and leave it at that. The heart-warming message is that China will not let revolutionary generals disrupt upper-class alliances. Still, you would reckon that Sam saw fit to publicize the statement he could at least give us a better translation.

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Decent Maggie Guilfoyle

A booklet prepared by the departments of Social Security, and Employment and Industrial Relations will not be published.

The 82 page booklet outlines lines rights and benefits available for Australian women. It has been cancelled on the decision of Social Security Minister, Senator Margaret Guilfoyle.

One of the reasons that Guilfoyle cancelled the book was that it refers women for various reasons to the Australian Legal Aid Office, which Guilfoyle's government was trying to shut it also passes Medbank in its original form.

But Guilfoyle expressed her main objection to it when she said that it contains information that do not decent women what to do in cases of rape, with bathing and arrest.

For the most part, upper middle-class women do not make up the statistics for rape victims, bathed news. They aren't generally at all. So what does Maggie Guilfoyle mean by a decent woman? She means a

women as much like Senator Margaret Guilfoyle as you could possibly imagine.

Senator Guilfoyle "would not want to read" about what to do in the case of rape, bathing or arrest. So she took a stand. And as far as Guilfoyle is concerned, the majority of Australian women can go and get raped

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SAVE MED BANK!



Gordon Hanks, Hanks and Dabbin speaking to the Federal Union Conference to demand a general strike to save Medbank's jobs to bring down the Fraser Government.

ACTU FEDERAL CONFERENCE by PHIL GRIFFITHS

The Reluctant Militants

The first General Strike in Australia's history. That is the great achievement of last week's special ACTU conference.

The 300 delegates representing 135 Federal Unions affiliated to the ACTU, voted overwhelmingly for a national 24 hours strike on Monday July 12.

The delegates passed a long resolution prepared by the ACTU executive which attacked the Federal Government for its broken promises and demanded that Medbank be retained as a universal health insurance scheme to which everyone belonged. The resolution also called for a lower levy.

But there was a lot more to the conference than the national strike and its apparent unity. The delegates were very reluctant militants.

Motions for Australia-wide mass rallies on strike day were defeated and the conference effectively endorsed the ACTU Executive proposal for a 1.6% levy.

On the second day, Hawke made a dramatic appeal for "Trade Union Responsibility" over wages. He moved that the unions concern themselves simply with maintaining and consolidating present wages levels.

This appeal for wage restraint received the unanimous backing of the conference, including support from delegates belonging to Australian socialist Communist Parties.

On both days, Hawke made strong and sarcastic attacks on his critics in the labor movement. Apparently, it is a crime now to criticize our beloved union chief.

Part of embarrassment him while he grossly underplayed looking for approval from the press and act in Parliament from the Labor Party.

Hawke attacked both Vanguard (the Maoist paper) and Tribune (CPA) for their criticisms of his deal with Medbank.

Vel, there was not a word of protest, not a word of self defence by these critics of Hawke.

There is just sat back and look it. Perhaps this is another example of the "idea of unity" — you allow a blatant fighting back.

Who restrain the levy.

On Wednesday, June 30, half a million Victorian unionists struck for Medbank. The rain was still, the shops empty and the city silent. Which is exactly what the problem was.

There were half a million of us on strike to tell the government that we were Medbank union, yet there was no demonstration, no mass rallying, no marching, no singing.

KEEP PRESS UP

At LAST! The ACTU has finally acted on Medbank and called Australia's first-ever General Strike, for 24 hours, beginning Sunday midnight.

The strike will close down virtually all industry: power, transport, communications, business and profitmaking will be well and truly stopped for the day.

This magnificent action will go a long way to help us rescue Medbank, one of the greatest government reforms in thirty years. From the clutches of Ker's cur Medbank means a new era in health care for Australian workers! It was to be doctors to satisfy the money lust of the doctors and private health funds.

But the General Strike is not enough on its own. If Fraser believes that this is the end of mass, national union action, he will sit tight and ride the storm. We have to tell him that the fight will go on until Medbank is saved.

We are going to need a continuing campaign of nation-wide General Strikes, and possibly even an indefinite General Strike to stop Fraser's attacks. We have to organise for that kind of action and show that we are seriously prepared to go through with it if necessary.

As well as strike action, we need public protest, mass rallies and demonstrations, marches and meetings. We need to win the pensioners and housewives, students and the unemployed to the industrial struggle we are waging.

The ACTU was reluctant to call a General Strike. Only overwhelming rank and file pressure forced them into a compromise to save Medbank's jobs.

DAY OF ACTION

MELBOURNE Rally — City Street 12 Noon — 4pm
Called by 10 Melbourne union delegates
"The Batter"

Assembly Collins Street 10 am
All Trade Union Centre

ADELIDE Rally — Rm Victoria Square
Called by the Communist Party

LONGONG and march

TTAV Melbourne

Victoria's general strike — and the rally to defend Medbank

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STOP FRASER NO WAGE DEALS!

The General Strike has the bosses and industrial hierarchy in a panic. Their office workers. Where will it all end? What will happen to our hopes for a compromise with the unions on wages so we can profit back to normal?

"Who's taking the country?" the press will ask. And that's a damned good question. Because with all he's managed to do in the last six months, can we afford to let Fraser run anything more than a toy train?

Can we afford another two years of wage attacks, social welfare cuts, and every opportunity we have to get our backs to the wall?

Even if we save Medbank, how long before he has another go at us?

We need Fraser out. We need to get rid of the Fraser government and the General Strike begins to make that possible. Closing down the country, turning the lights off — it's telling the government that we don't want them. It's telling them that for 24 hours on Monday, they don't run the country. But on Tuesday, when we go back to work, everything will be normal again.

A General Strike can bring down the Fraser government, but could we do it from the start that we're not going back to work until the government resigns. An independent General Strike could get rid of Fraser and the Liberals one and all for all.

The feeling is there. For it takes us someone to organize it.

Assembly Collins Street 10 am
All Trade Union Centre

ADELIDE Rally — Rm Victoria Square
Called by the Communist Party

LONGONG and march

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STOP THE LEVY!

We want Medbank retained in its original form — a free, universal health insurance scheme. But that, apparently, is too much for the ACTU.

Bob Hawke and his mates have proposed reducing the levy from 2.55 to 1.6%. The levy would save the average annual family of four about \$1,800 a year.

But you'll still have to pay. The Government would raise out as much money with other means.

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The ONE THING above all that worries the ruling class at the moment is wages. Our wages went from Malcolm Fraser's a cut in our pay packets. They don't particularly care whether he gets it out by cutting our government spending, destroying Medbank, or blabbing about Russian spies.

What they want are results! Lower wages and higher profits, that's all.

And that's one of the reasons that Malcolm Fraser has been talking a lot with Bob Hawke. He wants a cut in wages, and he wants Hawke to con the union movement into accepting it without a fight.

The biggest thing worrying the bosses and the newspapers about Medbank is that the General Strike might get unions agitating for their rights and blow the chances of a wages deal with the government.

That's why they've so concerned with Hawke's long his credibility because the union movement. This is why they've been trying to get fighting for their rights and blow the chances of a wages deal with the government.

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AWU STRIKES

The Australian Workers' Union held a 24 hour stoppage in the Gladys Valley on Monday on Wednesday, July 22. A rally was held at the Regent Theatre in Sydney.

It was a full meeting with less than a hundred people. Officials said that the theatre had been booked before the Stop Australians had pulled out of the strike. "The bulk of our members" (the "left wing members") they said, "I'll be for to come."

The meeting was opened by Secretary Charlie O'Leary made some frank remarks about the role of Bob Hawke in the Medbank struggle.

How's the Daily Telegraph printing Mr. Hawke as a new man. Well, I wonder if he's too weak. Maybe he should make a five Star once in a while. Then he called for restraint for the whole union movement, did he ask your opinion? He certainly didn't ask mine.

What can you say about Hawke's views when Charlie O'Leary can read him lectures in military?

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...the idea that we have set power to move business from the...
...Crisis, depression, unem...
...built into the system and not...
...even Bob Hawke can stop this...
...If we go to Bob's retreat, all...
...the only thing that defends us is our...
...steering our own course because the...
...power and our will to fight...
...Bob Hawke does not speak...
...He can do now, but if the lev...
...to enforce a real wages freeze...
...then he'll find out just exactly...
...how little he represents.

...the high point of the...
...meeting came when O'Leary...
...I wonder what Hawke...
...the general anyhow?"

...I found some from the...
...audience replied "A bright...
...good."

...to the ACTU and give it one of...
...Hawke's secretary. There was...
...never a word of signature and...
...a few days later the ACTU...
...that the rank and file...
...Medbank.

...There were organizational...
...problems (the sound equipment...
...was fixed and very few people...
...knew it was on).

...But that's not what you...
...expect when a small rank and...
...file organization like the IFU...
...is responsible of the Trade Union...

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THE BOSSES CAN STICK THE SACK UP THEIR ARSE

SCHOOL LEAFLETTERS

After being on strike for 2 weeks the Victorian technical school cleaners have finally won their fight for job security.

During the struggle the Minister for Education Thompson and the Technical Schools Association of Victoria continually tried to divide us with different offers.

But at every point the cleaners made it clear that they would settle for nothing less than an assurance that contract cleaners would not be employed unless under special circumstances to be agreed upon with the MWU.

When the cleaners first went to Thompson, he refused to negotiate, telling us that we would have to deal with individual schools through the TSV.

After the 1st week of the strike, he refused to negotiate, telling us that we would have to deal with individual schools through the TSV.

At the meeting on July 1, a new tactic was employed. We decided that the cleaners working in schools which had given an assurance, in writing, directly to the union, could go back to work.

There were 23 schools involved. We hoped that this would split the ranks of our employers and force the remaining schools to agree to our demands.

We also recognized the danger of spilling our own ranks in this move, and agreed to it only on the condition that if it failed, we would immediately join ranks and unite to fight for our job security.

On July 2, cleaners at the 23

THAT'S HOW they're talking on the Qantas building site in Jamison St., Sydney.

They all walked off the job last Tuesday and marched to the offices of the Dillingham Construction Co. Creative Quay to make the point to the bosses in person.

Beginning with a dispute seven weeks ago over insurance, an atmosphere of all-out confrontation has been developing on the site, where management is desperate to break one of the strongest job organisations in the country.

On Wednesday and Thursday Dillingham sacked one scaffolder, and placed another on annual leave. They also announced that two skilled men would be expected to do labourers' work.

David Shaw, the victimised scaffolder told the rally: "We have got to say that, as far as we are concerned there's work for all our scaffolders. We're going to tell them to stick the fucking sack up their arse, and we're going to work it."

David Shaw told The Battler that things on the site were reaching a turning point.

"It's not become a fight for control of the job. It's a life or death struggle because Dillingham can't afford to keep running the job as it's going now. They're under tremendous pressure from Qantas. I think that either the dispute will be resolved in our favour, or the job will be closed down."

At Qantas, the delegation was listened to and then showed the door. Workers on the site have voted to stage a walk-out in if they are locked out, on a 24-hour basis.

That was unanimously repeated as cleaners realised that they were waiting the impact that their week-old strike had already had, and also that we all got out of a job by 28th October.

The TSV was unanimously repeated as cleaners realised that they were waiting the impact that their week-old strike had already had, and also that we all got out of a job by 28th October.

A meeting on July the school cleaners retain the right to employ contract cleaners, but would give the union 30 days notice before doing so. The TSV also told us that they were calling a special meeting on July 1 to consider the issue.

Again the cleaners realized that this new offer was even worse than the previous one, and was an attempt to pressure us to go back to work.

We were told that the TSV were finally prepared to give us the assurance of job security and we have now returned to work.

The union is still negotiating with the TSV over the schools where contract labour is at present employed, and if a

schools returned to work, on July 3 all technical cleaners met again to discuss the outcome of the TSV meeting and the effectiveness of our tactics.

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THE Battler STOP PRESS

THE QANTAS labourers turned up for work on Thursday. When they refused to pour concrete, two batch plant operators were sacked. They will also work in.

It seems likely that more workers will be fired for not handling materials. The Qantas workers expect the site to be closed down. They still intend working in.

Full details next issue.

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OUR NEW NATIONAL SPORT — HUNT THE GG

COME OUT, Come Out, wherever you are ...

Newport, NSW, a plush dormitory suburb north of Sydney, was the scene of the latest exhibition of the new Australian spectator sport on the evening of July 24. It's called "Hunt the GG" (Governor General) and the rules are complicated and intriguing.

Our beloved GG, as the representative of the Queen in Australia, turns up to perform publicly the vital duties that make his office such a necessary and widely respected part of Australian political life: on this occasion, increasing his blood pressure, gutting, at the local yacht club.

These public duties are conducted in secrecy in case the GG's citizenry should feel so carried away with their affection and loyalty for the good Sir John that they feel compelled to turn up and demonstrate it by their disorderly crowds, denting his Rolls, throwing rocks and shouting and shooting and generally behaving as people do.

strate our feelings about them, but were kept away from them by big thugs who were paid to beat us if we tried to get any closer.

"Hunt the GG" has now been played in Melbourne, Brisbane, Perth, and various other places. It could become as popular as football but it looks as though it won't be given the chance.

It's rumored that the Queen thinks it's rather rude and she doesn't want to play it when she comes in March so they'll have to find a new job for Sir John who, we hear, has undoubted talents can continue to be used in the service of the Commonwealth and Empire.

Informed sources tip him for an important position in the royal household in view of the experience he gained last November's visit. It's most likely he'll be appointed Assistant-in-Chief to the Royal Corps. A job he will take up with the approval and best wishes of three millions of Australians he has served so nobly in his term as Governor General.

THE Battler

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

Registered for posting as a periodical - Category C No. 24 4 AUGUST 1976 10 cents

Menzies' mongers on the march

The racists are on the march.

The National Australian has begun a campaign of filth against non-British migrants in Australia.

They are sowing their poison at Radio Air.

They have distributed thousands of right wing pamphlets demanding Australia for Australians; Stop Ethnic Radio.

Chief Patron of the NAA is senile Sir Robert Menzies.

The NAA claims that all migration to Australia should be from Britain or the northern European countries. They claim "Migrants are being encouraged to retain their identity."

These racists are fighting one of the most important reforms for migrants - radio programs in their own language for the thousands of people who have not yet learnt enough English to follow Australian radio programs.

By "retaining their identity", Australian migrants have been able to build their own organisations and force the government to treat them as separate entities. The factory fodder the bosses

This racist job advertisement is an example of what will come if the fascist succeed in using the club to divide Australian workers.

Power without Glory WHO WERE WREN'S MEN? The REAL Names The REAL Story FREE LIFT OUT!

Including the most complete and authoritative list of Power Without Glory characters ever published.

AUSTRALIA for AUSTRALIANS STOP ETHNIC RADIO

This is the racist filth being spread by the National Australian Association.

They must be stopped.

want them. When business was good, the migrants were OK. But now there's unemployment, the houses have no further use for them. So a militant, reactionary minority begins agitating to stop them coming or send them home.

And it's the same the world over, whether it's Portuguese and Turkish migrants in France, Indian and Caribbean migrants in Germany. All the first signs of recession, the racists come out of their holes to spread their filth.

The NAA and its fellow travellers in the league of Right and Nazi Party are not yet stupid enough to appear in public rallies or invite racist speakers the way the National Front is doing in Britain.

But as unemployment gets worse the racists' message will appeal to more people. The racists are starting to mobilise and we will have to stop them.

Budget Butchers Go Chop, Chop, Chop

Life wasn't Meant to be Easy ...

And it isn't going to get any easier for us after this year's budget, due on Tuesday evening August 11.

Already, in the Labor Liberal Party, the best bits for business are being leaked to the press to create a "favorable climate" in May. Fraser carved nearly \$3 billion off government spending, including the destruction of Medibank and the imposition of the LIFT. That was just a prelude of what comes in a week's time.

Social services, unemployment relief, community development projects and cultural programs all face the chopper. But the army, so necessary for increasing our industrial production and absorbing down inflation, will get a further boost. That ought to secure the business right side of the Indian Ocean.

The campaign to save Medibank received a setback from the sabotage of the General Strike, but on August 17, it will be revived as the battle to stop the budget cuts gets into full swing.

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HOSTIES CUT AIRLINES BACK TO SIZE

Airline hostesses have forced TAA and Ansett to withdraw their plans to cut back crew sizes.

With a two-day strike that grounded domestic flights round the country, the Airline Hostesses' Association stopped TAA reducing hostess crews

DON'S URANIUM PLANT

Don Dunstan wants to build a \$1,400 million uranium enrichment plant in South Australia. But will he get away with it?

A number of unions have already shown that they are aware of the dangers of uranium uranium mining and uranium waste from that used in medical research. The May edition of the Ranger report published by the Ranger report is published on August 11.

This brought the union into conflict with the government, which insisted the U.S. contracts in the uranium mine that this could be done by borrowing the uranium from the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission.

Anthony is frantic because if the contract isn't honoured, MKU which is 42% government owned may become insolvent.

Deputy Leader of the ALP, Tony Uren, came out even more strongly, saying that uranium is so dangerous that it should be left in the ground. He said that this is in line with ALP policy.

Now, from a Labor Premier, comes a proposal to increase Australia's uranium production. The State Secretary of the Australian Uranium Producers' Association, has already urged Uren to Dunstan's plans go ahead.

The scene is set for a confrontation, but this time the unions and liberal politicians are well informed, and the community generally, from the dangers of uranium.

HOSTIES CUT AIRLINES BACK TO SIZE

The airlines found that few passengers were prepared to put their outrageous first-class fares, and TAA decided to cut back on staff.

Hostesses suffer for it by being out of jobs.

Ansett did not announce any cutbacks, but refused to give the AHA a guarantee on future plans.

So hostesses round the country voted overwhelmingly for an indefinite strike. Melbourne's strike was 965-11 in Sydney 172-16, and Brisbane 212-20.

Ansett was the first to crash after less than 24 hours. That is no way we will buy the Ansett and hostesses' agreement, we claimed TAA - but in another 24 hours, they had cut in as well.

The airlines claimed that the cuttings would occur through the cutbacks - it was claimed that non-replacement of staff and hostesses who quit, they felt that as well as cutting jobs to would-be hostesses, the proposal would have meant increased loss of safety, and poorer service for passengers.

ELBOURNE 2,000 attend rank and file rally

TWO THOUSAND people rallied in Melbourne's City Square to protest against the Government's cuts to Medibank and to condemn the Trades Hall's inactivity during the General Strike.

The rally was organised independently by the Healthcare Group and the shop stewards in conjunction with the Battler and the speakers included a large number of shop stewards, health service workers and representatives from political groups.

Phil Griffiths from the ACTU pointed out that the General Strike had only called as a result of pressure from the rank and file. "If we fail to actually win our fight to save Medibank, then the rank and file in the unions is going to have to be even better organised," he said.

The demonstration marched off to Fraser's Office in Treasury Place where there were further speeches.

Once again, the media were not able to claim that the strike was a failure because the Trades Hall did nothing to organise a loud rally to actually try to tell the Government and the press what we really think.

THE GENERAL STRIKE

MONDAY JULY 12. And Two and a half million Australian workers were on strike to save Medibank.

The First General Strike in the country's history was well supported. Ninety percent of manufacturing was closed down, and the 50% of the workforce that did turn up to work was mostly non-unionised labor and one-man businesses.

The papers told us that we lost \$100,000,000 in wages while the "country" which means the employers lost \$500,000,000 in production. Which makes us wonder who the other \$400,000,000 would have gone to.

Even in the most backward, conservative areas, there was support for the strike. Large numbers of bank, insurance and public service clerks from the larger offices went out.

But the strike went with a whimper, rather than a bang. It was, in fact, sabotaged from the word "NOW".

NSW TLC condemns ACTU levy

The only trade union callera were in Newcastle, Canberra and Wollongong.

In Wollongong about 1000 workers marched from the Trade Union Centre to the Town Hall, to hear speakers like the Fraser Government. The rally also carried a message denouncing any levy, including the 1% percent proposed by the ACTU.

At Sydney University, several hundred students held a rally and march. The students unanimously condemned a motion moved by Jim Walker of the IS, opposing any levy and demanding the resignation of the existing Medibank scheme.

AMWU Sydney

An AMWU shop stewards' meeting was held on the Friday before the strike. The meeting passed an official resolution supporting the strike, and calling for "a full industrial action, including mass rallies and demonstrations."

A shop steward from AeroVest in Parkhurst brought forward a motion, carried unanimously in his shop, for a one-week general strike. The motion was defeated, but there were a number of votes in favour.

When the delegate called for a one-week strike from the NSW Secretary Jack Gattard.



Bob Hawke took the initiative. He apologized for the strike. Well, we bloody didn't, and if we did, we were for the pressure of the rank and file. We didn't have got the General Strike, well, we didn't have got the General Strike.

The ACTU argued against a motion calling for rallies. There would be a comprehensive campaign anyway. We've yet to see this industrial and political campaign - unless of course, they mean the half-hearted ads in the papers.

Nothing

When we lost the rallies, we lost our chance to build overwhelming support for Medibank. The striking workers and the rest of the population heard nothing.

Nothing, that is, except the protests of the few people who did it all alone and assemble for the rank and file rallies in Melbourne and Adelaide. Nothing except for the militant, but small, Trades and Labor council rallies in

Wollongong, Newcastle and Canberra.

At the beginning of this campaign, we asked to trust our leaders. They have betrayed us. They have attempted to pull on a completely unacceptable compromise - the 1% levy. They have been forced to call action, they have refused to do anything to build and protest and have worked hardening to alienate and moderate "our demands."

The fight for Medibank has taught us a lot of things ourselves. It has shown us we can not sit on Bob Hawke and that we even have to fight John Halfenny.

And the inspiration that the stewards gave all when they rebelled at Dallas Brooks Hall demand a 24 hour strike - that we can organise from the rank and file up. taught us that this is the only way to build movement for change.

CANBERRA 600 march on Parliament

Linking many other cities, the official union movement in Canberra called a demonstration on national strike day, July 12. Having called the demonstration however, the Trades and Labour Council did very little to encourage its members to attend.

As a result, only 600 people turned up outside Parliament House on the day. A third of them were students and junior staff members from the ANU who had marched from a meeting protesting against cuts in tertiary allowances and the Fraser's economic policies to the TLC rally.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The rally was called by the Defence and Extended Medibank Action Group and it was held in Victoria Square where representatives from the ACTU, the Women's Liberation and the (students) addressed the crowd. The rally then marched to the side the Liberal Party headquarters.

BOURKES DISCOUNT

While Bob Hawke was playing double faults on Royal Melbourne tennis court, Bourkes Discount, 151 Danden Rd, Sunshine every week on either Tuesday or Friday evening, Ring the number on 311 9929 or visit himself on 311-1913.

Where is the Labor Party?

FOR the past three months, Australia has fought tooth and nail to stop the Government's dismembering of Medibank.

In Melbourne and in the South Coast of New South Wales, there has been a campaign of strikes, stop-work rallies and marches.

Under immense pressure from the rank and file, the ACTU has called the General Strike in the country's history. Two and a half million workers went out to save Medibank. Trade Union leaders have been appearing on television and in newspapers the frontline defenders of Medibank.

But where the ALP? Where is Bill Hayden? Where is Gough Whitlam? Dr Jim Cairns? Hardly a day passes without Malcolm Fraser or Health Minister Hunt being forced to explain that sweat version of the mangled health care system they have been appearing on television and in newspapers the frontline defenders of Medibank.

Yet there has hardly been a public statement from the Labor Party in the whole of the last three months. When Malcolm Fraser went on television the night before the General Strike, we all waited for Bob Hawke to reply. Instead we got Ken Webb for the Labor Party. Ken Webb? Ken Webb, ex-minister for Primary Industry who managed to talk about Medibank for 5 minutes without even mentioning the General Strike.

MEDIBANK What we're doing in Sunshine

"Find out the name of every political person of whatever persuasion, write them to a meeting, have a few controversial suggestions worked out to yourself, make it their own idea."

Vic Williams is one of the members of the Western Suburbs Medibank Action Group with a operating out of the local community centre in Sunshine, Victoria.

The Western Suburbs group was started to build support for the campaign to defend Medibank. "I think that when people start to have that 1/10th of their wages taken out, they'll start to scream."

We called a meeting of all those who thought would be interested in doing something about the Medibank campaign. One chap had a petition drawn up in the proper Parliamentary language so we used it.

The first time we tried, we surprised ourselves by collecting 700 signatures in the carpark at Sunshine shopping centre. Then we got 1000 at Highpoint West and the total is about 2700 by now.

This petition is morale building and it's got large numbers signed. "By itself, it is not a great deal, but it's something that will activate other people."

The Western Suburbs group is not going to just muddle along this week. They're going to try to break out the future direction of their campaign. "We're not sure about whether we should be doing something completely and utterly different."

Groundwork like the meetings and the Saturday morning picketing of the Western Suburbs Medibank Action Group can help rebuild the Medibank campaign and encourage us to reach the inevitable crisis coming up in the August budget.

If you would like to be involved with the Western Suburbs Medibank Action Group, you're welcome to come to its meetings. They're held at the Western Suburbs Union Comm. Centre, 151 Danden Rd, Sunshine every week on either Tuesday or Friday evening, Ring the number on 311 9929 or visit himself on 311-1913.

Mangled

Where is Bill Hayden? Where is Gough Whitlam? Dr Jim Cairns? Hardly a day passes without Malcolm Fraser or Health Minister Hunt being forced to explain that sweat version of the mangled health care system they have been appearing on television and in newspapers the frontline defenders of Medibank.

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Bob Hawke was seen on some of the commercial channels in 60 seconds of advertisement the ACTU paid for. A few years ago you could turn on your television or open your newspaper and see nothing more well-dressed than a Labor politician who'd off his mouth on what a great alternative government Labor would make. Then, in the year

When Bill Hayden made his only main appearance during the whole campaign, at the Melbourne Festival Hall rally, he seemed strangely out of place. Here was the architect and midwife of Medibank, being politely listened to as he gave a Moby-Dylan type lecture on socialism. He was applauded politely, and then forgotten as the meeting got on to the business of demanding that the ACTU call a 24-hour General Strike.

When Bob Hawke spoke to the press he was listened to as President of the ACTU, not President of ALP. He left

Gathering signatures in local shopping centres for the Western Suburbs Medibank Action Group.

Join the International Socialists!

A MESSAGE to every Battler reader: value your support. But we need more than that. We need you to join the International Socialists.

For the past eight months, the Fraser government has attacked your rights, your trade union rights and your social services. They have presided over the worst unemployment for forty years and they've spy to lift a finger to save us.

And against those who would con us with sophisticated schemes to lower the levy. The hardest fight has been against those who only want to stop us fighting.

Throughout all this, the Australian working class has fought magnificently. Fraser has been forced to pay back with a continuous campaign of industrial action from all unions and with the General Strike by all union labor on July 12.

Yet we have not shattered the recuperative ability of making sure that the voice of the

Labor was in effect, every party heavily employed a press secretary. Our name constantly before the public.

Now, however the press has practically stopped speaking for us. People introduced by those very same Labor MPs.

Perhaps because most Labor leaders don't have anything positive to say. When Labor supporters want to know from the parliamentary representatives how to vote for Fraser and his rule. In the past Labor's answer to questions like this used to be "Vote for us!"

That answer rings very hollow indeed a half year away from an election. Besides after last year's performance many Labor supporters are not convinced that voting in a Labor Government is enough.

If you are not prepared to lead a fight against Fraser that goes outside parliament then there is not much point in going on TV denouncing his attacks on Medibank. That was obviously a Gough Whitlam thinking when he decided to take a walk down at the height of the Medibank fight.

The Labor Party is no longer the opposition. That job has been taken over by the unions. The Labor Party has collapsed to a politically active organization. No-one looked to the Labor Party to lead the resistance in the Medibank case; they looked to the unions.

When Bill Hayden made his only main appearance during the whole campaign, at the Melbourne Festival Hall rally, he seemed strangely out of place. Here was the architect and midwife of Medibank, being politely listened to as he gave a Moby-Dylan type lecture on socialism. He was applauded politely, and then forgotten as the meeting got on to the business of demanding that the ACTU call a 24-hour General Strike.

When Bob Hawke spoke to the press he was listened to as President of the ACTU, not President of ALP. He left

the working class case to militants who are not workers; militants among the students, pensioners, housewives and unemployed in the community. That, unfortunately, is not the ALP. On the rare occasions that ALP politicians do bother to speak, it's usually to internal party conferences or business dinners to raise money.

The ALP has disappeared as the opposition to Fraser. We shouldn't be particularly surprised. It's been quite a while since the ALP even tried to lead the working class in resistance to the employer. The Medibank campaign is a very sorry chapter in a continuing story of decline.

The question we face now is not "How do we survive the ALP", but "How do we build the political party we need to get rid of Fraser and bosses once and for all".

Workers to get more details, come to our rallies or send in the coupon below.

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THE BATTLE 4 AUGUST 1976



ABOVE: John Wren

BELOW: Dick Loughran, Richmond Labor Councillor and BLF official with his good friend, the mountain rickster, Squirey Taylor



ABOVE: Sportsmen's Thousand—Wren's own wife in WW. He lapsed up for a few weeks to encourage recruitment but never left Royal Park Barracks.

POWER

by DAVE NADEL

THE ABC says its \$2 million serial Power Without Glory is purely fiction. John Wren Junior says it's a hostile biography of his father and he's rebutting it episode by episode in the pages of Truth. Meanwhile Truth is printing Hugh Buggy's brown tongued biography of John Wren.

And Frank Hardy, who wrote the original novel is not saying anything. He's already had one court case over the difference between fact and fiction.

Actually after five episodes it's too early to say whether the ABC has had the courage to produce an exposé of crime and politics in Australia or whether it is just producing a working class Fallers.

The episodes that have stuck fairly close to Hardy's text, those on the Boot Trade Strike, the Stacy case and the Carringbush byestion have shown promise.

Wedding

But then again the addition of a "love interest" between Eddie Corrigan and Nellie Moran and the entire West wedding episode were a bad sign. Now like "Betford goes to Carringbush" than Power Without Glory.

Certainly if they do stick to the original text in its description of the period 1928-50, there are going to be some elderly gentlemen of the Church, Business, the ALP and the DLP squinting.

When the original novel was published they did more than squint, they acted. They worked very hard to put Frank Hardy behind bars on a charge of criminal libel.

Power Without Glory was published at the height of Australia's McCarthyite period. There was a Royal Commission enquiring into Communism. Menzies was drawing up legislation to ban the Communist Party. CPA secretary Lance Shuckery had been jailed for making "treasonous" statements.

BELOW: "The entrance to the Collingwood Tote. Part of this Part of this fact is now built over."

There was even a pabstetic attempt to frame a Richmond Communist, Ken Miller, on a charge of raping an eleven year old girl.

At the same time the Santalamb "movement" had taken over the Victorian ALP and seemed on the verge of gaining control of the state party. They had also won control of Federal and State branches of several key trade unions such as the Federated Clerks Union and Federated Ironworkers Association.

Gambler

Hardy's novel was carefully researched history of the rise of gambler John Wren from back street bookie in Collingwood to a position of power behind the scenes in the Labor Party (with an each way bet on the Victorian Country Party) and respectable power in Big Business.

In his novel Hardy had managed to mention every major scandal in Victoria and Queensland during the entire first half of the Twentieth Century.

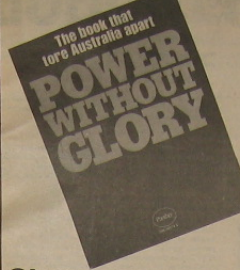
Some were sporting scandals like the rigging of the 1903 Austral Wheel Race or the persecution and death of Les Darcy. Some were underworld stories like the death of Squirey Mayor or the love affair of Angus Morry.

Some of the political scandals were purely local like ballot rigging in Richmond and some were of major national significance such as the Mangana mining scandal.

Hardy intended his book to expose capitalism and discredit the Labor Party by showing both at their grimest. But to make it into a good novel he had to write some private lives for his characters.

Most of the private lives are completely fictional (and not very well written). But it was through them that Hardy gave the Wrens a lesser part.

Since it would have been potentially embarrassing to attempt to disprove charges of ballot rigging and race rigging the Wren family brought charges of libel against Hardy over the incident in which "Nellie Wren" takes a lover. The State government.



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- BRADY, Bill BARRY, W.
Victorian Labor Minister. A Wren man. He was sued by Wren from a Royal Commission. Laid the ALP in 1955 and became a leader of the DLP. The ALP accused him of conducting election campaigns "with a practice in one hand and a bribe in the other".
 - BROGAN, Constable BROPHY
Collingwood cop.
 - CALLINAN, Thomas O'CALLAGHAN, T.
Victorian Police Commissioner. Probably in Wren's pay, until forced by O'Donnell and the voters to sack the job.
 - CAMERON, Jack CAMPBELL, Jack
Sports promoter, rival of Wren.
 - CARR, Dick CAIN, John
Labor Premier of Victoria. He kept his position by opposing the fact of Wren, the Grange and the Lavin in the Labor Party. His son, John Cain Jr, is now a leader of the right wing and has recently elected to the Victorian State seat of Bundoora.
 - CAULIFLOWER Dick KERNICK, Dick
Boxer. Bodyguard to Wren.
 - CHAPMAN CLAPHAM, Sam
Crooked wrestler. Stadiums Ltd (Wren's company) shareholder from an "English Champion". He'd never been to England.

Characters

ASHTON, Frank ANSTEY, Frank



Victorian and Federal Labor politician, militant socialist who lacked the courage of his convictions and was subject to Wren's "influence". Anstey was a leading opponent of conservatism and a social proponent in the trade union movement. But his socialism was ruined by racism. His best known pamphlet was called "The Kingdom of Shylocks".

BACON, Snowy BAKER, R.L. "Snowy"

All-round sportsman who became boxing promoter and partner of John Wren. He is generally blamed for handling Les Darcy out of Australia. In the end, boxer himself was forced to leave Australia and became an actor in Hollywood.

BAINETON BAILLIEU

One of Australia's richest families. Made their money in the Land Boom by not requiring their income. Now clan owners of BHP and virtually any other profitable Australian owned monopoly.

BENNETT, W.J. BECKETT, W.J.

Trotting official and Labor politician. Wren employee.

BLACKWELL, M BLACKBURN, Malcolm

Victorian and Federal Labor politician. Left wing opponent of the Wren machine, he nevertheless moved the Blackburn Declaration which modified the Socialisation Objective written into Labor policy in 1921.

BLACKWOOD, Percy BROOKFIELD, Percy

Labor member for Straker Hill. Most ardent raceist workers' representative of his time. He was assassinated.

BLAIRE BLAMEY, Sir Thomas

Commander of the Australian forces during World War Two. He was already one of Australia's leading military men at the start of World War One. In 1923 he was appointed Chief Commissioner of the Victorian police, specifically to smash the police strike. This he did ruthlessly.

BOND, Thomas BENT, Sir Thomas

Apply named politician and land speculator. The fact that he went broke with other people's money, most of which he never returned, did not stop him subsequently becoming a conservative Premier of Victoria.

BRADLEY, Dick BUCKLEY, Richard

Convicted murderer and thug. Probably used by Wren, certainly used by Squirey Taylor.



- CHIEF SECRETARY IN "CARR" GOVERNMENT SLATER, W. MLC
Chief Secretary in the Carr government. Successfully passed a Bill to create an independent Training Control Board, which deprived Wren of his control of voting.
- CONN, Archbishop CARR, Archbishop
Diocesan Archbishop of Melbourne before Menzies. His Father, for the great Catholic rich and during the Depression of the 1930's, while most Melbourne Catholics (who were working class) were saving. Carr died during the Depression as due to "imaginary causes".
- CORRIGAN, Eddie CORRIGAN, Eddie
Rank and file militant in the Boot Trade. Hardy used him to illustrate the political development of a militant from the Great Strike to the War; the ABC used him to create a love interest.
- CORY, Patrick CODY, Patrick
Close business associate of Wren's in the liquor industry.
- COTTON COTTER, J.J.
Member for Richmond. Wren man.
- CREGAN Composite of CREEMAN, Bert, MLA and his brother, CREEMAN, John L., MHR
Wren Labor politician in Collingwood. John Creeman also worked with the Groups, and left the ALP during the GUP split.
- CUMMIN, Scotch Paddy CULLIN
Proprietor of the tea shop which served as a front for the Collingwood tote.
- CUTTING, "Slasher" CUTMORE, "Snowy"
Slydog gambler. Killed with Taylor in the famous Carlton shoot-out of 1927.
- DARBY, Lou DARCY, Les
Australia's greatest boxer. Could have been a world champion but because the didn't fight in World War One. Wren and "Snowy" Baker stopped him fighting in Australia and when he fled to America, they stopped him there too. In despair, Darcy enlisted in the American Army where he died of poisoning in a military camp in 1917.

A word about this list

THIS LIST is the most complete list of real names of people mentioned in Power Without Glory so far examined.

In preparing this list I examined 68 other lists currently in circulation (Out of those lists I at least twenty year old) All contain inaccuracies or significant omissions.

As well as consulting other lists I also checked as many historical sources as I could. In this way I established the real identities of several characters not mentioned in any other lists. Where I have not been able to establish the full story I have indicated in the comments below.

The comments are intended to provide background about the characters. Some of the background is in Hardy's novel. Some of it is not because much has happened in Labor Party politics during the twenty-five years since Power Without Glory was published.

Many of the characters mentioned in this list appear in Hardy's novel but will not appear in the ABC's TV series. The notes below their names help explain why.

Dave Nadel

ROGUES GALLERY continued

- TINN, Ted** **THEY, Ted**
 Crooked promoter and wrestling promoter. Connected to Wren.
- TRACEY, Jim** **TUNNECLIFFE, Tom**
 Fictional character created by Hardy to show how Wren exploited those that he exploited.
- TRUMBLEWARD, Tom** **TUNNECLIFFE, Tom**
 Department Labor politician. Began as a socialist propagandist and ended up as a Wren man. Represented the cause of the miners' victory in the strike. Attempted to prevent the deportation of Father Jager.
- WALSH, Tom** **WALSH, Tom**
 Hardy accuses Wren under the correct name of accepting a bribe from Wren to place the black ban. Since Walsh was one of the few trade union leaders of the time who described himself openly as a communist, it is possible that Hardy's accusation owes more to Party orthodoxy than to research.
- WATTY, Jim** **WELCH, Jack**
 Secretary of the Milk Distributors' Association. Played party as a Royal Commission to get some Wren politicians on the hook on charges of bribery.
- WEST, Arthur** **WREN, Arthur**
 Executive who had been brutally fogged by the authorities in Pennington. Bodyguard to John Wren. Described in "Power and Glory" as John's brother, but was probably his cousin.
- WEST, Joe** **WREN, Joe**
 Brother of John.
- WEST, John** **WREN, John**
 Gangster, gambler, political manipulator and millionaire. Subject of several biographies and a TV series.
- WEST, John Jnr** **WREN, John Jnr**
 Son of John Wren. In "Power Without Glory" he is described as becoming disillusioned and disgusted with his father's business practices, turning to drink and gambling. Unfortunately this part is fictional. Wren Jnr is still alive and probably never hit as hard and tough as his father. He was behind the attempt to convict Hardy of criminal libel and control most of the Wren family business.
- WEST, Mary** **WREN, Mary and Eleanor**
 composite character based on two daughters of John Wren. Many of the personal details are fictional, but they were involved in the anti-fascist movement of the thirties and did reject their father's political and business practices. Mary Wren is still living in London.
- WOOD, Sam** **WARD, Alexander**
 Thief. Carried out Trades Hall robbery with Buckley and Jackson.
- WORTH, Ben** **WREN, Ben**
 fictional character, intended to represent the dedicated member of the Communist Party in the thirties.

Places

- CARRINGBUSH** **COLLINGWOOD**
 Wren's home suburb, where he opened his first totes. The oldest slum suburbs of Melbourne. It was built for factories (mostly boat factories) and has as many small cottages as slum landlords could fit in between the factories. Collingwood residents have always been amongst the most exploited section of the urban working class. Last century they were mostly Irish, today they are southern European. In the last twenty years much of Collingwood has been destroyed by road widening schemes, housing commission high rise flats and freeway development. Currently Collingwood residents are trying to prevent the opening of the Eastern Freeway, which will further destroy the suburb.
- RALSTON** **RICHMOND**
 Melbourne suburb in which Wren owned a pony racing track and at times a Labor Party machine in the Council. In Melbourne's early days parts of Richmond were considered outside suburb. By Wren's time, however, the area was pretty much a slum. Today landlords are beginning to move back in although the area around Bridge Road and Victoria Street remains fairly solidly industrial. We produce the Battered in Richmond and drink as a few of its many pubs, all of which seem to be owned by former Richmond footballers.
- JACKSON ST.** **JOHNSON ST.**
 Major east-west street in Collingwood. No. 136 was the site of the Collingwood totes. In recent years, it has been an estate agent's office, Johnson Street runs from Carlton to the Yarra estate in Melbourne's Sydney Park Road. It carries most of the traffic to Melbourne's upper middle class north eastern suburbs and is one of Melbourne's worst traffic hazards. Yet it is the only street in Collingwood that is not owned by the Power Without Glory Liftoff.



The house in Gold Street, Collingwood, where Wren was born

SILVER ST. **GOLD ST.**
 Runs at right angles to Johnson Street, through the northern part of Collingwood and was the street in which Wren was born.

BAGVILLE ST. **SACKVILLE ST.**
 Runs parallel to Johnson Street behind the totes. The street was part of the escape route in the event of police raid.

WEST'S MANSION **WREN'S MANSION**
 Off Studley Park Road, Kew. Convent to Ribban was a scenic view of the Yarra valley and the slums of Collingwood and Abbotsford, on the wrong side of the river. It is now the junior school of Xavier College, Melbourne's Catholic School.

Sport

- APSON (race course)** **WREN'S MANSION**
 refers to both ASCOT VALE and ASPENDALE race courses, both owned by Wren. Most of the incidents described occurred at Ascot Vale.
- GLADSTONE (racehorse)** **GLADSTONE**
 Soli Green's entry in the 1904 Caulfield Cup, which he lost because his jockey had been bribed.
- WHISPER (racehorse)** **MURMUR**
 Wren's horse, with which he won the rigged Caulfield Cup, which was barred as a result by the Victorian Fair Cup.
- CARRINGBUSH FOOTBALL CLUB** **COLLINGWOOD FOOTBALL CLUB**
 The Mighty Magpies Australian Rules football club, owned by the Wren family (financially). Has the strongest record committed following in the Victorian Football League, largely working class and largely no longer living in Collingwood. Before World War Two, Collingwood was a neighborhood of premiership won. They had more money. Wren's club except for the upper class Melbourne Football Club more skill and guts and a better coach (Jack Michael) than any of them. Sadly, very little of this is the case today.

Newspapers

- LONE WOLF** **LONE HAND**
 A monthly which attacked Wren. Launched by the Sydney Bulletin, in the days when the Bulletin was radical and reforming trade union, though often overly racist and temperamental.
- MORNING STAR** **MORNING POST**
 Pro-Country Party only. Bought out by Murdoch. He attacked Wren in its pages.

Mungana scandal

CHIRRABOO **CHILLGAGE**
MULGARA **MUNGANA**
LADY JOAN AND GILOWELL MINES **LADY JOAN AND GILOWELL MINES**

The scandal where Queensland Premier Theodore paid his fellow Cabinet Minister McGormack to shed one of his own mines a mine which they owned privately at four times its estimated value. The mine at Chillgale, North Queensland, provided the ore for the Chillgale smelters, owned by Theodore and managed by Goodhead, a crony of both and whom they had appointed.

Their associate, Reid, acquired the lease over the vast expanses of mining western Durkop, to the Lady Joan and Gifford mine when the Mungana Mining Company was placed on its annual rental. After the government had placed substantial subsidies on the mines, they then bought the mine back.

Theodore was found guilty by a Top-Angeles court of conspiracy. However, when the Queensland government was in a tight spot during the following year to recover the money from him and his associates, the jury found in favor of the Queenslanders. Both the Mungana and Chillgale mines and the trial which absolved him were politically rigged.

it at glory

... then and now

received exactly the quota of votes he or she required to be elected.

A check of membership rolls of the Richmond ALP branches in 1971 revealed 17 members of the O'Connell family. Two were under sixteen (the minimum age for membership) and one had given a park in Richmond as his address. He actually lived in Greensborough.

Election day in Richmond is known as Resurrection Day because of the propensity of the dead to register votes.

As in Wren's day, control of suburbs machine gives people power well beyond their local Council. Richmond is the seat held by State Labor Leader Clyde Holding. Wren was involved in 1971 and the party was thrown out a center factory was created out of the more opportunist sections of the left.

It gained control of the party because the Richmond machine and other possibly less corrupt machines in the party provided it with State Conference delegates.

Clyde Holding and his ideological Professor Ian Turner also from Richmond, campaigned inside the ALP for party democracy - as delegates from the Richmond machine.

There was another Wren remnant involved in the intervention of the Victorian ALP. When the Wren family sued Hardy for libel their lawyer was a former Collingwood footballer named John

Galbally. One year later Galbally became Labor leader in the Victorian Legislative Council a post he has now held for over twenty years in Victoria, although it is not a policy to sort out that contradiction provided the excuse for federal intervention in the Victorian ALP.

And speaking of lawyers, Galbally won't be the only lawyer in the Power Without Glory case to go on and get a bit of power and glory for himself. When the charge became Criminal Libel the crown prosecutor was Henry Winke QC. He is now Sir Henry Winke, Governor of Victoria.

Ted Theodore plays a starring role in Power without Glory. He was a long-time business associate of Wren's. After he left Parliament, Theodore became a partner of Wren's in a mining enterprise in Fiji.

Theodore also formed Consolidated Press, together with Frank Parker. Consolidated Press gave the Australian public the "Woman's Weekly", the "Sydney Telegraph" and the Channel Nine Network.

Opponents

The Packer Press has been consistently the most trenchant opponents of Labor. Even when Rupert the Lar. Yet the Packer was portrayed by Theodore, a former Labor State Premier and Federal Treasurer.

Just as Theodore's business continues long after Theodore's death, so Wren's own financial concerns continue to flourish. John Jnr is still doing quite nicely thank you out of boxing and rock concerts at the Stadium around the country. That's apart from all the other shares that he inherited.

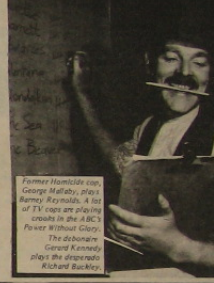
But the people who will cop the brunt of it are the National Civic Council, Santamaria, the DLP and their trade union slugs.

While the DLP has virtually ceased to be a political force the NCC is still active in the Trade Union movement. And they still have a parliamentarian. His name is Brian Harradine.

Have things really changed that much since Wren's time? Politicians still can be bought. Ask the Lockheed company, they own a few in virtually every Western country.

Local Labor Councils are still corrupt. The mining game is still crooked; a very nasty enquiry has been conducted in the last few weeks.

Cops are certainly still for sale. Matthews and Ford, property of some back yard shorties were released from jail in the last couple of years.



Phyllis Hamilton, who plays John Wren in the TV series "Power Without Glory". The show's creator, Gerard Kennedy, plays the disgraced Richard Buckley.

UK HARDY Fighting his Libel case in 1971

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International Socialists are boycotting the Tribunal

National Committee July 1976

THE IS NATIONAL COMMITTEE met over the weekend of July 17-18 to discuss the work of the organisation in the lead up to Medbank and to plan our development in the coming months.

The Medbank campaign represented a major step forward for the IS. We were able to play a significant part in organising a national Executive party delegates from the branches in each City for the July NC. Delegates were elected from Melbourne, Sydney and Wellington.

At the same time, we have had many important problems. The financial burden of producing our paper every fortnight, and the strain it has placed on the rest of the organisation so that we are forced to make cuts back. For the next few months, the Bitter will appear roughly every four weeks.

The National Committee decided that the IS will use this time to a recruitment drive and a campaign to boost fundraising. We want the paper to return to its regular fortnightly publication as a symbol of our commitment.

We have now switched over to a common dues system supplemented by pledges. The new dues are \$2 per week and 50 cents for unemployed people, housewives and students.

On top of that, IS members continue a regular pledge each pay day to keep the organisation and the paper going. The pledge made by each member is confidential, but most members have indicated that they will be maintaining or slightly increasing their contributions to the group.

We are asking supporters of The Bitter to also help The Bitter with a pledge. So far, a number of our supporters have done this, contributing amounts between \$1 and \$5 a week each.

"influence is not enough ... we need organisation"

more than a newspaper challenge. It is not enough to have influence. We need an organisation. An organisation means working class militancy, discipline, and building a party dedicated to workers' needs.

One of the problems highlighted by the meeting was that, although many members liked the IS, they were reluctant to join it. They were reluctant to join IS' groups, or to work with us, they were reluctant to join IS' groups, or to work with us, they were reluctant to join IS' groups, or to work with us.

Between \$1 and \$5 a week each. However, it will take a lot more than a newspaper challenge. It is not enough to have influence. We need an organisation. An organisation means working class militancy, discipline, and building a party dedicated to workers' needs.

ALL WAGES TRIBUNALS basically serve the boss' interests, but nearly all of them try to hide behind the appearance of fairness.

The Tribunal, however, has never bothered about keeping up appearances, and it's the Victorian Teachers' Tribunal.

In fact, its record of naked protection of the employers' interest is so obvious that all three teacher unions are now taking seriously about getting rid of the Tribunal.

Why is the Tribunal so rotten? Well, for a start, the so-called Government Representatives will never put the government's case, there are never any real negotiations.

It puts the back and attacks the Teacher's Rep case. Secondly, the so-called independent Chairman never always votes with the Government Rep.

Thirdly, and this is the most amazing thing, those two people have often voted against the teachers' case but in support of cases put up by the government's own Education Department.

For example, they voted against a joint TFAU-Education Department case on promotion positions, and they voted in the infamous Regulation 24 which set higher workloads for secondary teachers than even the Department wants!

When the Teachers' Rep walked out in protest, the Government legislated to allow the Chairman to rule on his own!

All this suits Victoria's conservative government, but the Tribunal has been doing their dirty work so openly and enthusiastically that it's gone too far.

Teachers' unions are now going for direct negotiations with the Education Department, with ratified agreements.

The Tribunal's days are numbered. It must be abolished.

SEATINERS WILD CAT WHO NEEDS OFFICIALS

THERE HAVE BEEN THREE strikes at Seatiners Freight Terminals (Melbourne) in the last month.

First the transport workers struck out port, then the stevedores and packers over continuity and finally the wharf clerks held a wildcat strike.

The State Executive told us that they wouldn't allow us to change our roster system as it would be going backwards in time and also that it could affect other members in other industries, so fourteen men were made redundant.

Two days later, our delegate informed us after meeting with union officials that the union would sign the contract, but we agreed to it or not.

The rank and file passed a motion that we walk straight out the gate as soon as the transport workers lifted the pickets off our terminal gates. They had been out for two weeks over a pay dispute in the Seatiner Depot in Dudley Street.

Twenty four hours later, another meeting was held, and we were told by our delegate that the union had rejected our contract proposals.

Another motion was put forward that we give the union two weeks to negotiate, the motion was passed.

The Executive told us to accept the change as we would lose the case if we went to court. It was a proposal and after a few days a meeting was held without union support on what tactics to use in stopping this wildcat.

The rank and file passed a motion that we walk straight out the gate as soon as the transport workers lifted the pickets off our terminal gates. They had been out for two weeks over a pay dispute in the Seatiner Depot in Dudley Street.

The company informed the members that if we didn't go back to work within fourteen man would have to go.

The date for our meeting happened to coincide with the four-hour Med stop work when all the other union members in the Terminal were striking over Fraser's savage cuts to Medbank.

So much for paid six and two the way it was. So much for paid six and two the way it was.

THEY SHALL NOT PASS!

Full Equality and Liberation

For women, black and migrant and all oppressed groups. Racism, sexism and discrimination against migrant people are all pillars of capitalist system. We are opposed to the social persecution of homosexuals.

Revolutionary Party To smash the capitalist state, we need a revolutionary party, organised and built in the workplaces. Without a revolutionary party, the revolutionary struggle of workers by white gangs and blacks around the country have been subjected to a growing language of harassment from the fascists and the police.

In response to this, they have been organising them selves seriously. There have been militant marches and they have physically obstructed rallies by the National Front.

The British International Socialist have been organising too. They have called rallies, held meetings around workplaces and IS shop stewards have been in the forefront of stamping out racism on the factory floor.

And they have stolen Robert Rife's caping up. The TV was going to march through London. Last weekend, but some alert IS members put a stop to it. Now IS has the sign and they are

Why they turn to racism

As a result of the British crisis, a large number of people have been made some Australian expatriates. As a result of the British crisis, a large number of people have been made some Australian expatriates.

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TELECOM'S A WISE LEADERSHIP FOR A CRAW...

THE OLYMPIC SPIRIT is not dead yet. Just as officials of the Australian Telecom Employees Association.

These gentlemen must want us to think they are amateurs too, considering the way they refuse to compete for any material gain for their members.

Instead they go for to their members; with dazzling displays of verbal gymnastics and shadow boxing in equine terms, their specialty is horse trading.

In their latest performance came after two weeks of work bans. They now have won a 'step of excellence' in Telecom's staff cutting plans.

Several decisions by you and mass meetings have been overturned, except on the strike. We were not allowed to go to court, we were not allowed to go to court, we were not allowed to go to court.

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International Socialists

Please send me more information about The Bitter and the International Socialists.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

City _____

State _____

Postcode _____

Phone _____

Clip and post to IS P.O. Box 1473N, G.P.O., Melbourne 3001.

What's on

Anything happening that you want everyone to know about? WHAT'S ON is available. Simply send your notices to: Box 7, P.O. Richmond, Victoria, 3121

IS MEETINGS

MELBOURNE Sun 1 Aug. South Coast branch - "Why we're in IS". 7.30 pm. 11 Brighton - "Why we're in IS". 7.30 pm. All Bitter supporters welcome.

MELBOURNE Tues 2 Aug. The "People's Party" - "The People's Party" - "The People's Party". 7.30 pm. 11 Brighton - "Why we're in IS". 7.30 pm. 11 Brighton - "Why we're in IS". 7.30 pm.

MELBOURNE Wed 3 Aug. South Coast branch - "Why we're in IS". 7.30 pm. 11 Brighton - "Why we're in IS". 7.30 pm. 11 Brighton - "Why we're in IS". 7.30 pm.

MELBOURNE Thurs 4 Aug. South Coast branch - "Why we're in IS". 7.30 pm. 11 Brighton - "Why we're in IS". 7.30 pm. 11 Brighton - "Why we're in IS". 7.30 pm.

MELBOURNE Fri 5 Aug. South Coast branch - "Why we're in IS". 7.30 pm. 11 Brighton - "Why we're in IS". 7.30 pm. 11 Brighton - "Why we're in IS". 7.30 pm.

MELBOURNE Sat 6 Aug. South Coast branch - "Why we're in IS". 7.30 pm. 11 Brighton - "Why we're in IS". 7.30 pm. 11 Brighton - "Why we're in IS". 7.30 pm.

OTHER EVENTS

MELBOURNE Fri 6 Aug. 11 Brighton - "Why we're in IS". 7.30 pm. 11 Brighton - "Why we're in IS". 7.30 pm. 11 Brighton - "Why we're in IS". 7.30 pm.

MELBOURNE Sat 7 Aug. 11 Brighton - "Why we're in IS". 7.30 pm. 11 Brighton - "Why we're in IS". 7.30 pm. 11 Brighton - "Why we're in IS". 7.30 pm.

MELBOURNE Sun 8 Aug. 11 Brighton - "Why we're in IS". 7.30 pm. 11 Brighton - "Why we're in IS". 7.30 pm. 11 Brighton - "Why we're in IS". 7.30 pm.

MELBOURNE Mon 9 Aug. 11 Brighton - "Why we're in IS". 7.30 pm. 11 Brighton - "Why we're in IS". 7.30 pm. 11 Brighton - "Why we're in IS". 7.30 pm.

MELBOURNE Tues 10 Aug. 11 Brighton - "Why we're in IS". 7.30 pm. 11 Brighton - "Why we're in IS". 7.30 pm. 11 Brighton - "Why we're in IS". 7.30 pm.

MELBOURNE Wed 11 Aug. 11 Brighton - "Why we're in IS". 7.30 pm. 11 Brighton - "Why we're in IS". 7.30 pm. 11 Brighton - "Why we're in IS". 7.30 pm.

MELBOURNE Thurs 12 Aug. 11 Brighton - "Why we're in IS". 7.30 pm. 11 Brighton - "Why we're in IS". 7.30 pm. 11 Brighton - "Why we're in IS". 7.30 pm.

MELBOURNE Fri 13 Aug. 11 Brighton - "Why we're in IS". 7.30 pm. 11 Brighton - "Why we're in IS". 7.30 pm. 11 Brighton - "Why we're in IS". 7.30 pm.

MELBOURNE Sat 14 Aug. 11 Brighton - "Why we're in IS". 7.30 pm. 11 Brighton - "Why we're in IS". 7.30 pm. 11 Brighton - "Why we're in IS". 7.30 pm.

MELBOURNE Sun 15 Aug. 11 Brighton - "Why we're in IS". 7.30 pm. 11 Brighton - "Why we're in IS". 7.30 pm. 11 Brighton - "Why we're in IS". 7.30 pm.

MELBOURNE Mon 16 Aug. 11 Brighton - "Why we're in IS". 7.30 pm. 11 Brighton - "Why we're in IS". 7.30 pm. 11 Brighton - "Why we're in IS". 7.30 pm.

MELBOURNE Tues 17 Aug. 11 Brighton - "Why we're in IS". 7.30 pm. 11 Brighton - "Why we're in IS". 7.30 pm. 11 Brighton - "Why we're in IS". 7.30 pm.

MELBOURNE Wed 18 Aug. 11 Brighton - "Why we're in IS". 7.30 pm. 11 Brighton - "Why we're in IS". 7.30 pm. 11 Brighton - "Why we're in IS". 7.30 pm.

MELBOURNE Thurs 19 Aug. 11 Brighton - "Why we're in IS". 7.30 pm. 11 Brighton - "Why we're in IS". 7.30 pm. 11 Brighton - "Why we're in IS". 7.30 pm.

MELBOURNE Fri 20 Aug. 11 Brighton - "Why we're in IS". 7.30 pm. 11 Brighton - "Why we're in IS". 7.30 pm. 11 Brighton - "Why we're in IS". 7.30 pm.

MELBOURNE Sat 21 Aug. 11 Brighton - "Why we're in IS". 7.30 pm. 11 Brighton - "Why we're in IS". 7.30 pm. 11 Brighton - "Why we're in IS". 7.30 pm.

MELBOURNE Sun 22 Aug. 11 Brighton - "Why we're in IS". 7.30 pm. 11 Brighton - "Why we're in IS". 7.30 pm. 11 Brighton - "Why we're in IS". 7.30 pm.

MELBOURNE Mon 23 Aug. 11 Brighton - "Why we're in IS". 7.30 pm. 11 Brighton - "Why we're in IS". 7.30 pm. 11 Brighton - "Why we're in IS". 7.30 pm.

MELBOURNE Tues 24 Aug. 11 Brighton - "Why we're in IS". 7.30 pm. 11 Brighton - "Why we're in IS". 7.30 pm. 11 Brighton - "Why we're in IS". 7.30 pm.

MELBOURNE Wed 25 Aug. 11 Brighton - "Why we're in IS". 7.30 pm. 11 Brighton - "Why we're in IS". 7.30 pm. 11 Brighton - "Why we're in IS". 7.30 pm.

MELBOURNE Thurs 26 Aug. 11 Brighton - "Why we're in IS". 7.30 pm. 11 Brighton - "Why we're in IS". 7.30 pm. 11 Brighton - "Why we're in IS". 7.30 pm.

MELBOURNE Fri 27 Aug. 11 Brighton - "Why we're in IS". 7.30 pm. 11 Brighton - "Why we're in IS". 7.30 pm. 11 Brighton - "Why we're in IS". 7.30 pm.

MELBOURNE Sat 28 Aug. 11 Brighton - "Why we're in IS". 7.30 pm. 11 Brighton - "Why we're in IS". 7.30 pm. 11 Brighton - "Why we're in IS". 7.30 pm.

MELBOURNE Sun 29 Aug. 11 Brighton - "Why we're in IS". 7.30 pm. 11 Brighton - "Why we're in IS". 7.30 pm. 11 Brighton - "Why we're in IS". 7.30 pm.

MELBOURNE Mon 30 Aug. 11 Brighton - "Why we're in IS". 7.30 pm. 11 Brighton - "Why we're in IS". 7.30 pm. 11 Brighton - "Why we're in IS". 7.30 pm.

International Socialists

Box 1473N G.P.O. Melbourne Vic. 3001

MELBOURNE 28 Block Place Melbourne 3000 Phone 654-2414

SYDNEY 11 Bogan St. Summer Hill

SOUTH COAST BRANCH 123 Wentworth Ave. Oak View NSW

SYDNEY 5/5 Women's Trade Union Conference. More information from Women's Trade Union Conference. 5/5 Women's Trade Union Conference. 5/5 Women's Trade Union Conference.

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COAL MINERS ANGRY

MINERS' STRIKE

AUSTRALIA'S coal miners are fighting mad. All the collieries in Queensland and two in New South Wales struck for 24 hours on Wednesday last week.

All lodges in the southern district went delegate to Sydney to vote their anger felt at the Coal Industry. A further 24 hour stoppage was called for this Monday, and mass meetings will be held at the Melbourne and Canberra showgrounds.

The issue? A plan to work three seven day roster, 52 weeks a year! Miners' Federation

President Ivan Phillips said this demand from the employers struck at the heart of conditions which miners had enjoyed "since they came to Australia in the sailing ships". But all the mine owners care about is their machines which they want to have running non-stop.

We spoke to the miners who demonstrated at the Coal Tribunal. They have a complete opposition to the plan. "There's been a reaction among the workforce and people in the community to the proposals the employers are making, and I think that this ribbon sponta-

THE Battler

reaction is having an influence.

The employers are trying to divide the workers by saying that only maintenance work will take place at weekends. However, once they get their foot in the door, they will extend work to all mines.

The members of the AMU and RTU have voted overwhelmingly for strike action and the Miners' Federation is right behind them. According to Ivan Phillips: "There have been stoppages in collieries and groups of

STOP PRESS

South coast coal miners went on Monday and voted to stop every day the Tribunal was sitting Thursday, Friday and Monday, and every Monday from now on till they win.

FIREFIGHTERS SUPER STRIKE

FIVE HUNDRED off-duty fire brigade members marched on the Victorian Parliamentary offices last week to demand a new superannuation scheme.

They'd just come from a mass meeting where they gave the Metropolitan Fire Brigade a week to come good. If the Board doesn't, it won't put off-duty firefighters using action - it will be everywhere.

Meanwhile, they're imposed based on all duties except for fire calls.

The current scheme for firefighters' wages is a disgrace. Widows get a superannuation of \$15 a week, for example. But the MFBA has been striking for months at the negotiations.

The United Firefighters Union wanted the same super scheme that other public employees have.

Battler Fighting Fund

THE BATTLE Fighting Fund has raised \$340-00 since the last issue.

This is a great effort but we need to keep it up. The target is \$750 a month and we need to raise every penny of it.

The biggest contribution came from a successful North Branch campaign. It's coming fortnightly. We have a film night on August 7th (Oakleigh), another (Traralgon) and a party for your T&T and a party for Sydney.

Thanks this issue go to: ME \$10 PD \$1, RE \$25 PC \$20, GP \$20 GW \$40, JW \$13 MC \$40, AF \$10 TF \$140, JO \$25 MM \$50.

For me, the most infuriating thing is the bloody rivalry of the excuse they used to sack these guys.

The eight workers also organized fund-raising collections among other unions. Battler supporters helped to raise money. Since John wrote the report, the company has been forced to retract both the sacked workers.



The Battler

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

Registered for printing as a periodical - Category C

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INSIDE
"We're suing The Battler"
- South Sydney Mayor.... p3

LATROBE VALLEY: THE HEAT GOES ON!

THE GRUNCH is coming in the fight by Latrobe Valley power workers for the 35 hour week.

The Victorian State Electricity Commission is threatening black-outs as any moment - and you can bet they'll be calculated to try and burn as many Melbourne workers as possible against the 21 power industry unions.

But the unions are standing firm - and the overtime ban is being extended throughout Victoria and to South Australia and Tasmania.

There's a whisper that Don Dunstan might offer a 37 hour week to the SA power workers, which would create an interesting crack in the State government's cracks.

ALP and union branches can help the power workers by sending motions to the SA and Tasmanian Labor governments, telling them to carry out ALP policy and grant the 35 hour week.

The immediate problem, however, is in Victoria. The press, especially the Herald, is doing its level best to help the SEC create hysteria. Our headline screamed: "We're on the brink of black-out!" and the article read the spectre of stand-downs, due to factories getting no power.

The Herald knows what the real threat is, though. In the next day's edition about the power workers, it confesses: "A 35 hour week granted to them would flow on to all State enterprises". And after that, of course,

ST~O~O!

OVER 1000 production men's Band in Melbourne staged a spectacular three day sit-down strike last month.

GMH hit back with stand-downs right round the country. But the workers won the rights to take their four weeks holiday at Christmas. GMH had put up notices saying that there would be three weeks at Christmas and one at Easter.

Chief shop-steward at Parkman's Bend, Herbert Murch, explained the dispute for The Battler:

"When they put the notices on the board, the workers took it on their own, not from the shop-stewards or officials, to have a sit-down strike, and I agreed with them.

Sunshine

People with families want to share the sunshine at Christmas and not the rain at Easter. When the children go home from school, that's when they want to enjoy their holidays, not when the General says no!

The company claimed they would be of Japanese competition and they want to get in front of the market. That's the line they've taken. They're always looking after their own interests and not that of the workers.

They want the profits to go to America - they get pushed. They've provoked the strike and this presented negotiations on our log of claims. This dirty



Herbert Murch addresses a mass meeting of GMH workers.

can close the gates and keep you out. With a sit-down strike and three shifts going round the clock, they cannot look you out. The bosses were very worried.

In the sit-down, the people read newspapers; in one plant they played cards and dominoes. Some people were educating themselves with reading books.

I instructed the foremen not to interfere and they accepted that. And the management later told:

Now the company's offer on the log claims will be presented to the membership on August 19. There's nothing in the offer and I think the workers will reject it.

BOOTED UP... THEN BOOTED OUT!

THEY'RE BEEN GUNNING for union delegate Michael Hellyer for years at East Coast Transport in Botany, NSW.

But eight men in the workshop have just proved they know how to defend him. During the dispute John Costello, a VBU member in the workshop, wrote this report for us:

The company want to get the union out starting with Michael. He used to work on contract, but they liked his work so much, they hired him. Now every time we go on holidays, they advertise his job. Once they asked him to bring in his papers to prove he could do the job - after five years!

They also asked to see my papers after ten years. And since they sacked a guy for refusing to work overtime when we got him reinstated, then they cut our overtime!

The present dispute began with safety boots, which we got the 1974 campaign. The union officials had not been issued with boots, so in late we used

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Life under the Lis

BLOTTO!!

"The Fraser Budget is the death knell for the building industry. What is needed is massive government spending in the building industry to improve employment prospects. Building workers are getting sick of working on socially useless projects. Government funding must be injected into socially useful projects.

For example, the sewerage treatment programme, which the government has curtailed; into hospitals like the Sutherland district hospital and the Stage 2 Campbelltown hospital which the government has shelved, also a low cost housing. In this area, a training scheme is needed for building workers to develop skills for this type of construction, and not for highrise blocks. Because the aim of the Budget is to push profits, into the private sector, socially useful projects will not stand much of a chance.

"Unemployment is obviously going to get worse. Building workers must refuse the sack and work in - as the workers did on the Qantas site. Stronger links must be developed between jobs themselves and with community action groups to build a campaign to force the government to spend on socially useful projects.

A start has been made on this by the Queensland BIWU - but this is the only union leadership taking unemployment seriously.

We can't rely on the present leadership to plan such a campaign, or to campaign for permanency in the building industry - especially the Gallagher Forces. The initiative must come from the rank and file."



David Shaw, Builder's Labourer, Canberra

Starting Life - on the Dole

AS PARENTS watch their children grow, they sometimes speculate about the future.

"What will they be? Firemen, Teachers, nurses?"

Officials from the Department of Unemployment has come up with the answer.

When your children grow up, they'll be unemployed.

At the moment, over 17% of people under 20 are unemployed. That compares with about 6% for the over-20's.

The budget means that unemployment is going to rise by over 1% in the next year.

Out of the 60,000 people out of work are going to mostly be school leavers.

And if your kid is lucky enough to be unemployed and your 18, then they can look forward to living on \$88 a week.

Thanks to a mass piece of peery cheating by Malcolm Fraser's millionaires, they won't be getting any dolle at all for the first 6 weeks.

However, growing numbers of public servants are coming to realise that confrontation is the only way to stop Fraser, etc. from kicking the daylight out of us.

Get yours on time!

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12 THE BATTLE 4 AUGUST 1976

"It is no longer a question of improved education, improved facilities in Soweto or anything like that. The demand is now for the total transfer of power."

OLIVER TAMBO, Secretary General, African National Congress

New Zealand

Muldoon's anti-union crack-down

by TONY SULLIVAN

1. Australia isn't the only place suffering from the effects of an out-and-out bastard. If you think Fraser is bad, spare a thought for the New Zealand Labor leader who has a fight on his hands with his counterpart in National Party Prime Minister Bob "Big" Muldoon.

2. They got a taste of his style soon after last November's election when the Labor government Act was repealed. Muldoon's answer with an act of parliament... he just issued a press release telling unions and workers that they were "no longer bound by the mandatory provisions and the legislation."

3. When the unions tried to use the courts to bring the government back into line, Attorney General Wilton took their efforts using a legal trick.

Observance

4. The Solicitor-General, aptly named Richard Savage, showed what the legal system was all about when he said: "Public interest requires a strict observance of the law with regard to matters that go to order and stability in society... (like protecting the rich) but it is not perhaps so crucial when concerned with laws that relate to social policy (like defending the poor)."

5. Since then they've stepped up the attack. Just like Fraser, Muldoon realizes that to keep blacks profane in a hub, in a period of international economic slump, he has to crush union militancy first, and that's just what he's set out to do through Labour Minister Gordon.

6. The NZ workers are being told that they must work harder and cheaper than people in other countries in order to pull NZ out of the crisis. But the real enemy is not workers in other countries, but the bosses strike.

7. A redefinition of strike to cover any withdrawal of labor, including go-slows, bans or work to regulations.

8. The reintroduction of penalties for "illegal" strikes including fines "on the four-figure range."

9. A total ban on any "political" or "non-industrial" strikes.

10. A redefinition of strike to cover any withdrawal of labor, including go-slows, bans or work to regulations.

11. The Australian Trade Union movement must stand ready to answer any call from NZ for help.

12. SOPA DAVIES in Industrial Officer with the NZ Shop Employees Union and has found the NZ Workers' Union. She said the British have an anti-union legislation which was scrapped. "During a visit of Minister of Labour, he said that he was working on a bill to give the NZ workers' Union and asked him if there was anything he could do. We never want to see the NZ workers' Union split."

13. To prevent the government from using trade unions have set up the NZ Workers' Union with the aim of forming a strong line.

14. We're in for a war. NZ workers are going to need all the support they can get, especially from Australian workers. Solidarity in the name of NZ is the only thing the bosses haven't got.



Black demonstrators unravelling in the recent riots in Soweto

ITALY Industrial accident? Or mass murder

CHRIS SIMPSON reports



THE FACE OF SEVESO: Barbed wire, soldiers—and devastation

1. Last month, news of a carelessly poisoned Italian city.

2. An explosion of a chemical factory in Seveso and Milan released huge amounts of two lethal chemicals, dioxin and trichlorophenol, into the air and the water supply.

3. Since then, the owners of the factories, Hoffman LaRoche, have been scurrying around covering up the story. For a week after the explosion, they kept it quiet and sent workers back into the factory in the middle of the poison.

4. Blisters.

5. Dioxin is one of the most dangerous chemicals known. There is no way of getting rid of it once it's been released. Two ounces of it in a reservoir could kill 11 million people. Four and a half pounds of it were released in the explosion.

6. Trichlorophenol, the other chemical, can cause blisters and growths on the skin, growths and cancer inside the body, brain damage, and deformities in children.

7. It was only after workers at the factory went on strike, demanding to be told what the hell was going on, that the company admitted that the two chemicals had been released by the explosion. People know there was something wrong immediately after the explosion, a dense gas filled nearby homes and the rain stung and blistered people's skins. Pet's died—and it was hard to bury them, because their bodies dissolved so fast.

8. So instead of the gas being contained in the factory, it was spread over the countryside.

9. Like the West German mercury poisoning in Japan, this incident was caused by the rubber and chemical industry for profit.

Who were the real murderers?

HOFFMANN LA ROCHE also manufacture valve and fittings for the two most profitable drugs in history. They take an average 20 per cent profit on them, claiming there are huge reserves in the drugs.

The drugs are marketed as tranquillizers for the general public, but Hoffman and others create by-products for the military.

SOUTH SYDNEY MAYOR SAYS -

"We're suing The Battler!"

MAYOR Bill Hartup has threatened to sue The Battler and the South Sydney Guardian over articles critical of the South Sydney Council.

We haven't received any official notice, but the threat was made in a Mayoral document in early August and repeated in the Glebe, a suburban paper.

The editor of the Battler, Phil Griffiths, said last week, "We will not be intimidated. We will continue to tell the truth about South Sydney."

The Guardian has pledged to keep printing the news "without fear or favour." Martin Tack, author of the Guardian article, has no objection of giving up his political activities in the South Sydney area.

Here is some of the information that the papers on the South Sydney Council are trying to suppress.

1. The council has continually harassed black organisations. They have actively lobbied against the Black Housing Company, sending delegations to the Federal Government and organising a "lost" several organisations. The Aboriginal Medical Service for permission to develop their building, and only approved the development after 8 months.
2. They have supported the destruction of working class neighbourhoods. They supported the Housing Commission when it bought up Waterloo, destroyed hundreds of homes while recent land cleared in South Sydney—and now the land in Waterloo has been sold.
3. They said nothing when Sydney University destroyed 200 homes in Darlingford. They allowed several areas in Newtown to be razed for high rise.



Look at the nasty things some people are saying about the respectable South Sydney Council!

4. They have oppressed and manipulated migrant residents. They wanted to build a cultural centre the Council blocked them. They Turkish Cypriots wanted to use an old fire station for a cultural centre they were knocked back.
5. The council has attempted to enact its political opponents—residents from Koppa St. Residents—by using the long forgotten local government Ordinance No. 70.

Mr Griffiths added: "The repressive libel laws have always been used to defend big business, property speculators and their gangsters. Political gangsters tried to stop Water Without Glory and failed. Other times they have succeeded. The key to stopping this kind of repression is a mass, public, political campaign."

Already, there is a powerful movement in South Sydney. The Koppa St residents called a mass meeting of over a hundred people to condemn the Council's attempt to evict them, and a defence committee has been established.

The Council claims it's defending the "Ammar Building" in the area from students, migrants, blacks and other people it considers undesirable, and whom it accuses of being thugs with speculators and estate agents.

But given their own actions would you believe any of their allegations? The Council is defending no-one but a few rich friends, and its own interests.

BATTLER FIGHTING FUND

Meat workers raise \$20

THIS MONTH, The Battler Fighting Fund raised \$326.38.

Thanks are especially due to the workers at Co-operating Farmers and Graziers, Tuncurry Bros and Tenderfoot Meats who did a whip-around at work and raised over \$20 For The Battler.

The Battler is still heavily in debt. And now we face the possibility of libel action in NSW. Help us out this month with a donation from your tax refund. Every dollar helps us tell the truth about the crooks who run this society.

Thanks this month to...

GP \$20	MG \$20
MM \$30	PC \$50
JG \$25	MA \$8.10
AS \$13	F&C \$2
DM \$3	MC \$40
AF \$10	EM \$5
Ahon \$10.00	GG \$2
Ahon \$11.70	
John and Nooka \$4	
Farmers and Graziers \$20-15	
Asian Dining \$25	
Sydney BBQ \$33	
South Branch school \$20-04	
Donations from individual sales \$39.99	

I want to join the International Socialists

NAME: _____ ADDRESS: _____ PHONE NO: _____ TRADE UNION: _____

Postcode _____

Clip and Post to: IS National Secretary GPO Box 141 Melbourne 3001

Women's Conference

by Jenny Stone

"UNIONS are for women too," says the bumper stickers and posters that advertised the first ever Australian Women's Trade Union Conference, held early in August.

Workshop discussions and plenary sessions centred around the major problems of women workers. The child care work was particularly interesting. Whether creches should be set up at workplaces or in local community centres, as has happened, such as has happened, in a Melbourne.

But if they were more common, so women could leave their jobs and still be able to care for their children, it would be a different story.

Many women took the opportunity to make contact with others in the same union, and an on-going group has been set up in the ACOA in final session. The conference adopted the Victorian Working Women's Charter as an interim proposal, and decided to hold a further conference in 6 months time to develop a national charter.

Criticism

During the conference and since, many criticisms were made of the way it was organised. It was very tightly structured with little opportunity to add to the program, vote resolutions, or even ask questions and discuss at the plenary sessions.

The conference mainly involved women with a fair amount of experience in industrial and political activity, but failed to attract large numbers from the shop floor. And in many cases, women who had come, they would have felt strange. Many would use unnecessarily long words and phrases.

There were two lines of approach. That of the conference organisers was present (including many from the Federal Clerks Union) in four women trade unions, to form a small group to pressure the leadership, and go in the back-room lobbying and politics.

But others realise that women will not find it easy to get real recognition as part of the labour movement. After all, equal pay was one of the books of trade union policy for over 50 years, but little was done since then. The movement has been established.

What we need is a mass campaign that involves ordinary working women at the grassroots level.

Perhaps the Working Women's Charter will lead to such a movement.

Women: Unemployed and Ignored

While the dockyards dominate the news in Newcastle, half the unemployed people in this city get little notice.

The Working Women's Centre, whose offices are with BHP steel mills, is fighting to make the facts known.

problem

Barbara Caboot, one of the women who run the centre has found many people don't even think it's a problem. If women are out of work

"They say it doesn't matter because they should be at home anyway. There's a plain notion that women are taking men's jobs, and that everything would be all right for men if women weren't working."

"I say women have a right to be economically independent. A lot of women are in bad situations at home. Often to get any sort of respect from a husband you have to be earning money."

And it's fairly common that women have alcoholic husbands who come home drunk and beat them up. If they have got kids, and they're

financially dependent on that man, they are forced to take them and get beaten up a few times a week and the kids are beaten up too."

Women's unemployment in Newcastle isn't something that comes with recession. It's a traditional trait here, dominated by heavy industry and little work is available for women outside of shops and service work.

Women looking for work face a maze of obstacles. Proactive legislation, designed to protect them, becomes an obstacle. Male cleaners are allowed to clean up high, but as they can reach, the same applies to painting.

stopped

Until recently, women were not allowed to work between 3 and 4 am, which kept them off the night shift. I'm not in favour of removing restrictions that make the job safe, but they should be made to apply, for instance, on the basis of physical strength. An 18 year old girl is often a lot stronger than a 50 year old man. You can reinforce the restrictions so they protect both men and women.

Employees are rubbish. "A lot of the shops say off girls when they get to 18 as a matter of policy. You get job and get a junior rate of pay, and when you get to your 18th birthday you're promoted to the same rate, because they don't want to pay adult rates."

The male wage discriminates too. They separate job files for men and women, and women simply don't get

as good a job as men. Barbara remembers when the men and women stood on separate sides of the queue in two different queues.

"I was the same woman who took the forms from both queues, shuffling back and forth. But now they split together because there's so many people."

Things are getting worse every day. At the Electric Light Company married women are only working three weeks in four, with single

women soon to follow. By the end of the year, they could be out on the street.

At the Winn's department store, layoffs have hit still more of an already depleted staff. A spokesman admitted to me that they were cutting back, but refused to say how much. Humour puts the figure as high as a third of the shop's assistants.

Meanwhile, the store can afford to hire TV star Barbara Rogers to compare a fashion parade!

We're not just statistics...

that's 300,000 lives they're playing with.

WORK WANTED

NOTICE TO THE BUSINESS PEOPLE OF WOLLONGONG

My name is Graham, I'm married with a family. As a last resort I appeal to you for employment, family maintenance, moral appearance, well educated, selling ability, also 2 civ. licences.

Owing to recent operations I am limited to a living lead

Two interested please ring 61773 all Saturday. I will be waiting. Thank you.

This is the ad of a desperate jobless man.

cent - including a 70 per cent rise in the Wallis area.

No one is spared John Wilmore, who topped his carpentry course at Randwick Tech last year, has been out of work since April. He is one of thousands of apprentices who face a future without a job. They can't complete their apprenticeship.

If the trend continues, says the Minister for Industrial Relations, Australia eventually will face the most critical shortage of tradesmen since Federation.

But right now thousands of tradesmen are getting the chop, especially in the NSW building industry, where the workforce has plunged from 60,000 to 34,000 in three

The effect of that collapse is also being felt in the metal trade, among metalworkers, boilmakers, welders.

A few of them found jobs recently - at David Holdings in Bickton, where the company was recruiting steel to smelt the Störmer and Packer. There is no work anywhere else.

The sole officer isn't much help. The Commonwealth Employment Service is overwhelmed. Service is underfunded. Many of the more conservative officers believe that the unemployed are bludgers - and are known to say so openly at staff meetings.

An inner-city CES employee told us that Social Security is grossly inefficient.



TURN ON THE LIGHTS FOR THE EMPLOYED

What We Think

THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND Australian workers are unemployed.

That's three hundred thousand men and women being forced to live on the dole. Three hundred thousand people forced into degrading poverty and demoralising idleness.

There are builders who want to build houses and hospitals, there are wharfies who want to move freight, there are shipbuilders who are being prevented from building ships and teachers in New South Wales who are stopped from teaching.

There are factories standing idle while the men and women who could use them search for jobs. There are overcrowded classrooms while trained teachers try their hand at something else.

In Australia today, three hundred thousand people who want to work are being kept out of the factories because the bosses, the capitalists don't want them to

work. The tools and factories are there, the workers are there, the need is there. The only thing stopping them is the whim of the boss.

But the whim of the boss is the iron fist of law in this country. So there will be no work until the bosses allow it. And when is that? When confidence picks up, we are told. When it is profitable once again. When prices are high enough, wages low enough and workers tame enough.

Unemployment is no accident. "Loss of confidence" isn't something that happens after a wild party. It is an inevitable consequence of capitalism... as much today as in the 1930's or the 1890's or any of the other great depressions.

destruction

It's only solution inside the capitalist system is the systematic destruction of our standard of living, our union organisation and our rights. If necessary, the bosses will turn to fascism to give them the "confidence" to employ us.

The unemployed are starting to fight back in Sydney, where unemployment is worst, there is the Paramatta Unemployed Workers Movement. Building workers are at work on Parliament and shipbuilders are fighting the destruction of their jobs.

Unemployment destroys the life of the worker without a job while it attacks the wage and the rights of the whole working class.

The struggle of the unemployed is the struggle of

Unemployed Movement

IN June the unions in Paramatta did a survey, and found that unemployment was worsening fast. Within a month they had moved to action.

With general union help unemployed youth have been able to establish the NSW Unemployed People's Movement and it's growing fast. 110 people have paid the fifty cents to join, and the active membership is about 200.

There are self-help groups all over Sydney now for the unemployed. They concentrate on food co-ops and finding jobs for people. The UPM at Paramatta does some of these things as well, but they are also moving to political action.

In August they organised a delegation to Canberra. On the day the budget was announced, the Movement appeared at Parliament. House to bring down their own Unemployed People's Budget.

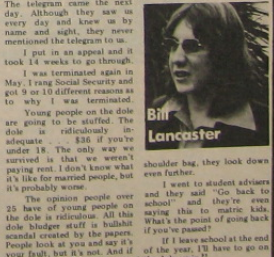
They followed it up by lobbying parliamentarians. "Mostly Labor members" they say, "Labor members sure terribly hard to find." Now they are writing to build support for the bus cavalcade to Canberra being organised by the UPM.

With the Liberal government playing off unions against the unemployed, the Movement is careful to emphasize that they are pro-union. "The unions are under heavy attack, and there is a tendency for the press to use us against them."

But we don't want the unemployed and the employed screaming at each other, that's just falling for an old, old ploy. We don't think workers should accept wage cuts. It's the profit system that causes inflation, not the unions.

The UPM has called for a moratorium on payment of debts for unemployed workers. They point out that it was done once before, under the Laing government. They expect a lot of repudiation of household loans in the future.

The group intends to take its case to workers on the factory floor. Much of the potential strength lies with the unemployed, they maintain, "we're really all in the same boat."



Bill Lancaster

After 6 months, I can't do anything"

Authority. They snubbed us, they refused to help us, they refused to help us, they refused to help us. We never got a job interview, until we saw Duncan at the CES in the city. Two days later, I got a job at the Colburn hotel.

Any job is better than no job. When I got went to unemployment, I wanted one specific job. But after 6 months, I'd take anything, I used to have a beard, but I thought that was stopping me getting a job so I shaved it off.

Kids leaving school now won't get the jobs because the employers are now demanding experience. And they haven't got the experience or the qualifications."

His mate, Bill Lancaster, is repairing Leaving Certificate in Oak Park, Melbourne.

"I left school at the end of last year and left home too."

"We were living around the corner from the Colburn Employment Service and we went in every day. The employment people said 'Don't come back tomorrow, some young job, but it's not if it's the dole again.' We were given them the shits."

They are really quiet to cut you off benefits... I don't ask you questions, they said anything. On March 28, I got a letter saying I was terminated for not answering a telegram.

Marc Brookes

Power
Without
Glory

Congrats.

Governor and Vic. #1 was the
were arrested. The article
were without Glory article
The only thing we like
on the action attacks on
John Halfpenny.

Dear Battlers,
Congratulations on the last
issue of The BATTLE. The article
in the AA (10), the

I saw a copy of your paper
on the story of "Power without
Glory" and was interested in it.
I have just sent you a copy and told me
to be on the case.

I have just finished reading
the book and more power to the
book. Frank Hardy for doing
us.

I might add I am hearing 80
and lived through those times
and the Depression which was
quite a different experience.

Yours sincerely
G. C. Close

One cheer for Bob

Congratulations to "ACOA
Member" for defending Bob
Hawke in the last issue of the
Battler. While I would not use
quite the same harsh phrase for
him, I am glad to see someone
at last taking up the task for
your obscure critics of the man.

The Battler does not seem
to realize that the average
Australian is fundamentally
conservative.

He continually detects
Liberal Governments and in the
few occasions he elects a Labor
Government, he soon changes
his mind and throws it away.

The average Australian
far from being the militant
person you seem to
think, is mainly concerned with
getting a house, a car and a color
TV. He is middle-class in his
values.

CONQUASH: what really happened

The demonstration was
organised by a broad group of
people, calling themselves the
"Movement Against Welfare
Destruction" (MAWD). The
demo was called for three main
reasons.

Firstly we felt it an absolute
absurdity that the very
people (Fraser) who is instigating
massive education and welfare
cuts, who has forced the closure
of many areas of education, was
going to open an educational
building. The very IRONY and
hypocrisy of such a move had to
be exposed and opposed.

Secondly, the "demonstrators"
were certainly not just
student orientated activity. We
involved as many people and
groups who had been badly
affected by the Liberal Party
policies, as possible.

Our aim was to involve
groups, students and Overseas
students.

Thus the second aim was to
coordinate as many groups as
possible to oppose the govern-
ment's attacks on such areas
as education.

The third aim was a more
general one. Fraser and his
government, following closely by
all the Capitalist media, cry out
for the necessity to make cuts in
the government spending so as
to reduce the Government
deficit.

The cuts in the Government
deficit, and as must only be
seen in the following way, are
the deficit that is part of the
government spending for the
majority of Australian
people.

These people are the
working people, students,
children etc. Cuts in the deficit

Yours PB

Dear Battlers,
Your last edition included a
letter from an ACOA member
who objected to your recent
criticism of the way Bob Hawke

handled the Medbank dispute.
As a member of the same
union, I would like to comment
on a few of the points raised.

Your correspondent depicts
Mr. Hawke as representing "77
percent of the workforce".

He's sold out on the 35
hour week, he sold out oil
industry and power industry
workers, he sold us out on Medi-
bank and he sold us out when it
mattered most.

It is a pity that your
last December when we could have
seen Kent's car back to Nauru
licking his wounds.

If Bob Hawke is the saviour
of the Australian working class,
how come the workers don't
seem to recognise the fact? If he
is respected by all factions in the
Labor movement, how come he
is having so much trouble getting
a safe seat in Parliament?

I repeat you've got to be
kidding.

Bill Evans,
Collingwood

Labor Voter

Praser had made significant
concessions, it would have been
prudent to pull on a general strike
for what could be gained
out of it. It should be clear to
anyone, particularly to a public

servant, that Fraser was
not really serious in his
Government programme to
revitalize. And he would
be doing this in the name of
pre-election promises.

It is not the pursuit of
the objective that Fraser was
interested in. There is no
doubt that there is a large
number of people who believe
that there is no alternative to
Hawke or anyone else.

It was always the
contention of the Battler
that nothing less than full
scale strike action, strictly
and properly called and properly
organised, could have saved
Medbank. However, Fraser
repeatedly vacillated at the
time, when community feeling was
at its peak and even went so far
as to overrule a recommendation
for stronger action taken from
combined shop stewards meetings.

Mr Hawke made it
abundantly clear that he did not
support the General Strike after
it had been endorsed by the
ACTU Executive. By the
end of the course, the majority
of the initial public reaction was
in favour of a general strike.
Industrial campaign demands
his enthusiastic support if it
meant the complete
collapse (which it did).

When one considers how
hard Hawke has campaigned
at mass rallies in the past to go
tough, "Wim" always
must at least give a little
reluctance to encourage
participation in the struggle to
defend Medbank, one of
Labor's most important
reforms. If it was his
efforts of small groups in
the past, he would be
unable to organise some sort
of public sentiment, it
has vindicated precisely
the conservative prin-
ciple saying that the people prefer
a "course of coarseness" to
"coarseness" and, consequently
Mr Hawke wanted to establish
with Fraser were inadequate
to do the job.

The Battler
of the workers. This continued
presentation of the struggle
and eventually destroyed the
strike chances of success.
The "course of coarseness"
was described by
representative as
"a course of delay strategy"
to reduce the left
wing to 18%, where the
majority of wage-earners
of the country were
doubtlessly wanted to
be retained. They showed
they were willing to do it
if it was to be done in
the name of the "course of
delay strategy".

The fantastic and
sensational nature of the reporting
is to be expected. How dare the
Prime Minister talk about
violence, when the violence he
and his party perpetrate daily is
ignored totally.

Fraser's manipulation,
an attempt to maintain order
and wages and a migrant
level. At least, data to
spending on Blacks, Criminal
Education (TEAS), etc. seen
as good savings measure instead
of being seen as they really are,
a marketable attempt at
destroying a class.

Fraser's complaints about
being locked in a toilet for a
hour and a half. Many students
on TEAS are forced to live in
those conditions for three and
four years.

The media asks whether
there will be more demonstra-
tions. This is just not
beginning!

Spokesperson for Movement
Against Welfare Destruction.

Dear Battlers

Bob Hawke the champion
of Australian working class
You've got to be kidding. He's
got a record for sellouts that
Ken Myers must envy.

He's sold out on the 35
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workers, he sold us out on Medi-
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Labor Voter

WE DEMAND MODERN BUSES!

by BILL DONNELLY Tramways
Union delegate, Doncaster

DRIVERS at Doncaster
Tramways Bus Depot are
dissatisfied with having to
drive 22 Leyland buses that
were introduced into service
25 years ago.

Heavy steering, hard braking
and short wheel base are some
of the complaints. Also in the
old buses are noisy, jerky
and turning points at railway
stations that cause concern.

In Feb 1975 the MMTB
obtained 23 new Leyland buses
for the next 10 years. They
insisted that they be operated on
the long Melbourne runs, with
the old buses on all local runs.

There were two reasons for
this. The MMTB wanted to
boost their public image by
putting the best buses on the
city run, and the local liberals

who are quite strong, did not
fancy riding into the city on the
old buses.

Drivers decided that we
would drive the old buses on
long Melbourne runs only
because of difficulties in
Doncaster local runs.

The MMTB offered a
proposal where half of new
buses would be used on local
runs.

Members at Doncaster
depot accepted the proposal,
but the MMTB did not
agree, so we reintroduced the
bus.

Feelings are very strong on
this issue. If the Tramways
Board were above doing their
best to turn the other cheek,
it would be safe to say no
other states in Australia would
be allowed to drive passenger
vehicles at least 26 years old.

Everyone is talking about
updating transport for the
public.

Mr politicians please note
that it is our contribution, in an
endeavour to gain modern buses,
that we have been travelling public
in the city run, and the local liberals

Workers Compensation Swindle

EVER wondered how insurance
companies make such huge
profits?

One way is by chiselling
out of you every cent of your
payments. Take the case of
Barry Williams, a slaughterer
at Farmers and Graziers
Meatworks in Melbourne.

Barry got an injured wrist
in mid-1971. A year later it had
to be operated on. He had a
total of four operations and was
off work.

State Accident Insurance
paid him full compensation for
6 months. Then they cut it
half for the next 18 months,
then cut it off altogether. Barry
claiming they had evidence he
was gainfully employed.

State Accident Insurance has
never stated how they believe he
was employed. Nor have they
produced the evidence they
relied they got.

Barry's solicitor, Holding,
Ryan and Bechler, aren't
exactly helpful either. They

refuse to talk to him over the
phone, and claim to have lost his
file.

That was swindle No. 1.
They recently Barry sought what
was expected to be a brilliant
settlement. Barry got from
cattle. Many workers at Farmers
and Graziers had it at the time
of the insurance company
bid for brilliant totals only if
they're positive a real way of
discouraging workers from
taking them. Barry took a test

and it was positive.
Later on he took another
test and it was positive.
Now State Accident
Insurance is going to pay
either half (Barry is a student
and has no income) or 50%
of \$5, and he's also been
losing work. Barry's
compensation for the time he
was off work.

Barry's refusal to pay the
\$5,000 State Accident
doctor will have to wait until
the cows come home.

Teachers march against Tribunal

by MAX COSTELLO,
ITAV, Clayton Tech.

Association of Victoria wants
to stop the Tribunal course
and start direct negotiations
with the Education Department
and the Government.

The stop-work meeting was
a landmark in more ways than
one.

First, it means that teachers
are organizing. For years the
State Government has been
hiding behind the umbrella
of the Teachers Tribunal.

But that time the ITAV was
not just asking for bigger pay
packages to emerge from the
smoke. They're asking that
the smoke screen of the Tribunal
be removed.

OK, it's not a demand to
overhaul the entire system,
but teachers have seen through
and exposed one of the system's
tricks. And now want to deal
directly with the part of the
system doing the most harm.

Second, the rank and file
have played a vital role in
play a leading role.

THE ITAV's Annual Confer-
ence in June set up a rank and
file Direct Negotiations
Committee to lead the
campaign, and the stop-work
meeting in August was called
by the rank and file members
of the Committee group.

The meeting also voted
specifically to set up a rank and
file Direct Negotiations
Committee to lead the
campaign, and the stop-work
meeting in August was called
by the rank and file members
of the Committee group.

University barricades against Political Economy

VICER Chancellor Bruce Williams
is leading a series of
Political Economy courses at
Sydney Uni.

But right in the middle of
last term's upheaval, a book
of articles on Political Economy
appeared. Edited by Wheel-
wright and Stiller, it contained
a number of bright young men
named Williams who, years ago,
were regarded as a real
socialist!

In fact, when Williams
became VC, he brought his
socialist views with him. His
Policies were known to students,
who popularized the slogan
"University student leader Bruce
Lanahan discussed the struggle
with us."

"We've built up to such an
extent that we're really
challenging the basic structure
of administration. They can't
ignore us or buy us off, so over
the next couple of years, in
league with the Fraser
government, we'll pick out
activists and weed them out.
They're out to create an
atmosphere of intimidation on
campus."

Bruce and two other
students were charged with
last day of term, bringing to
six the number being brought up
on charges for last year. They
were charged with "obscuring
the role of the VC and
political victimisation."

"I was supposed to have
played a minor role in the
operation - to have incited the
students to do it. I was
almost no role, the only thing I
did was at the final meeting,
explore the role of the VC and
leave."

The Political Economy
movement is at a turning point.
The struggle this term could be
decisive. It is a matter of
some sort of direct action.

After last year's harrowing
struggle, the printers at the
Herald Sun are forced to live
in those conditions for three and
four years.

The media asks whether
there will be more demonstra-
tions. This is just not
beginning!

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WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Tell us Write to
The BATTLE, 110
Richmond, Vic. 3121.

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struggle, the printers at the
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THE BATTLE

The Price of Life

Brian Phipps
Secretary, CMU, Huntley Colliery

It is interesting to note that the Tribunal did not agree, (in the initial stage), to the Coalminers' request to suspend hearing the log because of industrial action taken by mine workers.

A feature of this campaign has been the unity of the rank and file despite a vicious campaign by the employer that selected Phipps to undermine that unity.

This attempt to divide the workers by stating they only wanted the right to work maintenance employees on a 7 day roster.

This is the thin edge of the wedge in achieving unlimited production in an industry which is already over producing.

Prior to each mass meeting, Local Officers and Shop Stewards were called, where the recommendations were formulated.

In the past, recommendations have come to mass meetings from the Liaison Committee whose members are full time union officials and whose ideas have not always been in tune with Rank and File feeling.

At the time of writing the Coal Industry Tribunal has also recommended and mine workers await its decision with great interest.

WHAT's the penalty for murder? Ten years? Fifteen? If you're BHP, it's one minute.

That's right. BHP has been fined \$500 ... one minute's profit ... for causing the death last year of William Stevenson in the Australian Iron and Steel works in Port Kembla.

The speed and pressure of work at the steel works had led to wrought-steel coils of steel being placed in stack. The stack collapsed, and William Stevenson was crushed against a conveyor as he inspected coils.

Still, we shouldn't be plain. On April 12 this year BHP was fined \$2000 ... twenty five seconds' profit ... for allowing coal gas to leak into the coke ovens. The resulting explosion killed three and injured eleven that time.

They kill us and they don't even care. They're not ending pursuit of them. We mustn't throw them out ... that would be violent.



Over a thousand building workers marched to Sydney's Chifley Square in mid-August to demand jobs. The marchers, who came in groups from different job sites, called for immediate aid to the building industry. Officials, among them Pat Clancy and Stan Stiles of the NSWU, called for massive government spending to rescue the industry. A cavalcade of building workers and union officials will go to Canberra on September 2 to pressure the Senate to reject Fraser's budget.

LATROBE VALLEY: what went wrong?

The FIGHT for the 35 hour week took two big steps forward last week.

Then it took one giant step back.

The 48 hour strike by Victorian power workers in the Latrobe Valley was a might blow against the State Electricity Commission's stalling and provocative stand-down tactics.

But the mass meeting at the Morwell Football Ground was a defeat for the militants.

Despite the overwhelming support for the 35 hour week campaign in the Valley, the right-wing was able to win the badly attended meeting.

Not only did they defeat a motion endorsing the strike, but they also got their own motion through to drop all bans and go back to Arbitration. Meetings were held on the issue in Melbourne and other centres were split on the issue.

A list of left-wingers were understandably disappointed with the result of the Morwell meeting. As Phil Edwards said, when most of the Morwell endorsed the strike, "I can't stand here and say 'Why are we on strike?' when their mates are stood down."

The "moderate" victory of

the meeting gave the press the chance to launch an all-out assault on the strike leaders. "Workers in the Latrobe Valley are sick of losing pay." "They want to act in a reasonable and responsible manner" they crowed.

There was a disturbing tendency by many left officials to try and play down the significance of the meetings. They argued that most supporters of the strike had gone away for the weekend while those who were angry about it came to the meeting.

When the Liberal claimed that the industry couldn't afford to build the power plant, it responded by arguing that they would only apply to power workers. So much for ACTU policy.

Worse still, it enabled the Government to attack the strikers as a disruptive minority, harming the interests of other workers. To win the 35 hour week, power workers support from the whole union movement. But how they appeal for that support? The TIC is claiming that they won't be getting the support from the 35 hour week?

So far, militants in the power industry have done well in building the campaign on their own shops.

But now they need to go together to do the job that Trades Hall wants to do. The job of getting the workers' support. Until it's done, the campaign for 35 hours will remain bogged down.

The union base have helped protect the health of workers living in Melbourne's western suburbs. The Newport Power station would add a huge volume of pollution to Melbourne's

THE BATTLE

FRASER'S SHIPYARDS TO GET NEW JOBS OVERBOARD

Prepared at the GPO Melbourne for transmission by post as a periodical Category C

NUMBER 26 SEPTEMBER 29, 1976 10 cents

The Federal Government has just sunk another nail into the coffin of Australia's shipbuilding industry.

The IAC (Industries Assistance Commission) has recommended that the shipbuilding industry be driven to the wall, with 7000 jobs around the country being axed.

Not that the owners of the shipbuilding industry are to be driven to the wall. For years, BHP and the others have been on the receiving end of massive government subsidies and a lucrative quota system.

In fact, they've had only equipped shipyards were established with vast government aid and incentives.

Newcastle, four hundred workers have been given marching orders and there are 7000 more to follow around Australia.

While these 7000 workers either resign themselves to years on the dole, or moving to the big cities to look for work, the people who own the shipyards will hardly notice.

STEEEL

BHP is after yet another rise in the price of steel (this time 5%) and the NSW government would be happy to get rid of its shipyard.

For years, the shipbuilding unions have fought to maintain and increase shipyarding sub-



Newport SEC turns up the heat

A CAREFULLY planned campaign of disruption and terrorism.

That's what the Victorian SEC is planning in its desperate bid to get Newport Power Station built.

BANS

The building of the power station has been held up for three years by effective union black-bits.

The union base have helped protect the health of workers living in Melbourne's western suburbs. The Newport Power station would add a huge volume of pollution to Melbourne's

Finally, it has enlisted aid of Victorian TIC secretary Ken Stone. Stone has consistently white-anted the union position.

Last week he said that he was sick of carrying the can over Newport. He might be interested to know that it is his job to carry said TIC policy and not union.

He has threatened industry with power blackouts caused by the shortage of generating capacity. This will lead to stand-downs and social disruption ... all planned and all designed to stampede the building of a lethal power plant.

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Medi-muddle

THE MEDI-MAZE is on in earnest. Workers filing in MediBank exemption forms are finding out what the Liberal government intended them to find. That there is no such thing as cheap medical care. Not under the Grazer's government.

Of course, the sting is only coming now that the Trades Union campaign on MediBank is over. Now that people have to apply for exemption, it is clear through all the mazes of three-tiered schemes, that they are set up with one group in mind; the Health Funds who are going to make a killing in every area of the word. Not least from people who are paying money for private beds that the hospitals and governments haven't built yet.

The Trades Union campaign on MediBank may have stumbled to a halt, but there is a continuing fight against the Medi-muddle. This week there is a Motion in support of MediBank.

In Sydney: Thursday September 30, Martin Place, 5.00pm

In Melbourne: Wednesday, September 29, City Centre, 1.00pm

Both HAWK is going around saying we need the shipbuilding industry for defence and suggests the workers give up their right to strike during launching and trials.

Kevin Wain is blaming the job crisis on foreign workers taking "Australian jobs", rather than putting the blame where it belongs ... on the shoulders of Australian shipbuilders and the Australian government. He is playing manager boy for the "Perfect" Liberals, telling the ship workers to "armously surrender" them.

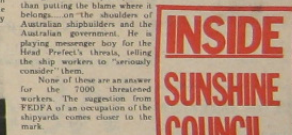
None of these are an answer for the 7000 shrouded workers. The suggestion from FEDIP of an occupation of the shipyard comes closer to the mark.

CAMPAIGN

An Australia-wide campaign to save shipbuilding jobs, by maintaining the industry under the Federal Government, obtaining guaranteed jobs security will do more to defend ship jobs than blaming workers overseas and blaming both subsidies and quotas.

It's not really a question of ships. It's a question of people and of a company that has raped Australia for nearly a century.

A company that can lose



INSIDE SUNSHINE COUNCIL SACKED p3

Rhodesia 9 Printers 10 Repco 12

And that would be a disaster.

It's not really a question of ships. It's a question of people and of a company that has raped Australia for nearly a century.

A company that can lose

Get yours on time!

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DEVALUATION — two bob business confidence trick

THE PAPERS are once again full of speculation about Devaluation. Former Hill Labor treasurer, Bill Haylen, called for a devaluation in a major speech a couple of weeks ago. He said it was inevitable by the end of the year.

Doug Anthony, manager of the multi-national mining company followed up with a speech which would get you different ways. The Sydney Morning Herald took it from there to claim that Anthony was also calling for Devaluation.

Repeated details from Fraser and Lynch simply added fuel to the fire. Speculation in the Press about devaluation in various ways to speculation in the money markets. And money markets pressure came in the form of a devaluation — sort of a self-fulfilling prophecy. Last time there was devaluation speculation, \$600,000,000 was transferred overseas by the safe rush hoping to make a fast buck out of it.

pressure

But what does devaluation mean? Why is there a "big over air"?

The pressure on Fraser to devalue is strongest from farming and mining interests, but also coming from manufacturing. It is so strong that the government is catching a lot of flak from its own back benches. They are telling Fraser that if he doesn't do something, such as devalue, he will lose the next election.

What will a devaluation do? It will lower the value of the dollar compared to other currencies. The Australian dollar worth about \$1.25 in American money at present, would be worth perhaps \$1.10 American.

Does devaluation do to us? It does if it helps exports and because of multi-national companies will raise profits for most of them. The idea is that they will then expand operations and that will provide more jobs. If they actually do that, the employment situation will improve. Unfortunately, they may just sail away with more profits in a few bank accounts.

Meanwhile, the price of all imported goods will rise probably. And their prices rise to the same level. So a devaluation will cause higher inflation than it will. It will also have other effects which are important to the economy. It is almost certain to occur.

At the same time, since we're not an importer, you'll be shifting bricks because the cost of foreign goods will be higher in Australian dollars — however, importers are not as important to the economy.

But we're not of this people. We're workers. What

Japanese and other foreign industries will lose some of their Australian markets. It will cause unemployment among workers overseas.

Naturally, the debate in the ruling class has little to do with our jobs or anyone else's. It has to do with different strategies to produce a business recovery. Fraser's strategy is to reduce inflation at all cost. He is prepared to prolong the recession to do that. An inflationary devaluation would mean reversing the whole direction of his budget strategy. It would be an admission that he was wrong.

The fact that he is under such pressure to do it shows how much he has lost the confidence of the business community.

THE BATTLE

Hawke: I won't seek a Federal seat... yet



"Seats in Parliament are valuable property: trading in them is rare, their price high."

FRANK HARDY in Power without Glory

Down in Victoria, Liberals have struck back. They have fixed the minimum wage, outlawed price cutting, and raised the free market rate to working 2000 wks.

Enthusiastic drinkers like we all were shopping upwards of \$250 a week. And it was a licensed grocer and liquor dealer who were cleaning up.

So, "in order to stability to the industry," they have fixed the minimum wage, take away beer and liquor, and have immediately cut the bottle down and from.

The big hotel chain has been set up to run the system is stretched. Because with beer, profit is down, "free" tea in Liberal Party is down.

The hotel chain has highest bid and, it is all party stores, and completed.

Ayn Rand would delight!

HAMER — Foster father to the Pubs

REMEMBER the Liberal Party? You know, the one that for free enterprise, the economy, productivity, and against product, worker unemployment, who believe workers price themselves out of the market the ones who have that unions resist but trade in.

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"It was purely political..."

WHY THEY AXED HIS IS IN THE COUNCIL

ON TUESDAY 14 September, the Tagdell Enquiry into Sunshine Council tabled its report to State Parliament.

Liberal Minister for Local Government, Alan Hunt, said on sitting down against Sunshine Council's report to the Local Government Act is now being put on the grounds to sack the Council.

The following Tuesday, Premier announced that he was in fact, sacking the Council and putting in a Commissioner for Local Government.

He will be specially selected by the Local Government Act to the Council.

Councillor Linda Holroyd, a member of the Labor majority, explained to the Battler why Hamer attacked Sunshine Council.

"It was purely political. The Liberal independent or rightwing groups have been successful in getting an edge into the western suburbs and we have been most active of the local councils."

"We've been in the side of the state government ever since they've been in office. We've been in the side of the state government ever since they've been in office. We've been in the side of the state government ever since they've been in office."

"Once they've driven a wedge in, then they can expand this to state and federal levels too."

"The whole thing was a denial of the Enquiry. It would have preferred a trial to the terms of the Enquiry."

"They haven't attacked us for increased rates. It does not matter. They are attacking us because we are on the side of the state government."

"We were a political council. We've never ever started anything else in an election campaign. And their argument is that we have not allowed the independent or participation in committees."

"When Hamer agreed to allow Mr. Holroyd to become a Minister and attend Cabinet meetings then we will allow more efficiently when graduate. The struggle for change in the government is vital for all those struggling against the system."

RALLIES

This struggle cannot be waged effectively without calling a one-day anti-strike day. We will have power in their own right. However, the "big" large scale on September 14th and continuing actions out there can save students from the professional and technical.

Students must be more than a united struggle against the government.

By RANA ROY, Melbourne University Strike Committee

The next day millions of us are going to set up a Strike Committee. We have already put out a leaflet which will be distributed through the streets. We also call on staff members to support the strike financially. (A number of lecturers and tutors have already indicated their support on the day of the strike.)

The strike will take place on September 14th. We will be staying out of the streets. The four and a half hour and college around for a combined rally at 11.30.

Don McKay to attend our meetings.

"We're the Government, they're the opposition!"

The report attacked the Labor Caucus and offered to the smaller center-right members of the Council. But the Melbourne Council is run by a small group — called the "Old Guard" — who don't attack them.

Minister for Local Government.

"No wonder the Enquiry came out in Deuschmann's favour."

There are members of the Labor Party reported to have signed the petition, and we asked Councillor Holroyd about them.

rats

"We have some rats. Their rats have to be isolated. The Labor Party will have to be united in the coming fight back."

The Labor Councilors are planning to fight against the sacking of the Council. Petitions and public meetings are planned and the unions have been asked for support. Their first aim is to force a new election.

Councillor Holroyd predicted "what is likely to happen next year. Our bank manager is quite happy with the progress we had been making."

"The rates are likely to rise. We had planned to raise the deficit over three years. Our bank manager is quite happy with the progress we had been making."

"The Commissioner doesn't have to face election if he will try and do it overnight by raising the rates and halting it on us. When they get in a Commissioner and Hamer he raised the rates by 27%."

"Deuschmann did not announce that figure to Council till after the petition had been presented to the Enquiry."

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WHY THEY AXED HIS IS IN THE COUNCIL

Report by Dave Nadel

Deuschmann has also done a great deal of work with individuals, particularly migrants. They appointed a clerk, a worker and an Italian case worker and were in the process of appointing a Maltese. The council was sacked.

One criticism of the Sunshine Labor majority which may be just, related to the high arrears paid to the Executive of Town Clerk Deuschmann, who showed his gratitude by whitening them. Councillor Holroyd explained the salaries in terms of the special City of Sunshine Award. The Labor majority attempted large rates for the Executive officers and the Special Portfolio system among the Council's greatest achievements.

Councillor Holroyd argues that the Portford System ran the Council more effectively by giving Councilors individual responsibility. Cutting the Town Clerk's responsibilities broadened the base and put Social Welfare under the control of specialists. The results were the achievements of the Welfare and Education Department.

The Liberal government sacked them but since these were paid to the award, they were paid for outdoor and clerical workers meant a large rise for the executive officers. So Sunshine does have a larger deficit than councils in comparable areas in Sydney and Melbourne. But it is his better social welfare and pay workers better wages.

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The Battler

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We can't live

on \$3

THE FIRST EVER national strike of Australian tertiary students will take place on Thursday, September 30.

The main demands of the striking students are: —
* Free tuition for all students.
* No replacement of the TEAS scheme with any system of repayable loans.
* No cuts in general education spending.

A living wage for all students.
The demand for a decent allowance is the central demand. The present maximum tertiary allowance is just \$21 a week, \$23 less than the "poverty line".

Students announced an enquiry into student allowances in the budget. The Enquiry will make its recommendations to the Government some time in October.

Next year, they are likely to begin gradually replacing the student grants scheme by loans to students.

TEAS
If the level of TEAS is not raised to the equivalent level recommended by the Williams Committee report of 1975, then \$55 by January and \$60 by February. TEAS would probably be forced to apply for a supplementary income stream.
Recent statements by the Carr government imply that the government might get a slightly higher allowance. However, despite the government's

talk that it has increased real expenditure on tertiary education, most universities are planning to make savings cutbacks in their internal budgeting.

Not surprisingly, most cuts will be made in just those areas where students struggle in recent years have forced changes in the nature of what they learn and how it is examined.

Needless to say, most of these new courses and methods aren't good for business.

"Rationalising" the content of tertiary education and introducing loans and fees are the stick to keep students into studying "safe" courses such as law, engineering and commerce.

The government only wants graduates to serve the bosses.

Melbourne Uni by RANA ROY, Melbourne University Strike Committee

STUDENTS AT Melbourne University are doing more than going on strike on September 30 — we are organising our strike to make it as militant and effective as we can. We are not having a day-at-home strike with pickets and rallies.

On September 23 there was a Union meeting to discuss the A.U.S. motion for strike action on September 30. We moved an amendment to the main motion calling for organised picketing with a march to the City Square. This met with enthusiastic support and was approved by both the strike motion and the further

Want to join the International Socialists

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____ PHONE NO. _____ TRADE UNION _____

Chip and Post to IS National Secretary GPO Box 1472N Melbourne, 3001

Dear Battlers,

Lip service to Women

Dear Battlers,

I work as a cleaner at Dandenong Hospital and I read your paper regularly, so I thought I might tell you about some of the problems we have at work.

The most annoying thing about the place is the supervisors. They are always interfering with our work. In my opinion, they are not the kind of job it is annoying to do, but to do this and don't do it, because you do the same thing every day.

They push us pretty hard because we're not enough women. One day a migrant woman came to work, because she couldn't keep up with the work, and she was given certain essential tasks to be cleaned.

Who needs Supervisors?

Dear Battlers,

every day, but the bosses send hospital cleaning workers across to the doctors and nurses quarters to clean them. Because we are told "what to do" we have to leave areas which really need cleaning.

I start work at seven o'clock. Right on clock in the morning, when legally we are allowed to have a cuppa. However, we get told off if we sit down to drink it!

If it is no good to complain at the moment, supervisors are in the long if you complained while they were sitting next to you - you do not want to push them away, for example, if you're a casual.

Our shop steward has never called for a meeting in the time I've been there, and we see an organiser maybe once every 12 months.

every 12 months. We are told that management will then come to speak to us. It was when the union was in the discipline us for for being a supervisor who had been appointed.

Even over the years, I have individually we could not do a strike if we wanted to, but did not direct us to strike. There was no official strike during the meeting. We also around the table to hold us down and we want to get involved in the meeting.

Then when the QTU (Queensland Teachers' Union) began a campaign of rolling stoppages in support of its victims, I had no say unless hospitals are run by the government. Workers don't like the different standards, and people start making things up. If you're a casual, everything is as what is going on.

JOH BJELKE-PETERSEN has declared war on the Queensland trade union movement.

He is going to lose.

First he sacked four teachers who had been on strike for minor charges related to marfanism.

They were not allowed to appear before the Public Service Board to defend themselves at their trial. They were given no right of appeal, and the Government is refusing to even talk to the union about the case.

Then when the QTU (Queensland Teachers' Union) began a campaign of rolling stoppages in support of its victims, I had no say unless hospitals are run by the government. Workers don't like the different standards, and people start making things up. If you're a casual, everything is as what is going on.

rolling stoppages over the last two weeks.

Now the rest of the union movement is rallying to the QTU's aid. First the waterworks workers held a two-hour protest stoppage and gave a unanimous vote of support. Then workers at the Woolloongabba and Exchange walked off the job after hearing a report from a QTU official.

Brisbane City Council employees and building workers at Craiglea State School were also held stop work stoppages.

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special strike-breaking sections of the army, for example. Biker Police is hoping to allow him to use the Biker Police as a means of bringing in his industrial leadership.

At the same time as the teachers' strike, the Queensland campaign has been taking place the front page of the Brisbane Courier Mail has been covered with reports of the Ceter Bay dope bust.

The report has been magnificent! But much more will be needed. Biker Police is right on the offensive at the moment - he has just requested Defence Minister Allan to set up

believe in unions anyway. The nursing staff is a weird assembly of conservatives, right wing Labour voters and a few fascist.

We didn't have much of a chance really. We needed ideas of what was going on and many people were interested.

I approached a charge nurse who was an active unionist but she wouldn't go but wanted to talk. We finally came up with some names and this fortified I went along to the AGM and branch meeting monthly meeting. Before I sat down I was informed by the AGM and branch meeting monthly meeting. Before I sat down I was informed by the AGM and branch meeting monthly meeting.

Public Servants tell Fraser: Pay our Medibank Levy

Dear Battlers,

Yes, there are finally some radical movements taking place within the Public Service Association of NSW - or at least with its some Department Branches.

On September 20, the Government Service Department Branch held its third General Meeting. The Branch had been formed for more than three years, until our present Commission was voted in. Our three meetings to date have been promising, with attendances of 40-50 officers.

Finally officers of the PSA in certain circles are realising that the Public Service Board is acting in a most aggressive manner towards the union and its members.

Until now, the PSA has been hampered by its own conservatism. But we feel this conservatism is dangerous in the face of the PSA's definite attempts to impose a ten per cent drop in real salary expenditure over the next few years.

As an example, one motion that was successfully carried at our last meeting was as follows:

"Working Wives"

We wish to contact all officers in the PSA who are disillusioned by the conservatism within our union. The organisation should be a strong alternative to the union, using the Medibank Levy from consolidated revenue, as we see this burden as a positive decrease in all officers' salaries.

You can contact us at 190 Albion Street, Surry Hills, telephone 316 849.

Donna Fretwell
An & C Divisions Officer
Government Stores Department

OUR UNION SHOULD BE

Dear Battlers,

Perhaps because of a combination of geographical isolation and official advice the real nature of Aboriginal conditions in Central Australia is not appreciated by whites. I have just returned from working with the Central Aboriginal Congress Meeting in Alice Springs. What I saw was Australia's own private Third World.

There are 2000 3000 Aboriginal mother and child infant mortality a 10 times the level amongst whites.

Aborigines live in and around Alice Springs principally in fringe camps and on reservations. They live in corrugated iron hovel, old army tents, burnt out cars or fall to a pile of old blankets on the ground.

The temperature at night is just to 0 and exposure leads to pneumonia. There is no sanitation, no garbage collection, and a high infant mortality rate is about six times that of the whites.

Until recently it was the highest in the world, along with a life expectancy the lowest in the world at 44 years. The children have pus running from their noses and ears, are infested with scabies, head lice and intestinal parasites, and suffer a high incidence of rheumatic fever which leads to heart disease.

They reach the expected height and weight for their age. Tuberculosis, venereal disease and chronic alcoholism are common among the adults.

All the diseases are a legacy of the colonialism, none were endemic before the white take.

The patching up services have achieved as much as they can without a radical change in the physical and social environment. The average income per head per week is \$10 and 70% of adult aborigines are unemployed.

Alcoholism is a huge problem. A new approach is badly needed based on mutual black, the emancipation of the mind, and a real attempt to ascertain and meet the needs of the Aborigines as expressed in their own objectives.

They have already sacked penalised marjanas, so their sacking is a classic case of "don't push the popper" - being punished for doing the same thing over and over again in similar cases in four other states, teachers involved have been charged.

That didn't stop Doug Anthony calling Queensland teachers "bird-brained" after 61 QTU branches voted in favour of strike action to save their colleagues. Since then, there have been more than 100 schools have been involved in strike action.

Battler Red Australia

Dear Battlers,

The article on the struggle for political economy courses at Sydney Uni, which I found to be a very good political education. I had a very low political education.

Two positive features of this article are, firstly, the demand for control over what they study and secondly, the demand for courses which are relevant to their own lives.

Revolutionary Socialism must see the movement for radical political economy in universities around the world recently as a move towards a new orthodoxy. Many student leaders see the movement as an end in itself. The 18 part point out that relevance and control of their education is important, there is a more important struggle for survival in the working class. The lead of Marxists and

Yours Sincerely
Ruth Taylor
(Medical Student)

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Tell us! Write to The Battler, Box 7, Richmond, Vic. 3121.

Fraternally
S.M.

Dear Battlers,

Bob Hawke is one of the most talented union leaders in the country. It's not his lack of ideas, but his lack of courage to stand up for his country everybody, and his lack of courage to stand up for his country everybody.

Why do you devote so much space to Bob Hawke? He is a very good leader, but he is not a union leader. He is a politician. He is a politician. He is a politician.

JOBS

COLES Wollongong
WOOLIES Warrarong

WHO SAYS we can't do the fight against unemployment?

At Woolworths, the AWU members demanded an extra 10c per hour for the next day, but the management backed down. Both sides agreed to a 10c per hour increase. But the agreed that previous profit was too much and Coles carried out offering three extra places.

The Coles workers are meeting again on 11 October to check that this has been implemented. Both of these struggles are great breakthroughs in a region where unemployment is over 8%.

MAIL EXCHANGE Redfern

A PROMISE from Australia Post wasn't worth an eighteen cent stamp. Who says so? The workers at Redfern Mail Exchange.

They were promised an extra 221 staff at the Exchange but the management went back on its word. The workers who leave. Typical, perhaps. But what will you hear the next time?

Australia Post doesn't make its workers feel that in writing, they don't put it in because they reckon they don't have to honour it.

It's an interesting concept which could have all sorts of fascinating implications. Presumably they've got to get a long enough to tell the truth in court, just as that involves a long time.

Anyway, the Redfern workers decided to enter into the spirit of things with a new higher million times of mail piled up in a few days as the workers started to go home.

But, the sacred right of the workers to demand a 10c per hour increase in staff levels and carry out Fraser's promise to the workers. They're trooping in arbitration to find a shoulder to cry on.

There they found the coming area of Commissioner Griffin, whose qualification for

UNION BUCKLISTED

TIBOR PFEZENCZY worked for 3 years at Clydemasters in Baywater, helping to make Melbourne's silver trains. He was shop steward in the railway section - till the company laid off the section several weeks ago. Now thanks to the company's vicinities, he can't get another job.

Tibor holds a Hungarian Trades Certificate and a first class machinist at Clydemasters, so when he went to the Commonwealth Employment Service looking for another job, he applied for an Australian badge since they work faster.

The CES told him, "Accorded to Mr. Harris at Clydemaster your work there was not Australian work." Yet he had been doing precision work with one-thousandth clearance, and Clydemasters very soon reference admitted he was a first class machinist in charge of a section!

Now company won't give Tibor work as a laborer because he is a tradesman and it would be unfair to other laborers. And they would give him work as a tradesman because Harris is preventing him getting the Trades Certificate.

According to AMTU (Australian Machinists' Union) Frank Cherry, Harris has done this sort of thing before. Tibor suspects that Harris is also letting other workers to blackball him, because he stood up against the management on several occasions.

LAVOFF

For example, six months ago he was called into the office and told the company wanted to lay off of workers in his section because "Carrier Lewis is selling cheaper since they work faster."

Tibor had worked at Carrier Lewis and knew this was not his. He disagreed and Harris told him, "If you do not agree you might have to go to."

When Tibor and the other 24 men in his section were laid off, the rest of the factory paid a 3 week campaign and won them better average pay. But now Harris and Clydemaster are out for revenge.



South Africa's blacks say again We shall be free.

The revolution in South Africa has begun. Not only apartheid, but the whole of South African capitalism trembles as the black workers of Soweto fight for their freedom.

Despite Vorster's assurances, the white minority ruling class is in a panic. The new police state in the world has declared that "there are not enough police" and is urging white South Africans to protect themselves.

The result? All stocks of small arms in South Africa have been sold, and wherever blacks take to the streets, white civilians are there with the cops to take pot shots at them. White South African immigrants are flooding into Britain.

Champion

And it's not just the South African ruling class that's making its move. The champion of the western world ruling class, Superintendant Henry Kissinger, has been rushed to the scene. There's all very very worried about what is happening in South Africa.

And they're right to worry. Not even after the Sharpeville massacre of 1967 was the outside world as great as it is now. Since Sharpeville, the neighborhood countries of Angola, Mozambique and Guinea-Bissau have won their independence. Kissinger tried desperately to stop this, knowing the effect it would

have on South African blacks. No one else shared his alarm at that stage. After all, Angola, Mozambique and Guinea-Bissau have predominantly agrarian economies, with very small urban black working class working classes. The political movements, which led the fight for independence were mainly are "temporary" residents in the cities, even though they may work there all their lives. They can be transported to rural areas at the drop of a hat. This is different. It is one of the well-intended to stop any industrial countries in the world, and it has a very large working class. What's more, apartheid has woven its own

But South Africa is at the drop of a hat. This is different. It is one of the well-intended to stop any industrial countries in the world, and it has a very large working class. What's more, apartheid has woven its own

Townships

But it hasn't worked very well. In order to keep the cities for the whites, huge black townships like Soweto have been created. By 1967, 75% of the



workforce was black. And recent events have shown that the blacks can organize extremely well in places like Soweto.

So by poor peasants or isolated guerrillas operating from the hills, the most exploited working class has exploded into action. It is a that they are expected to take the working class that has to sustain the fruits of the effects of the which is denied not only and unemployment are cutting fundamental rights, but also into their starvation standard of political trade union rights. living. They are expected to pay slaves, and slaves who have no been prepared to starve. And the only way forward for them there is a new, consciousness

is open revolution. That's what he is happening now. But why now? why not then, twenty years ago? The system was no less oppressive then. Why didn't the sharpshooters set off such a chain of events?

Black workers have found themselves in a situation where they have over a million inhabitants) workers win in and workers in Alexandria and Thembisa were arrested, but it is clear that white projectors are Black South Africans are starve so that white projectors are slaves, and slaves who have no been prepared to starve. And the only way forward for them there is a new, consciousness

- 88% of homes in Soweto have no electricity
- 97% of homes have no hot water
- 54% of Soweto's 1 1/2 million inhabitants are unemployed



...from this...

...and this...

The Real Story

WHICH WAS THE REAL MAO?

Was he the man portrayed in the 1950's as the running, power-hungry dictator who plotted for decades to seize power, then ruthlessly killed hundreds of thousands of people to keep it? Or was he the man we are told about today—the humane, statesmanlike leader with a vision of simplicity, social justice, mass democracy and equality in China?

The answer is—neither.

Mao did not reshape China single-handed. He did not set as a superhuman genius. He represented a political machine—the Chinese Communist Party. Mao organized a new social system and a new ruling class in China through the Communist Party.

“REPRINTED FROM WORKERS’ POWER”

Mao developed much of the ideology and military tactics that brought the Chinese Communist Party to power. For another 25 years, he was the symbol and central figure who held the machine together.

Mao was first, last and always a man of the Party apparatus.

In the early 1900's Mao, like a whole generation of Chinese youth, rebelled against the poverty and cultural decay that western imperialism brought to China.

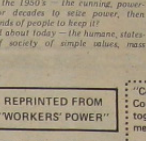
China was a dying feudal society under the control of the British military and British American economic interests. It was choked in corruption and misery.

The country was stuffed with opium drugs for the profits of western dog-eaters. Starving peasants wandered to the cities where they were shot for the crime of begging.

Chinese workers and young people rose in revolt. The Chinese Communist Party was organized in 1920. Mao was one of its founders.

In a few years the Party was a strong organization involved in massive workers' struggles. At the same time, Mao organized his own army under the Communist Party.

In 1928, revolution broke out in China. The young Communist Party and the Kuomintang were allies, calling for a "bloc of classes" to drive out imperialism and create a "national democracy."



The Chinese Communist Party were ordered to stop agitating for workers' power, to keep guns out of the hands of workers, and to join and follow the discipline of the Kuomintang. This policy was forced on the Chinese Communist Party by Stalin, the leader of Russia, who wanted to create an alliance between Russia and Chiang Kai-shek.

In 1927, the gangs of Chiang Kai-shek's army of "liberation" but once Chiang Kai-shek controlled the city, he turned on his Communist allies and the workers. By the thousands they were shot, mutilated, tortured and burned alive in farms.

Chiang Kai-shek ruled China by terror for the next 20 years.

“INSURRECTION”

After the wave of revolution had been crushed, the Chinese Communist Party were ordered, again by Stalin, to create isolated "insurrections." These were easily smashed by Chiang's troops.

The next time the Shanghai workers rose, it was Mao who sent in the Army to quell the factories and put them down. That was during the "Cultural Revolution" of 1967.

The government sometimes mobilizes mass ideological campaigns in the schools, the countryside, and the army. But it represses and represses if workers mobilize in the factories and urban production.

To keep the urban workers from growing rapidly, the government periodically sends large numbers of young people out of the cities into the poorest sections of the country.

China today even uses the system called "contract labor" where labor shortages are filled by bringing in peasants who are allowed to work for only a specified time and then must return to the city. This is the same type of system used by South Africa to recruit workers for its gold mines.

A new Mao will not create a new Mao in the same way as Mao did. The purpose of workers' power is to prevent workers from gathering together to create their own independent organizations and means of struggle.

Common interest will keep us on a parallel course. Common interest had brought China and America together and the relationship would continue. But the methods and details are bound to be mysterious.

Henry Kissinger.

Chinese factories and unions are controlled by managers and "cadres" who represent the Communist Party ideology. These cadres should "love" the masses—but that doesn't mean that the masses control the factory bureaucracy.

The cadres are carefully selected into at least 30 grades. They range from those whose incomes are close to workers and peasants, up to the top bureaucrats who live in mansions of parks in Peking behind huge walls and great American Presidents at lavish state banquets.

BUREAUCRACY

That top bureaucracy, the top section of the Communist Party, has made a record of power 25 years, is the ruling class in China today.

This is the system which Mao struggled to keep together for the last 25 years of his life. Despite material progress, this system is not a viable one.

1958, 1959, 1966, 1971 and again today, the system has threatened to go into economic or political crisis.

Every time national output expands, new sections of lower bureaucrats are given the right to share some of the luxuries enjoyed by the top ones. The result is "mass party" organized by the top bureaucrats against the lower ones.

At the same time, growth of industry produces a large and more confident working class. Workers' better lives cannot be permanently answered by "mass party" organized by the top bureaucrats against the lower ones.

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International Socialists ... and Lenin's Bolsheviks



Talking about Socialism...

with Tom O'Lincoln

THE RUSSIAN WORKERS

seized state power in 1917. Today their revolution has long since been destroyed by the growth of bureaucracy and Stalin's terror. Yet there are still a lot of people in the world who hate the Bolsheviks.

The capitalists hate them because theirs was the first example of workers' power. They are joined in their hatred by bourgeois historians, who fear the power of the working class just as much.

Specialist propaganda agents portray Lenin's Bolsheviks as a line of conspiratorial minority, a group of middle class intellectuals who used the Party to attain their own ends.

Ironically, the Stalinists themselves present a similar view. They portray the Bolsheviks as an elite which dominated the workers because this allows them to parade their own elitism as the policy of Lenin and Stalin.

Now there is a book that demolishes all the myths. It is Volume II of Tony Cliff's work on Lenin, entitled, "All power to the Soviets".

It is bursting with information and it gives a first-hand account of how the party of professional revolutionaries was forced to join in order to save the Party in 1921. It is

1917 allowed for open political activity. The Bolshevik Party was quickly transformed.

The great mass of the most militant workers organised in 1000 working class parties of two million, 200,000 became Bolsheviks by August 1917. Communist, Petrograd membership grew from 2000 in 1916 to 100,000 in Moscow, it grew from 600 to 15,000.

As Cliff points out with hard evidence, the party at the time of these meetings were where the middle class intellectuals were not. The party leadership, most members comprised bitterly of being left to their own devices.

Delegates from outside Petrograd complained of neglect by the centre. They said that the paper, Pravda, was only a Petrograd paper. Branches everywhere complained they had no writers, no lecturers, no intellectuals.

Organization was sometimes appalling. In September the secretariat complained that only 31% of the local committees had sent their dues.

On October 10, the Central Committee failed to set up a Political Bureau to guide the country's government. A week later it refused the creation of a Military Revolutionary Centre.

Neither of these measures worked. The comrades fought all about it.

CONFUSION



Blessed are the Peacemakers...

This confusion was understandable, given the rapid growth of the party. At times it was so serious, however, that we wonder how the Bolsheviks ever organised a revolution, the power of the working class. In hundreds of countries, factory committees had been established in many of the major cities. They had organised and run the factories themselves. Meanwhile workers' councils began to set up for political power. And there were many other political parties.

For all the weakness of organization, the party was able to win through these different struggles. It could do this because it was the rallying point for many tens of thousands of militant rank and file workers. It allowed them to march together with the communist and Social Africa leadership for their class.

It was the only one to see the rank and file made the revolution. In the Melbourne area, the Melbourne group led the strike. In Australia, it was the Tony Mountain, Victor Thompson, Evonne Gooding, Louise Ratz, and the Melbourne group that led the strike. In South Africa, it was the same group that led the strike to overcome the counter-revolutionary leadership.

The party was essential. And of course, at the crisis point, it showed brilliant organisation, seizing power with hardly a shot fired. But it was the exact opposite of a conspiratorial group. It depended entirely on the drive and determination of the workers themselves.

And the outside world has a bloody long way to go!

by John Sullivan

Sullivan's corner in Rhodesia

SATURDAY'S PAPERS glow with Kuusener's triumph in Africa. What a bloody farce! After centuries of white supremacist carnage, the victims are promised they can vote for their Rhodesian oppressors and win trophies for their South African ones.

Will Kuusener get another Nobel Prize? Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will try and get Zimbabwe before Russia does. Blessed are the just, for they will get to compete in the Olympic Games.

But who believes they can hold back the storm with empty promises. As Kuusener says, 'I wish I didn't. Vorster and his friends certainly don't.'

AMERICA would be even more stupid in Africa and other places. The US probably figures that if the Zimbabwians fail for Kuusener, etc., that is really nice. Rhodesia remains a capitalist outpost of the very best sort.

But even if they don't fail for it, and they probably won't, it is record as speaking out against racial oppression, which will boost its credibility and help maintain valuable links.

The Russians are white-washing Kuusener's efforts by

What's on

MELBOURNE 7:30-8:00 PM
MELBOURNE MORNING NEWS
MELBOURNE 8:00-8:30 PM
NATIONAL STUDENT STRIKE
MELBOURNE 8:30-9:00 PM
MELBOURNE 9:00-9:30 PM
MELBOURNE 9:30-10:00 PM
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MELBOURNE 5:30-6:00 AM
MELBOURNE 6:00-6:30 AM
MELBOURNE 6:30-7:00 AM

I.S. BOOKS

THE FIGHT FOR WORKERS' POWER
20c (plus 20c postage)

Why do we need a workers' revolution in Australia? How can we fight for it? What are the problems for building a socialist party?

The fight for Workers' Power explains where the IS stands.

INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

THE MEANING OF MARXISM
75c (plus 30c postage)

Monthly journal of the British IS 60c (plus 30c postage). Articles on the Soviet uprisings, the Portuguese elections, Lebanon.

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AU \$1.00, Sydney 5-11, Rogan St, Black Place, Melbourne 3000. Write for our booklist!

NATIONAL COMMITTEE REPORT

The collapse of the Trotsky strike was an example of this. We now expect a period of 'bored and butler' struggles, with wages becoming the key issue in 1977. Youth unemployment is widespread and The Battler will take this issue up.

The organisational reports showed a far mix of success and disappointment. The group's main problem at the moment is internal communication and the National Executive is to try and improve the situation so that members are well informed on what the group is doing.

We are still in a financially precarious position, though with the prospect of a reasonably productive year, this has stabilised. However, this has meant a drop

LEEDS RIGHT TO WORK TYNESIDE RIGHT TO WORK

BRITAIN - MARCHERS FOR THE RIGHT TO WORK

Unemployment in Britain is over 1.5 million and rising, but the Trade Union leaders are continuing their policy of co-operating with the Government as it attacks new, boosts profits and destroys social welfare.

The Right to Work March of 370 unemployed British workers left London on September 4, to lobby the annual Trade Union Congress.

The International Socialists played a major part in building the Right to Work March. Party members have since joined IS.

Phil Iton reports from Brighton: "They took 40 days to march the 80 miles to Brighton. After a march through the city, a picket was held at the TIC. The marchers began a constant and very enthusiastic chanting of slogans - "Stop the Cuts, Smash the Right to Work, Fight for the Right to Work." "When do we want it? Now." "Black and Red in Union and Fight for the Right to Work."

On Wednesday, the marchers were met by another 300 who had come down from London on a special train. It was a spectacular sight as the two columns met and faced outside Brighton.

Brighton was completely covered as they stamped their way through the narrow winding streets to the TIC's political centre. That afternoon, 1500 people picked a loud hell for a Right to Work rally.

FREEDOM OF THE PRESS?

Building of freedom of the press? The boss at Monsanto in Melbourne haven't.

In the last few months we have been seeing The Battler inside the car park and workers have distributed Battler leaflets inside the boss didn't like this very much. The Battler went out there a well-trained security guard gave us thirty seconds to leave.

The excuse was that we had not asked for management permission. (The kid next to us was selling the Herald - he had asked for management permission here.)

So we sold The Battler outside the car park. We will send 20 papers - less than last time, but it will be 20 more than that the boss wanted us to sell!

The award covering workers at Monsanto's comes up for negotiations at the end of the month. The bosses wouldn't want their workers reading 'subversive' material, would they?

CAR INDUSTRY FORUM

Thirty parties attended a successful Car Industry Forum held by the IS in Melbourne last month.

Three militants from the car industry spoke on safety, conditions and organising problems where they work.

throwing the capitalist system into a patchwork. It is up to us to gradually bring it up to it.

SMASHING THE CAPITALIST STATE

The state - parliament, courts, the law police and army - is a weapon of capitalism. It can be used to smash the interests of workers by bureaucratic ruling class.

REVOLUTION, NOT REFORMISM

We believe in over-

WORKERS' POWER

Workers control over the whole of society, based on workers control of the factories and workplaces. Only the industrial working class has the power to create a society free of exploitation, oppression and want. It is only China are not socialist because they are based on the exploitation of workers by a bureaucratic ruling class.

REVOLUTION, NOT REFORMISM

We believe in over-

cannot survive in one country. It must build revolutions in other countries or it will be defeated like the Russian revolution of 1917. We are building a world movement, opposed to nationalism and national divisions.

FULL EQUALITY AND LIBERATION

For women, blacks, migrants and all oppressed groups. Racism, sexism and discrimination against migrant people are all pillars of capitalist system. We are opposed to the social persecution of homosexuals.

REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

To smash the capitalist state, we need a revolutionary party organisation in the workplaces. Without a revolutionary struggle of workers rank and file organisation is not possible.

RANK AND FILE ORGANISATION

Workers need their own rank and file organisations to fight to

INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

what we stand for

The International Socialists are a revolutionary socialist organisation, open to all who accept our basic principles and are willing to work to achieve them.

INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISM No. 90

Monthly journal of the British IS 60c (plus 30c postage). Articles on the Soviet uprisings, the Portuguese elections, Lebanon.

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"The SUN" prints mush about how inhumanly people are treated

This is how The SUN treated one of its own employees

Fairfax printers fight their jobs

SYDNEY NEWSPAPERS

have long been an industrial battle ground. But now the battles are taking on a special urgency.

"We're fighting for our lives" says PKU delegate Tony Aguado. "The company is trying to grind us down."

The issue is automation. New machinery expected to come in two years from now is already available. The company is using its new equipment to do a lot of extra work. And unlike New Ltd., Fairfax refuses to consider a guarantee of continued employment.

One year, the PKU struck for 23 days, and found to their horror that the papers kept coming out and getting better and better. In sheer self-defense, they have joined with other unions at Fairfax in a combined union committee. "Without this unity," says Tony Aguado, "the thing is lost before we even start."

The company remains hard-nosed. In mid-September, the union struck for a day over the redundancy issue. Justice Carl of

Let's try to claim

AT NEWS LTD., printers have been seeking a new agreement since March.

Three weeks ago, a full Chamber meeting voted to modify the union's claim, abandoning demands for a work's complete freeze for 100 days for all conditions and no redundancies during the life of the agreement.

The company was adamant, and a second meeting on September 16 voted to have overtime and shift shifts. The union "withdrew" demands — which means more to raise. The bans were strikingly effective.

Justice Carl asked them to return to work for a week on their demands for a pay raise as a violation of wage indexation guidelines.

How did Freddie get away with this? By the fact that printers reluctantly voted to go back to work, but not to restore conditions. They served notice that they will press for the full settlement.

Meanwhile, another core leaders. The father of the Chamber, under constant management harassment. Aguado may be in a well.

PAGE 10 THE BATTLE 29 SEPTEMBER

by a special correspondent

THE HERALD AND WEEKLY Times told the medical centre that she was to finish up in two weeks, because of reorganisation of the medical centre. The sister had only two weeks before she was due to retire.

She was told to finish up without being paid up the ten weeks pay she would have earned if allowed to complete her service to retirement.

On Monday night, September 20, the Sun composite room stopped, demanding that the management give a letter to the Chamber guaranteeing that the sister would be paid her full entitlement.

In the meantime, the union, machine room professional, stopped the support of the Sun. The union involved three unions: the VPO, and Process Engineers.

Finally a concrete decision was made at a meeting on the 21st. All the union representatives were taking place, and the floor would not be used for a satisfactory solution.

The final letter produced management did guarantee the question would be raised with the sister's satisfaction.

Meanwhile, the bank stop work was resumed on Tuesday morning and by 10.30 of the Sun was endorsed, the Herald was stopped, and by further stoppage it was not given publication.

Representatives of the Herald and Sun Chapel management and agreement was most satisfactory to the union.

Very significant points in the dispute were:

1. The sister's pay through the Chamber representative body and night, acted in concert with PKU, VPO and Process Engineers.
2. The stop-work meeting of the Herald and Sun Chapel stand gave the management time to go.
3. There is a new feeling of solidarity between the unions.

Here are some comments from the floor during discussion.

An old hand: "None was a day's work. What I think you had shown the woman human dignity, instead of being treated as just a number (turn 60)." Comment to the editor of the Sun: "You can march down the road inhumanly people are treated and yet treat your own employees in a similar way."

The Herald management requested a section rep to allow all the weekly Times classified ads to be set on tape so they could "test the machine out."

Even though the PKU leadership agreed to this, the subsequent meeting of the Herald and Chapel took the stand that "no equipment should be tested unless it is first negotiated with the Sun and the Union."

This is a strong start to defend the jobs of those working in the newspaper industry at a time of technological change.

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At McDonalds

THEY LOST IT ALL

THE CAMPAIGN to oust McDonald's Hamburgers is still bogged down. Negotiations have produced no results, and the AWU's public meeting to convince its young employees of McDonald's to join was hardly an unqualified success.

The AWU began 18 months ago demanding a membership agreement with the company. When the support of the Liquor Trades and the MWU. When the support of the Liquor Trades and the MWU. When the support of the Liquor Trades and the MWU.

The company has made a clerical error, a young man named Patrick Fair, who has become an overnight TV celebrity because of his loud calls for "freedom of choice".

Meanwhile, union members are harassed. I have spoken to one union delegate, a young eye worker who said he'd been threatened with the sack. Last Friday he found out I was a union delegate.

The company is in breach of a clause requiring that 50% of the staff be adult.

McDonald's has launched a sophisticated campaign against the union. The "team spirit" they build up with their once happy family methods of argument, they have convinced a lot of kids that the union is a menace, not to let them off.

I talked to half a dozen completely sincere teenagers who believe they have seen a bright future in the fast-food union. Yet as far as I could determine, no such document exists.

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SYDNEY AMWU STEWARDS MEET

BY JANEY STONE
AMWU SHOP STEWARD, STC ALEXANDRIA

THE AMWU held the second Sydney shop stewards' meeting of 1976 in early September. It was advertised as being open to all members, and two meetings were held in one in the city and one in Granville, western suburb.

By the proposal from the leadership had nothing to do with the general problems. Apart from points phoned, and a room of resolutions from the meeting with the effect that we are in a reactionary period. The government is making a concerted attack on us workers and their unions, through unemployment, strikes, indexation, budget cuts and the

While this a good idea, the result was that union members, from McDonald's through to the NSW Teachers' Union, from the floor were dominated by opponents of the union, and there were loud cheers for Patrick Fair.

Union officials say that after the meeting they got a lot of calls from interested young overmen.

That is what the AWU must overcome.

Challenged on why there is no award campaign this year, Scott referred to the equipment and living conditions of their members. Scott concluded that the industry is not a success of supporters of the leadership.

Nevertheless, the motion got for support. Delegates came virtually nothing to report back. The membership on the shop floor could be forgiven for thinking that the central union leadership no longer exists.

ROCK musicians in Sydney look like winning some compensation for the ban on Harpoon Harry's. The recently lost their equipment when the night club burnt down.

The band had been told by the manager Phil Cive on the night. Most of the equipment worth \$8,000 was insured when it was burnt down. The directors offered no compensation, and said that if the rockers were to sue they would be liable for the cost of the suit. Cive to be about what he had told them.

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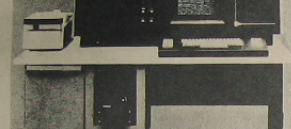
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Looks slick, doesn't it? Computerized typesetting machinery like this treated to dictate printer jobs. That's why printing unionists want a big say in how, when and where it is introduced

Technology vs jobs: Umpteenth Round

Recently, the Herald & Weekly Times acquired a Vidi computer. This machine takes the type which is set by TTS operators and sorts the classified advertisements in order, thus doing the work of large numbers of compositors.

The Herald management requested a section rep to allow all the weekly Times classified ads to be set on tape so they could "test the machine out."

Even though the PKU leadership agreed to this, the subsequent meeting of the Herald and Chapel took the stand that "no equipment should be tested unless it is first negotiated with the Sun and the Union."

This is a strong start to defend the jobs of those working in the newspaper industry at a time of technological change.

Herald syndics seek imminent collapse of indexation

WHEN THE Melbourne Herald bosses voluntarily pay their printers to turn up at a stop-work meeting, you have to smile a rat.

Which is where PKU secretary Freddie Wilson comes in. Together with the rest of the PKU leadership, he and I decided the 1976 claim served on the Melbourne newspaper companies.

How did Freddie get away with this? By the fact that printers reluctantly voted to go back to work, but not to restore conditions. They served notice that they will press for the full settlement.

Meanwhile, another core leaders. The father of the Chamber, under constant management harassment. Aguado may be in a well.

Fitzroy CC sacks

THE LABOUR Party claims to be against Fraser's cuts. But the Council in Melbourne — a Labour Party branch — has sacked a member who was a vocal opponent of the cuts.

Freddie Wilson is a vocal opponent of the cuts. He was sacked by the Council in Melbourne — a Labour Party branch — because he was a vocal opponent of the cuts.

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MUSOS FIGHT FOR COMPENSATION

ROCK musicians in Sydney look like winning some compensation for the ban on Harpoon Harry's. The recently lost their equipment when the night club burnt down.

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Mudnoon's crack-down cracks up

by SIMON WALLACE in Auckland and TONY SULLIVAN

New Zealand workers are fighting an all-out battle against the wage freeze policies of Prime Minister "Tiger" Muldoon.

The nationally moderate Labour Party Government has decided that workers must give 14 days for essential services. Political strikes, such as those over the PBR, are banned.

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The Battler

Coal claims NO WINNERS

The Coal Industry Tribunal has finally come down with its decision in the dispute over the coal bosses and the United Mine Workers.

The Tribunal made major changes to the award, but basically rejected both the union and employer claims. There are two sides to the story.

The back and forth between the Tribunal and the employers has been a long one. The Tribunal has been very busy.

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PRINTERS PICKET FOR JOBS

THE FAIRFAX company is out to smash the unions.

It is prepared to provoke strikes to do so. It is difficult to draw any other conclusion from the history of the present strikes against its Sydney papers.

The printers are demanding a 35 hour week, \$20 rise, payment of Medibank fees, and job security in the face of automation.

The unions concluded that this was probably so a serious threat since it would mean firing or redeploying all the unions in the Combined Unions Committee.

But the company went again to the good Justice, who obliged with an order to stop the strike.

Angry printers told him where to stick it. The Combined Unions Committee recommended a strike for the evening, but the membership voted to strike until the next day, when a wage meeting was held in Wentworth Park.

At that meeting a company representative stated that if the unions went back to work they would be expected to handle staff during the strike.

Early in 1975 the Industrial Commission had said that it was well established in the industry that printers did not have such a right.

Sydney's other press boss Rupert Murdoch, is being pretty provocative himself. After printers at News Ltd. had held a 5 day strike, he demanded that they included the 35 hour week, they met back to work and asked to go back to work and asked to go back to work and asked to go back to work.

Murdoch moved to exploit his advantage by going to the Father of the Chapel, which would hammer his union work. The workers immediately held another 24 hour strike in protest.

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REPCO STRIKE FEELS

FURIOUS workers staged a near-riot after the collapse of the 3 week strike by 1000 AMWU members at Repco PBR East Bentleigh, Melbourne.

The worker struck the microphone stand at the strike meeting, but it, then tried to evade the rest of the union's sound equipment away from AMWU officials. He attempted to pick up a three foot wide cable reel and hurt it at AMWU organizer Max Lorkin and was only stopped by other strikers.

Another worker shook his fist in Lorkin's face and screamed, "Take your fucking union out of here. From tomorrow, no union in this place".

For five minutes the threats and abuse continued in the angry aftermath to a strike meeting that turned into a debate.

The workers were part of a 300 strong minority at the meeting who had voted to keep striking. When the vote was lost, they turned on Lorkin in a rage at having lost the strike. "Three weeks for nothing," one of them yelled.

The wild anti-union reaction was an added bonus for the Repco bosses. They had already crushed a three week strike at the Cooldrive plant, Broadmeadows and the defeat at PBR virtually guarantees no more strikes at other Repco plants.

Repco stalled off the PBR strikers with contemptuous offers on the log of demands. The only thing they would grant were claims that didn't cost anything like leave without pay after 3 years for migrants who want to visit their families.

Repco then threatened to renege 200 of the strikers' "due to loss of interest caused by the strike." They handed out a lying brochure in four languages claiming that the shop stewards wanted a return to work.

But the threat and "tough it out" attitude of the company were not the only reason for the defeat. Organizer Max Lorkin must take some of the blame as well.

The retrenchment threat was a dirty bluff and Lorkin sat on the fence, they said at the start of the meeting. A move to return to work immediately was defeated and Lorkin and the shop stewards went off to see what the company's latest offer was.

An hour later they returned empty-handed and then the debate started. Lorkin reported on the company's attitude—and then stopped. No recommendation on whether to continue the strike, no proposals for increasing the pressure, no nothing.

The chief shop steward asked for motions. Still no word from Lorkin—the man in the best position to know what to do next. Finally, after half a minute, one worker broke the silence and moved a return to work "and to continue the fight on the job".

Was it a realistic proposal? Was it a polite way of saying "give up"? Were there any other alternatives? Lorkin—the man whose job it was to lead the strike—was saying:

The motion was put without debate and amidst an atmosphere of anti-climax and demoralization carried. The meeting was closed without any discussion of how the struggle might be continued.

Then things exploded and there it history.

The motion was put without debate and amidst an atmosphere of anti-climax and demoralization carried. The meeting was closed without any discussion of how the struggle might be continued.

It looks now like we are not going to get any of the real claims on our log—a \$10 rise, a 35 hour week and payment of the Medibank levy.

The reason is revealed in confidential information recently acquired by a source inside the Repco management. Repco decided to cut their output across the board this year to avoid a strike!

This means that 3 week strikes in each plant are doomed to failure. The only way to beat them is for one plant to go out on a long time and have the others support them financially.

The first setback in the campaign came after a point Repco Shop-Stewards Committee submitted the log to the St. Kilda Head Office. Changing their tune from last year, when a shop-stewards committee had said he couldn't grant any other demands.

Unfortunately the Shopstewards Committee gave way to these tactics which divided the different plants. Now we have two strikes defeated and my own plant has just voted to give up most of the log in view of this.

It is therefore most crucial that the Joint Shopstewards Committee works out which Repco plant has the best chance of breaking through the company's stonewall and pushing the log through to other plants until they break down and win.

While the economy is in recession, big companies like Repco who have a sympathetic ear in Canberra can have profits rising of about 30% two years running.

With the Metal Trades Claim being shuffled around the courts for the second year running and indensation being granted, we can't give up on squeezing a few dollars out of the Repco Board of Directors.

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PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

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NOVEMBER 11, 1975



Best Mergers

REMEMBRANCE Day 1976. And the working class of Australia has something to remember—the murder of Medibank.

Exactly one year ago the Whitlam Government was illegally overthrown by the Governor General and Kerr's Crot look over.

Exactly one year ago this day marks the beginning of military and police spending.

November 11 marks the day that Parliament, the Monarchy and the bosses laid bare the real political face of life. Democracy is a sham, elections mean nothing, the only governments permitted are business governments.

November 11, 1975. Kerr's ensnare reads the production of the Whitlam Labor Government.

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Last year, Gough Whitlam stood on the steps of Parliament House and said:

"We'll may we say 'God Save the Queen', for nothing will save the Governor-General."

He told us to "maintain our rage". It hasn't been difficult.

And while he couldn't find the money to save workers' jobs at the shipyards he could find the money for super phosphate subsidies to his own and other greedy properties.

While telling us that life wasn't meant to be easy, the Millionaire Cramer proceeded to cut spending on Aboriginals, welfare, education social security and housing.

But he was not about to cut the defence budget. Instead he created a defence policy scare campaign about Russian ships in the Indian Ocean then boosted military spending by \$12,000 million.

Through the almost immediate attack on full wage indexation (which the House of Lords, the new cabinet and the AMWU, and into the mini-budget, Fraser had on his mind.)

1976 is not a year we will forget each. And we will never forget the coup that started it. Never.

Get yours on time!

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Philip Morris Picket p6

Derrimut Saleyards? p9

THE ST OF THE MAOISTS

MAO IS NOT yet cold in his grave and already the Maoists in China's leadership have been liquidated.

Less than five weeks after the death of Mao the new Communist Party Chairman, Premier Teng Huaingang, is a committed Maoist for a complete reversal of the Cultural Revolution.

The four Mao's widow, Chang Ching, Wang Hong-wen, Chang Chuan-shan and Yu Wen-yun had all played prominent roles in the Cultural Revolution.

And Liu Pao who was killed

in 1966, was killed in 1971. The Maoists pushed a policy of raising the Chinese's self-reliance and hoped to develop industry by exploitation of the Chinese workers and peasants.

This was done with "revolutionary campaigns" and nationalistic hysteria to whip up enthusiasm so that workers and peasants will work for longer hours and less pay.

The Maoists brought a level of equality to China but it was equality through suffering. Everyone had less and everyone worked harder.

The Cultural Revolution achieved its revolutionary parity

at the expense of achieving improved living standards and working conditions.

Their opponents described in the Australian Press as moderate, which in this case means pro-Western stand for development with the help of the West, especially the help of what China used to call US imperialism.

They want to import US technology in order to industrialise even at the expense of the strings that the US will put on its aid.

They were predominantly students but had some workers. Many who became workers during the late sixties during the Chinese leadership during the betrayals of China's neighbours, Lanka, Chile and Argentina, and Nixon's visit.

Not that the last of the Maoists, the last of the Cultural Revolution, have been removed from the leadership. It must surely be the Maoist supporters to remain in their position on the leadership and its policies.

So-called left or radical Maoist faction were supposed to be based on the students and the press, but it has been remarkably little evidence of

concessions. They will give the workers and peasants some concessions, such as wage rises, private plots of land for peasants and so forth in order to raise productivity.

Obviously the terms left and right used by commentators to describe the two factions are meaningless.

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Fraser Buries Timor in Canberra

EARLY IN OCTOBER Fraser went to Jakarta and agreed to the Indonesian take-over of Timor.

Then he came back to Australia and tried to say he hadn't.

That was not the story that Fraser's spokesman, Mr. Fraser's statement has very great importance for us implies that Australia has recognised the integration of East Timor into Indonesia.

By now people were becoming confused. What was Australian policy on Timor? Who was making it? About a week later leaders of the Melbourne Age were given the answer.

On Saturday October 23 the front story announced an appeal from the Australian Indonesian Business Co-operation Committee (AIBCC) to publicly recognise the takeover of East Timor.

The AIBCC is a group of businessmen from 153 Australian-owned companies. They include the ANZ Bank, the Bank of New South Wales and Blue Metal Industries. The President of AIBCC is B.N. Kelman, deputy manager of CSR, Australia's second biggest locally

owned company. This is what Australia's Indonesian policy has always been about, both under Whitlam and Fraser.

That is what Whitlam and Fraser companies like BHP, CSR and the Bank of NSW, who are involved in multinational

investment regard Indonesia as one of the primary sources of profit. And little matters like Timorese self-determination and the Indonesian Army massacre of up to 10% of the Timorese is not to be held in interference.

Both Whitlam and Fraser have always been prepared to do the bidding of CSR and the others. But they have tried to do it quietly and tell people that it is not happening. Now Suharto ends what Australian business friends was a more public gesture.

It was supposed to distract attention from Fraser's back down. What it proved was that both Fraser and Whitlam Ministers were liars who had sold out the people of East Timor. What proved that Whitlam is a bastard but doesn't prove that Fraser's.

In one sense Whitlam does come out as the bigger bastard. He approved Suharto's intrusion before it actually happened and when Australian official disapproval might have made some difference. He also went against the opinions of the overwhelming majority of the Labor Party and the trade union movement in Timor.

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ORDER IN BANGKOK

"Law and Order" comes to Thailand

ON October 6 a right wing coup ousted the conservative coalition government of Thailand.

The coup was organised by the military backed Administrative Reform Committee, which has ties with the neo-fascist National Organisation.

Nation, which is strongly pro religion, king and country, was responsible for the arrest that students had an ally of the Crown Prince.

This coup provided the violent attacks on students by farmers during the week of the coup.

The coup came as no surprise to most radical Thais. Since the overthrow of the military dictatorship of Thanom Kittakachorn and Prapha in September 1973 the military have been using their chance.

assassinated. The students and workers who were responsible for the overthrow of the dictators have been under increasingly violent attack from the extreme right over a dozen students, workers and farmers have been assassinated this year.

Despite the intimidation, left wing students have been organising workers in Bangkok and farmers in the north east to organise themselves against bad conditions, low wages, money lenders and high rents.

The leading labor movement held a general strike in January this year against rising rice prices but is interposed in the face of the application and ratification of the Thai wage class and their American and Japanese backers.

In 1975 five elections were held for the first time since 1952. No party gained a majority and the coalition formed by the centre parties collapsed.

A conservative coalition, with large members from the opposition of Thanom and Prapha, now looks possible. Use either side. The conservative

could not handle the problem of inflation and recession. Each government blamed 'communists' for this failure, but the application of the military in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia increased uneasiness among the Thai people.

The military and the police have always played a major role in Thai politics. The military dictatorship Thanom and Prapha by illustrating their support for the coup.

This was the first of the prosecutions which led to the coup. Despite government repression

and terrorism from the right, the left in Thailand had forced the government to back down on a number of occasions.

The National Student Council of Thailand pressured the government into keeping its promise to get rid of the American bases in Thailand. But the students and workers have not allowed themselves to be intimidated and declared the Constitution invalid.

They argued that a major confrontation would give the military the excuse they needed to seize power. They were right.

The first provocation was the return of Thanom Kittakachorn from exile in Singapore and government

failure to deport him. The students demonstrated and were attacked by a right wing member of the Red Guard: a group of strong thugs.

Wounded by police they murdered and mutilated students. The military stepped in with full support of the press, declared martial law, jailed students and workers, censured the press and declared the Constitution invalid.

Before 1973 Thai workers were forbidden to form unions, or to organise in any way against employers. In the last three years the workers, with the help of the students, organised unions, called strikes, and demonstrated politically against

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The Battler is edited by the Battler Editorial Committee, PO Box 7, Richmond, Victoria 3121. Media enquiries to: Mervyn New

government policies. They have begun to use their power they have and they have the expression of their own dictatorship to curb the power.



Fraser relating his Timor policy to the Indonesian Parliament

Still twining and turning the tail of Nixon, then announced that the Government had not changed its policy on Timor, but he refused to repeat what that policy was.

Translated, what this statement really meant is that Australia had two policies. One for Australian consumption and another for Indonesian ears.

As even the Liberal supporting media were beginning to accuse Fraser of being waffled on the issue he then tried pulling another rabbit out of the hat.

He leaked a cable to the press proving that the Whitlam Labor government had also supported

The Scandal even the Truth wouldn't print!

LAST year the daily newspapers and the weekly scandal sheets such as Truth and the Melbourne Observer, apart from columns inches speculating on the private life of a prominent Labor politician.

They managed to create massive feuds about Justin Moroni and various Ministers without exactly saying enough to be used for libel.

That of course was when they had a government in office which they wished to destroy. For the past few months

most journalists have been about a stage involving a couple of Federal Liberal ministers when they go in for sex and sexual scandal, for as many years as any surviving last year's Labor ministers.

But then the four companies that control most of Australia's mass media don't wish to destroy the current government.

However the story has finally started to emerge anyway. First Bert Harris (Labor) asked Pappas a question in the House which mentioned the personal behavior of a Labor minister and specifically named the Minister for Defence (Ivan McKinnon).

Fraser did not answer the question and the newspaper reported the next day how little respect he showed for the House.

However later the Sydney Star and the Nation revealed the bones. If you don't live in Sydney you don't read the Nation Review the first you would have heard of it would have been in Sydney's Sunday morning paper that the Sun and the Nation Review were being used by Defence Minister D.J. Killen to smear the Secretary of State Margaret Daulton.

The Battler usually does not include in stories about other people's private lives. In the normal run of things it usually reflects a cautious and respectful attitude that is social



"THIS IS A MINORITY standover group which should be at home minding their children." Who says so? Sixty of the month Barry Callaghan - mayor of Oakleigh (Victoria), commentarily absent when eighty women demonstrated at the council offices against the sacking of child-care coordinator Lindy Price. The money from the Australian Assistance Plan ran out, thanks to Fraser's

Rally organizer Sue Lawrence commented on Mayor Callaghan's hysterical responses. "They find it difficult to accept the idea of women organising themselves." They keep on asking "Who is behind this?"

throughly repugnant. However, there is one reason why the story does cause a stir: it is probably the same reason why the Liberals are trying so hard to get it altered.

Nation Review's Margo MacCallum summed up the situation. "No one objects to a little public exposure from politicians, but when you have a Social Security Minister leading the nation of the nuclear family page after page after page of the women's magazines, and defending a policy which says that men and women - particularly women - should lose their pension rights if they live in the same house and then strolling around the parliamentary rose garden hand in hand with one of her colleagues - well, it gets a bit much."

In other words the good reason for the necessity persecuting women on pensions for not obeying an arbitrary man's order which he himself does not obey.

It is the same as her husband's constant call for workers to make sacrifices that he and his business men have no intention of making.

That is what his Government is all about. One law for the rich and another for the poor.

The Battler usually does not include in stories about other people's private lives. In the normal run of things it usually reflects a cautious and respectful attitude that is social

The Poseidon Adventure
POSEIDON SOARS, \$275 G
There's got to be a mourning after
AIDC ASKED TO ACT
Poseidon receivership
Exchanges
I want to join the International Socialists
NAME ADDRESS PHONE NO TRADE UNION

Above the law

by
Dave
Nadel

VICTORIA moved within
of one step last week
toward becoming a
police state.

A state where the Minister for
Police asked for increased
police budgets.
A state where every equity
into police contracts, find the
cop increased.

A state where the State
Police "union" to subordinate the
Chief Commissioner of Police.

That's Queensland. In the
only difference is the South is
an ex-Vicarian Chief Secretary
to Dickie appeared by a Police
Minister.

Suicided

They did succeed in
efficiently destroying the Branch
Report into police corruption.
They did succeed in placing
themselves above the Law.
All it took was a threat to
write to him.

The horrible irony of it all is
that the police ought to be
working to the rule of the Law.
Rules controlling police
behavior are for the protection
of the public not the cop.

When the police don't work
things as the police tolerate
their own admission and with
the printers pulled fat from

government arrangements if
they drop at high speeds
in warehouses with their
wheels to aim evenly at their
cars were feared to be unaided

It also means that when
they are not working to rule
the "unions" "suspects"
without warning their rights
and without a second cop
present to corroborate.

That is why the police
appear in court with so many
"witness" (suspect) confessions
making and the Magistrate
believes them.

That is why there are so
many innocent men and women
in jail. That is what the Branch
report was all about. A solitary
misquoting attempt to make
the police "rule"

Cracked

Most enquiries instituted by
State governments are cracked,
look at the findings of one of
Victoria's more recent enquiries
into Labor Council of
Australia.

Old Jack Long used to say
this no government starts an
official enquiry unless it already
knows there's a rat in the hole
at the end of the enquiry.

The Branch enquiry was no
exception. It was inadequate
and probably cracked from the
beginning. After all it only found
55 cops in a force of 6,400 who
were "charged" with
misconduct.

If didn't even examine such
things as the police tolerance
of their own admission and with
the printers pulled fat from

But the cops are protective
that it wasn't cracked enough.
Each did target fifty five or
there are some men in Portside
who just might have been
Frened.

Like Peter Lawless who in
fact was the cop, what is a
situation. Queensland's
where even Commissioners
Whitford can't seem able to
control crooked cops, and Dick
Hamer is prepared to let it be
known.

One of the other police
demands, he agreed to a
government prosecution of any
witness alleged to have given
false information to the Branch
enquiry.

By Heron Walker, whose
allegations touched off the
enquiry in the first place, was
as well as packing his bags for
Perth.

The police have just ensured
there will be no more "Branch"
enquiries, since future police
victims will be afraid of facing
costly legal proceedings.

Collingburn

When Victorian policemen
Murphy and Stillman were
accused for every age of
murder, they were charged with
murder. The police brought
penalty charges against them
and probably cracked them
murder.

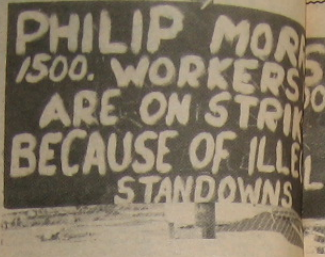
The recently retired Deputy
Commissioner of Police in
Queensland, Norman
was recently quoted as saying:

"I think it is correct that
Governments in some countries
don't want a particularly
performing police force,
because it suits them to have
their wishes carried out
without questions."

In other words, the
Queensland Government prefers
its flaccid, dumb, brutal and
inefficient. That is also
the way every other State
Government, Labor or Liberal,
likes its cops.

But in Victoria Dick Hamer
just takes it one step
further.

Dumb, brutal, bent and
safe from Enquiry.



It's the people for the thing

PHILIP Morris is not the
kind of place you'd expect
to find a picket line.

The company has built a
new spread-out factory in
Moorabbin (Vic) with fitted
windows and good centers.

But along with their trendy
factory go some very untrendy
old-fashioned ideas about their
employees.

The poor do that of chiefly
inferred legislation about who
is to add what is expected to
match where and when, but very
little of a weighty legislation
defending union organizers,
defending the rights of demor-
strators, defending politically
active workers from
victimization.

If the police are to do their
job, they must protect the
working class because the law
will keep us in our
place and the cops are hired to
make sure that's the way it
goes.

If the police were to go away
on work and strike, reconstructing
houses, the rich who have real
control over the economy
would create the great Law
and Order scandal over
victimization.

Any cop who has any
doubt as to who is protecting
property from the lower orders
will be sure to get the police force
pretty quickly.

It is the police, the
shags of the law, the
police Association is simply
a trade union for the
police. If we let them into the
work as well as the Mafia to join
as well.

decided it should be one of
all and struck. Metallurgy
and Electronics went out in
sympathy, but
continued to work.

The company has FEDA
that the windows are left
because the major union, the
Tobacco Workers, is not reg-
istered and that the workers are
not entitled to conditions laid
down by either State Industrial
Commissioners or the Arbitration
Commission.

Agreement
But they fail to mention
that they are breaking an
agreement made with staff
Tobacco Workers Union to not
strike, strikes in key sections of
the plant etc.

The Tobacco Workers
many women — are very
aggressive against the company
determined to get a real guarantee
against arbitrary sackings.
There is a 24 hour picket and
good attendance at mass
meetings.

The men and women
wearing the pickets have
managed to stop all movement
of stock and they are reporting
that the company is having to
run as its Sydney stock.

Stocks
The houses have a headstart.
There is a big Christmas rush
in cigarettes. The company is
selling at the current rate they
will fill their Xmas orders all
right. And when the strike
does end, the Xmas orders will
be the advantage over the losses.
And it takes a lot of courage to
take a lot of courage to
becomes a whole lot
important support workers
who actually resist being laid
off.

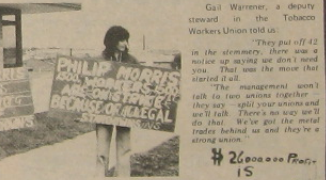


MAN, STEVE
AND PHIL
before a Philip Morris
We asked for intermediate
cover for all employees. There
are in America, 60% of
companies have a medical,
dental and optical scheme, and
we couldn't see why a company
the size of Philip Morris couldn't
do the same.

Profits
They talk about the hard
times, they've gone through
but their sales are up by 16%.
Their profits, shot up from 21
million to 22.6 million in six
months.

They refused to recognize
the union. They said they'd
only talk to recognized union
officials. So we started working
strictly according to the agree-
ments from early September.
This production figures
were up to a group that
standing down tobacco workers.
They went up to a group that
operate one of the machines and
said, "You can go home now,
some back in the morning" just
like that.

It came to a head when the
company refused to give us
no guarantees on stand-down.
We went in and fronted manage-
ment and I said, "You'll have
to give us a guarantee" and they



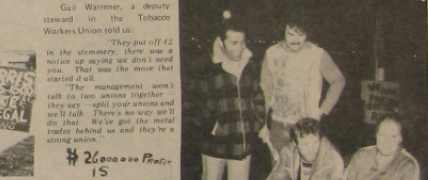
Gill Warner, a Deonity
steward in the Tobacco
Workers Union told us:
"They put off 42
in the morning, there was a
notice up saying we don't need
you. That was the move that
started it all."

The management seem
to be two unions together —
they say "split your unions and
we'll fight. There's no way we
can do that. We've got the metal
trades behind us and they're a
strong union."

"200,000 PERS
IS
A LOT OF EGGS
FROM US
REJECTS"

The company backed down
from this divide-and-rule tactic
after the strike started, but
Barbara, another of the
picketers, told us how the
company had tried to split the
workers in other ways. For
example, they had tried to get
the stand-downs on that one
shift lost more say than the
other. They had taken on new
workers while standing down
others.

"We're trying to divide
the shift against shift, department
against department. There's a
handing process and a Virginia
process, and they've put a new
shift lost more say than the
other. They had taken on new
workers while standing down
others."

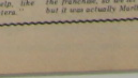


"We're fighting for our
budget from its current position
rights. It's the principle of
of talking about stand-down
things."
proceedures after the strikers go
back.

"I'm pretty mad. I get a
permanent job and expect to be
permanently. I don't expect
to get laid off."

"There's no way we can
go back under the conditions
they've offered. We just want
to abide by their agree-
ment. If they give a guarantee
not to stand people down,
a strike over Medbank of any
thing, but this is different."

Other comments included
"I've never been on strike
before. And I wasn't prepared
to stand people down, a strike
over Medbank of any thing, but this is different."



Organized crime relying on
a Postpaid Mail Melbourne

WHAT WE THINK

POLICE ARE NOT UNIONISTS!

WORK-TO-RULES man
meetings and threats of
strike action.

The Victorian Police
Association has been acting
authorily like a union lately.

They've even been attacked
in the Press, the way any other
union in whom they take action.

But if we support a real union,
we're making a dangerous
mistake.

There have been numerous
occasions when cops have been
happily the unionists in the past.

In 1923 in Melbourne, for
example the police had a
wildcat strike against Govern-
ment spoils upon whom they
threw their weight.

prepared to support industrial
action by striking Trade
Unionists? Could they have
been called upon to assist the
in at GMH a couple of months
ago?

Could we have approached
them in their fight for perma-
nent and better pay?

If the police were to join
the ranks of the organized work-
ing class would we see the first
organized attacks on business
crime and company law, and
an end to the petty harassment
of tenants, or working class
suburbs.

Rich

The answer is no, and not
because the individuals in the
police force are corrupt (though
many are).

It is because the police are
there to "up hold the law".
But look at the law. It is
a shocking mess that is
a statement of rights for the
rich.

It defends the rights of the
man who owns a factory, but
ignores the rights of the people
who depend on it, the people
who work on the law could
be used up on the first piece
of bread. That's why the law is
not to do about bread, but
about picketers and liable to be
against stand down, monetary

INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

What's On

MELBOURNE

MELBOURNE Sat 31 Oct
 10.00am - 11.00am: Men's Division of the Communist Party, 100 Collins St. Meeting on the 1977-78 program.
 11.00am - 12.00pm: Women's Division of the Communist Party, 100 Collins St. Meeting on the 1977-78 program.
 7.00pm - 9.00pm: Socialist League, 100 Collins St. Meeting on the 1977-78 program.

SOUTH BRANCH

SOUTH BRANCH Thurs 8 Nov
 7.00pm - 9.00pm: Socialist League, 100 Collins St. Meeting on the 1977-78 program.

MELBOURNE

MELBOURNE Sat 5 Nov 7.00pm
 7.00pm - 9.00pm: Socialist League, 100 Collins St. Meeting on the 1977-78 program.

MELBOURNE

MELBOURNE Mon 6 Nov
 7.00pm - 9.00pm: Socialist League, 100 Collins St. Meeting on the 1977-78 program.

MELBOURNE

MELBOURNE Tues 7 Nov
 7.00pm - 9.00pm: Socialist League, 100 Collins St. Meeting on the 1977-78 program.

MELBOURNE

MELBOURNE Wed 8 Nov
 7.00pm - 9.00pm: Socialist League, 100 Collins St. Meeting on the 1977-78 program.

MELBOURNE

MELBOURNE Thurs 9 Nov
 7.00pm - 9.00pm: Socialist League, 100 Collins St. Meeting on the 1977-78 program.

MELBOURNE

MELBOURNE Fri 10 Nov
 7.00pm - 9.00pm: Socialist League, 100 Collins St. Meeting on the 1977-78 program.

MELBOURNE

MELBOURNE Sat 11 Nov
 7.00pm - 9.00pm: Socialist League, 100 Collins St. Meeting on the 1977-78 program.

MELBOURNE

MELBOURNE Sun 12 Nov
 7.00pm - 9.00pm: Socialist League, 100 Collins St. Meeting on the 1977-78 program.

MELBOURNE

MELBOURNE Mon 13 Nov
 7.00pm - 9.00pm: Socialist League, 100 Collins St. Meeting on the 1977-78 program.

MELBOURNE

MELBOURNE Tues 14 Nov
 7.00pm - 9.00pm: Socialist League, 100 Collins St. Meeting on the 1977-78 program.

MELBOURNE

MELBOURNE Wed 15 Nov
 7.00pm - 9.00pm: Socialist League, 100 Collins St. Meeting on the 1977-78 program.

MELBOURNE

MELBOURNE Thurs 16 Nov
 7.00pm - 9.00pm: Socialist League, 100 Collins St. Meeting on the 1977-78 program.

MELBOURNE

MELBOURNE Fri 17 Nov
 7.00pm - 9.00pm: Socialist League, 100 Collins St. Meeting on the 1977-78 program.

Stonehouse challenged

REMEMBER John Stonehouse? The evicted British Labor politician who came to Australia to escape prosecution and financial ruin back home.

The four Sydney women who have finally been thrown out of the British Parliament. And for the first time, the International Socialist in Britain are standing a candidate for Parliament.

JIMMY MACCALLUM is an unemployed engineering worker from Glasgow. He will stand against Stonehouse and the official Labor Party candidate in the by-election for Waltham North.

The electoral system in Britain does not allow professional votes to revolutionary candidates have the effect of splitting the working class vote. That's why this is the first election contested by the IS.

However Waltham is such a safe Labor seat that there is no chance of a Tory winning.

The outrageous attacks on working class conditions by the

JIMMY MACCALLUM

the Socialist Worker candidate for John Stonehouse's seat in the British Parliament.



BRANCH NEWS

Canberra

The Canberra Branch has been holding a regular series of discussion meetings.

The first last month was offensive against the working class and how to go against the Fraser Government. The speaker was David Shaw, ALP delegate from an ALP Canberra construction site.

The second meeting discussed the question of the ALP and the organization that led off with a description of IS's position. There was a lively discussion.

The meeting was attended by about 15 people, including some of the Newcastle dock workers' managing their Embassy outside Parliament House.

A strong proposition planned for the next few weeks. On October 20 the weekly white collar workers and follow up on November 13 and January 5 on November 13.

MAX COSTELLO, Trades Hall Delegate, ITAV reports on:

Typical conditions at Newmarket Drainage problems at Derrimut should be worse

NEWPORT POWER STATION

THE UNION bans against building the Newport Power Station in Victoria are under intense attack.

Not only from the press, the State Electricity Commission and the Hamer government, but from within the Union movement itself.

Trades Hall Council Secretary Ken Stone recently used his official position to organize a meeting of union officials to "reconsider" the ban.

Key left wing officials like Charlie Faure of the Electrical Trades Union were "not invited".

In fact they were physically excluded from the meeting. But when rank and file members of the Plumbers and Gasfitters Union tried to condemn Stone's uncommittal action at the TUC, the left union leaders decided to publicly support Stone.

Apparently the left officials didn't want to risk losing the vote on the so-called "personality" question. They wanted to save their faces for the actual Newmarket ban vote.

A questionable tactic, especially when the result was made report of "overwhelming support" for Secretary Stone in his move to have the Newport ban lifted.

Sydney

WHAT IS THE IS? Many people held a special presentation meeting on this topic on Monday, 18 October. The meeting was lively and discussed on problems of socialism.

The IS is an international movement, opposed to patriotism and working to overcome national divisions.

Revolutionary Party is to smash the capitalist state, we need a revolutionary party, organized and led by the workers.

Without a revolution, the struggle of workers will be crushed.

For women, black migrants and all oppressed groups. Racism, sexism and discrimination against "bigot" peoples are all pillars of capitalist

Melbourne

IS members in Melbourne have been busy in a number of ways. The fight against the Derrimut sale yards, and the election of the Victorian Socialist Teachers Association and ACOA.

On November 11, we're marching in the demonstration against Fraser. If you're not who not join us under that banner.

Backdown

Some "left" unions are preparing for a backdown.

There are ominous hints in "Tribune", the Communist Party newspaper.

The IS has taken a neutral line on Stone's tactics, and has spoken of left wing union officials preparing for a "tactical reappraisal".

This is a move to take a stand against Stone's sellout move has already been criticized by CPA members in letters to Tribune.

The ban must stand.

SUNSHINE FIGHT BACK FIZZLES

THE campaign to reinstate the Sunshine (Melbourne) City Council is over.

It died a lack of support from the rank and file members of the Labor Council, the residents and the one section of the union movement that could have saved Sunshine Council.

A rally at the Municipal Offices on October 18 attracted only about fifty people, and was very unimpressive.

The Council members of the Sunshine Council have always been split, with Jack Tague and the machine around Bob Thomas opposing the more progressive faction around Len

Assurance

Len addressed a meeting of the local workers and assured them that the special award given to Sunshine Council members that they would remain assured.

He didn't, however give any assurance that the special award would be given to Sunshine Council members that they would remain assured.

The MEU put on the Financing of the West - Newport, Derrimut and the Fight Back Campaign by the Batter and provisionally sponsored by the Sunshine Action Centre. Tuesday 9 November, 7.30pm at the Western Socialists Union Community Centre.

SAVE THE WEST!

Public Meeting on the Financing of the West - Newport, Derrimut and the Fight Back Campaign by the Batter and provisionally sponsored by the Sunshine Action Centre. Tuesday 9 November, 7.30pm at the Western Socialists Union Community Centre.

U.S. BOOKS

Who's guilty? Them or us? A new view of law and disorder

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SYDNEY

Sydney Branch Fri 27 Nov
 7.00pm - 9.00pm: Socialist League, 100 Collins St. Meeting on the 1977-78 program.

CANBERRA

Canberra Branch Tues 9 Nov
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Canberra

Canberra Thurs 11 Nov
 7.00pm - 9.00pm: Socialist League, 100 Collins St. Meeting on the 1977-78 program.

Workers' Power

Workers' control over the whole of socially based on workers' control of the factories and workplaces. Only the organized working class has the power to create a society free of exploitation, oppression and want. Russia and China are not socialist because they are based on the exploitation of workers by a bureaucratic ruling class.

Revolution, NOT REFORMISM

We believe in over a Socialist revolution

Derrimut Sale yards

By ANNE LAWSON

THE Newport Power Station is the only offensive industry that the Liberal Government is planning to dump in the Western suburbs of Melbourne.

They also plan to move the Newmarket sale yards and abolish to the Derrimut site in 1928 when the Derrimut site was first proposed as an alternative to the overcrowded Newmarket yards. It is miles away from any part of suburban Melbourne.

Since then Derrimut has proceeded to build roads and borders on what will be one of the most viable of all industries.

The arguments that Stone is using at this time are exactly the same as the ones he used against building Newport then.

There's no excuse for building it now.

Trade Union Bans

Right now that he's no longer in Government, did he claim, show and call for the trade union bans on building Derrimut.

The Sunshine Action Committee has been formed to decide and direct action.

Over 10,000 residents affected by the proposal agreed a petition and a delegation presented it to the State Working Committee. The Working Committee in Hamer's way of appearing to be doing something about it at yards away from Derrimut. It has been established to investigate the relocation of the Newmarket complex.

Justice

If the pressure from residents in the area is strong enough it may decide for new residential areas. It will simply insist the Derrimut site.

The Sunshine area already has 32 office trailers plus five additional. How many does Brighton or Glen Waverley have?

Sunshine has the maximum number of office trailers for its residential population, as well as those industries not classified as "office" but that could hardly be described as "office".

Now they want to add a sale yard to it.

As one woman I've talked in at the demonstration said "I moved out West Sunshine because it was safe to bring my kids to school."

"Now I find I'm going to be living next to a sale yard."

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The Council members of the Sunshine Council have always been split, with Jack Tague and the machine around Bob Thomas opposing the more progressive faction around Len

Assurance

Len addressed a meeting of the local workers and assured them that the special award given to Sunshine Council members that they would remain assured.

He didn't, however give any assurance that the special award would be given to Sunshine Council members that they would remain assured.

The MEU put on the Financing of the West - Newport, Derrimut and the Fight Back Campaign by the Batter and provisionally sponsored by the Sunshine Action Centre. Tuesday 9 November, 7.30pm at the Western Socialists Union Community Centre.

SAVE THE WEST!

Public Meeting on the Financing of the West - Newport, Derrimut and the Fight Back Campaign by the Batter and provisionally sponsored by the Sunshine Action Centre. Tuesday 9 November, 7.30pm at the Western Socialists Union Community Centre.

Workers' Power

Workers' control over the whole of socially based on workers' control of the factories and workplaces. Only the organized working class has the power to create a society free of exploitation, oppression and want. Russia and China are not socialist because they are based on the exploitation of workers by a bureaucratic ruling class.

Revolution, NOT REFORMISM

We believe in over a Socialist revolution

ricked out of our Claim

John Wollin, VBU steward, AMI

SEVERAL months ago, contractors in the automobile industry were ricketed out of their claim.

The Vehicle Builders' Union announced a fight for a \$25 a week increase in wages, the 35-hour week, increased sick leave, and improved conditions.

At the VBU Federal September meeting, John Sandbanks, vice-president, told all workers come to AMI to let workers know they had been fighting for the new award.

The new struggle with the company had won great victories such as:

1. sick leave increased to 10 days for people who've been working for AMI for more than 5 years. (Most workers don't work more than 5 years.)

2. increased sick leave and improved conditions.

3. No mention of pay rise, 35-hour week, or any change in working conditions.

4. The VBU Federal September mediation which strongly recommended that the government for its reactionary policies and the company's vicious behaviour.

5. A traffic cop's night-mare came true in Wollington this month.

The city came to a standstill as a mighty rain-coupled down of a hundred trucks roared through the centre of town and round Wollington roundabouts.

Engines rumbled, horns blared and exhaust fumes had a bad odour. South Coast trucks threatened their support, the four drivers being told to get out of Green Road.

After half an hour, the cops retreated, they better stop the trucks going round the block and come back again. It was a great show of strength in the drivers' support for their hours.

One truckie Ken Ballinger told the Batters why they wanted the right to use Union Road (C) miles without contact a licence.

"If they don't want to use them, they shouldn't be charging us, they should get to the dealers to help."

But the 3rd paragraph stated with "However, we accept with pleasure any proposal."

In so, goal of the 1800 present returned from voting on the award. It was passed by 1001 to 33.

Of those who voted, several said that they were voting against the government and the company.

AMI workers are stuck for a couple of years with the same pay, in long and bitter struggle.

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STREET FIGHTER DRUNK BOSS

IF A WORKER comes in "under the influence" we sack him.

If a boss comes in "under the influence," we stick up for him.

That's the attitude of International Harvester in Dandenong Victoria.

When George Brennan John Angwin came in semi-drunk after a drinking session at the Prince Mack Hotel last month, the company suddenly forgot its rules and took up with the kid.

Instead of sacking him on the spot — like they do with workers — they just sent him some for the afternoon to sober up.

Now angry International Harvester workers have been out on strike for a week against this double standard. Do you know why?

Because the 1800 present returned from voting on the award. It was passed by 1001 to 33.

Of those who voted, several said that they were voting against the government and the company.

AMI workers are stuck for a couple of years with the same pay, in long and bitter struggle.

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member of the International Packers at ITC explained the background to this case.

"Angwin came in the next time an another worker was working and he was drunk."

"Angwin was a hard nut to crack. Two weeks ago he was accused of drinking and drinking."

"The boss produced witnesses who said he was working with the kid."

"Then, twenty weeks ago, he was sacked. He was on the spot for a week, no annual leave etc. etc."

"We voted about 1800 to 33 to sack him."

"The shunters fell — and this is probably the best of it — they bore the brunt of last year's campaign."

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ARU claim side-tracked

PROGRESS on the ARU's log of claims in Victoria seems to be moving with the speed of the average suburban rat.

After the log was initially rejected by the Victorian Railways, a stop-work was called in July.

Railway wages are abysmally low at present — the three lowest in the country.

The ARU had to black band and handbills before the company would agree to use a non-toxic type of sand and provide decent respirator for workers.

SIOP members again went out protesting in Melbourne, trailing the ALE car park cars.

Workers on returning from their "smoke", raised the alarm. At there was a distinct smell of diesel oil, which is a potential fire hazard, the two shifts on Saturday 20 gallon of fuel oil was discharged from the car.

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Building Workers Tell Boss SAFETY IS NO JOKE

Cambrera's new sewerage treatment plant has a history of not being afraid to take the boss on.

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Jobless to leaflet schools

AN unemployed People's Movement has been set up to meet of over 60 people at Wollington Town Hall.

It is just about to open an office in Burrell St and hopes to obtain one in Warilla in the near future.

Hopefully the movement will be able to obtain some of the 6,268 registered unemployed on the South Coast, one of the worst hit areas of Australia.

While it is essential to fight for immediate relief measures and rights for the unemployed, the movement must also link up with workers such as shop assistants who have been fighting for more jobs.

The movement is planning to leaflet High Schools to get in contact with the 2500 students expected to leave school at the end of this year.

Only about 300 of these school leavers are likely to get jobs and thanks to the Fraser Government they will not even get the vote over the holiday period.

The WVF is proving that the immediate prosecution of the owners of the ship as the longer the case is delayed the more difficult there is of the matter being dropped.

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Public Servants Rebel

PETER ELLETT, TISSON

THE ADO is the union which covers Federal Public Service clerks.

Over the past 18 years, the union's Victorian Branch has been dominated by a reactionary clique.

But even when the ADOA leadership's apparent approval of the sackings of Whitlam has caused a few members to rebel, no one has become dominant in the union.

There is widespread discontent with the union's inaction over the cutback in staffing and the crippling of socially progressive policies.

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Wharfies Fight Pollution

before 8am and after 5pm could seriously pollute the beaches along Lake Hovens as there is no one on watch at the harbour.

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WE GOT A TRAFFIC COP

A TRAFFIC cop's night-mare came true in Wollington this month.

The city came to a standstill as a mighty rain-coupled down of a hundred trucks roared through the centre of town and round Wollington roundabouts.

Engines rumbled, horns blared and exhaust fumes had a bad odour. South Coast trucks threatened their support, the four drivers being told to get out of Green Road.

After half an hour, the cops retreated, they better stop the trucks going round the block and come back again. It was a great show of strength in the drivers' support for their hours.

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Bosses shout down Stewards

THE Nissan (formerly Motor Products) car plant in Clayton, Victoria, has just had its first strike in years.

At the Arbitration Board's Commission.

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At the Arbitration Board's Commission.

D.J. Workers win jobs

THE fight for more jobs by AWU members on the South Coast received another boost recently.

Shop assistants in the food section of a Dandenong (Woll) put in a request for extra staff to deal with the increased traffic last Monday to back up their claim.

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MUSO ACTIVISTS SACKED

NSW Musicians' Union secretary Allan Nash is writing reports in Melbourne to Neville Diamond, NSW acting secretary.

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GROUPERS CALL COPS

THE NCC dominated Gering branch of the VBU has used police to arrest 100 members from a meeting.

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SICKENING STONE

KEN STONE, Victorian Trades Hall secretary, has just presented a report on the Labour Party power workers' campaign for a 35-hour week.

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THE DUCK WORKERS' TENT

THE duck workers' Tent Embassy in Melbourne has been set up in the grounds of the Victorian Parliament House.

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David and Goliath

40 WORKERS FIGHT C.R.A.

WORKERS at the Illawarra Coke Works, attacked to be on strike for over five weeks.

They are demanding from their employer, the giant multi-national Coalite, Inc. Tinto, a \$40 increase in bonus or wage and payment of the Medibank levy.

Over the past two years management has continually attempted to break down the working conditions of the coke workers. With a flat weekly rate of \$180.80 they are now nearly 50 per cent paid in the industry.

They need the \$40 increase to ensure equality with 1st class fishermen in the sea.

However C.R.A. are refusing to give in and the workers will go on strike through no fault of their own in breach of the industrial guidelines.

Mick Belcher, the publicity officer for the Combined Unions at the coke works, even says there is some possibility of C.R.A. wanting the coke works closed rather than meeting the workers demands.

C.R.A. are only prepared to increase the bonus in return for a further run-down in working

conditions. Also the company demands that if there is a strike on a production day those involved would lose the bonus.

So far the workers are holding firm and are refusing to surrender. Custom and Practice such as breaks when pollution becomes intolerable due to extreme dust or gaseous fumes.

Qantas site:

"like a concentration camp"

WORKERS at Qantas have had a gutful of victimisations and harassment.

Three unions have voted overwhelmingly to shut down this Sydney building site for six weeks, a fantastic action in an industry devastated by unemployment.

The company decided they no longer needed anyone on Saturday, so they put an end to Saturday work. They claimed was a punishment for too

many union meetings on the job. In retaliation, all overtime was banned before 7am and after 3:00pm.

Then about three weeks ago the company ordered two dogmen, John Belcher and Philip Stevan, to lift a shutter. It was obvious that they couldn't do so safely without working overtime, so they refused.

Their reward was the sack. The angry building workers struck for two weeks, until a court hearing just over a week ago.

Another striker Steve Callaghan said the "greed" of the company looks like turning it into a long fight. Fortunately the majority from meetings of Miners' lodges in the Southern District has been proved.

Some contributions from Coalcliff, Huntley and the mines in the Burragorang Valley, the

workmen should be able to maintain strike pay at \$75 per week.

The strikers are also attempting to ban movements of coke from dumps controlled by C.R.A. in the Illawarra District.

The South Coast Trades and Labour Council has already given support and the workers

are attempting to contact the South Australian and New South Wales branches of C.R.A. throughout Australia.

Messages of support and donations for the strike fund will be sent to the Workers' Federation, 100 St. Marys Wollongong, NSW.

The judge suggested that they go to a proper trial, with evidence given under oath. The workers felt they had reason to fear he would effect a compromise, and only one of the dogmen would be reinstated.

"They are not having a bar of it. These courts aren't the workers' friend, that's for sure," says John Belcher.

"They've got these professional bastards who are bringing in my record and make it read. Only one of us will get reinstated. If the guys would copy that, it'd be the same as being

blotted off."

Belcher was emphatic about why he'd been sacked. "It was definitely a set-up, beyond doubt. I think they want a confrontation. They don't want us Saturday, but they need us because we've been back before."

It's not that we aren't the work Saturday - with all these people out of work a lot of us would like to see them put on an anti-union list instead - it's this bloody attitude.

The company is blaming the workers for its own corruption. "This is a fancy new pension building, and they don't know how to build it. Lots of us has to be redone."

court

Of course, they're not going to admit that their foreman screwed up 15 days' work as they are set to find ways to blame us."

"This place is like a concentration camp. Every man you're late they write it down. Then they bring it in on our

A striking team was unanimously voted not to go to court, and to strike to force more work. In the meantime they intend to find ways to make their case known at other building sites and to the public.

If there's any hope of resolving the dispute the workers agree to meet outside the plant works - provided the company pays for outlying them.

Victorian Premier Dick Hamer has declared war on all of us.

He has declared war on the Trade Union movement.

His "Vital State Projects" Bill is aimed at smashing the Trades Hall Council ban on the building of the Newport Power Station.

He doesn't even need to back this morning with a guarantee of no more stand-downs. With the guarantee, they will now be able to continue their anti-union campaign for the health insurance payments.

In a fit of spite, the anti-union is now threatening to stop the prime maintenance section of the Newport power station.

Under his new law we will be declared guilty until proven innocent. Even ordinary legal protections are to be denied to trade union members.

He will be introducing compulsory secret ballots for wage strikes so that members of the same union not subject to intimidation can vote against a strike action.

Hamer doesn't need Newport. He's just using it to attack trade unions.

The Bill has outlawed political bans and made industrial bans on state projects impossible. Right now that means Newport. Next month it could be the Eastern Freeway. Next year it

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PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

NUMBER 28, 24 November 1976 10 Cents



BY DAVE NADEL, NATIONAL EXECUTIVE, INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

can be fined up to \$50,000. All he needs is a written complaint and a Sideripary Magistrate to fine a union or a shop steward for breach of the Act.

That's a declaration of war.

And what of the half a million plus residents of Melbourne's already polluted and neglected Western suburbs. And if our kids grow up with lung complaints and worse, well, that's too bad. They are just casualties in a war that Hamer has declared on workers in the Western suburbs.

FACTORY FODDER

As far as he is concerned, anyone living on the west side of the Maribyrnong is just factory fodder for his business machines anyway.

Hamer has declared war on most of Victoria with his suspension of public works till the unions back down on Newport.

Under his new law we will be declared guilty until proven innocent. Even ordinary legal protections are to be denied to trade union members.

He will be introducing compulsory secret ballots for wage strikes so that members of the same union not subject to intimidation can vote against a strike action.

And the penalties? Any political of a Union from the TIC Secretary to the local steward can be fined up to \$50,000.

Any union, branch, sub-branch or subsection of a union

stuck on all Australian work.

As behind Hamer is Fraser.

Fraser, the Liberal Party and the house-went Trade Union power undermined and crushed. It is important to their business and their profits.

That's why Western Australia is also introducing equally dangerous legislation and it's also why the Queensland government is actually using the repressive powers it's also had.

The Victorian "Vital State Projects" Bill is not a bluff.

Hamer is trying a little for Fraser. If they get away with it, well, it will be followed by repressive legislation from Canberra next year.

That makes the latest events in Victoria the concern of every

trade unionist in the country.

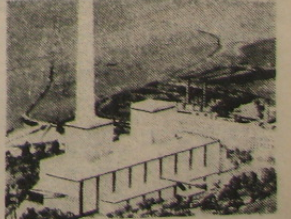
Hamer has declared war on the working class of Victoria.

We will have to answer his declaration of war with an attack on all fronts. There must be a statewide general strike to force Hamer to withdraw his legislation.

COMMITTEES

We need rank and file stewards committees to run the unions and bring every worker in the state out. We need residents' committees in the West to organise continued support for the boycotts and the strikes.

Hamer has declared war on us all. He can be made to lose his war, his fascist legislation and his sinking unnecessary power station.



What Are They Afraid Of?

KENWORTH Trucks in Bayswater, Melbourne, are so scared of a certain union speaking to some of their employees that they have just stood down their whole factory.

What is this demon union that inspires such fear in the Kenworth bosses? It is the dreaded AMU! The vicious Warehouse Workers' party!

No... it's the Federated Clerks Union in Australia. The last union in Australia.

Kenworth is so determined to stop the Clerks officials organising the office staff that when the Clerks banned Kenworth rather than give in, they stand down the whole factory.

The fact that the 280 VBU members stand down does not mean to do with dispute doesn't worry Kenworth, of course. In fact, their whole game is one of industrial sabotage. They take away the jobs of an insolvent party and won't give them back until the Clerks Union surrenders.

Now the VBU and AMU members are fighting back. They've taken up a picket line at the two factory gates. And

utterly hypocritical. They claim they do not want the Clerks Union to set up a closed shop because they think the individuals right to choose whether to join a union or not."

Yet they beg helpfully allow the VBU to run a closed shop. And they won't even let the Clerks Union talk to the office staff, much less sign them all up.

STOP PRESS

THE PHILIP MORRIS workers have won! The company agreed on Monday afternoon overtime pay for the last time.

The 1500 workers will be back this morning with a guarantee of no more stand-downs.

With the guarantee, they will now be able to continue their anti-union campaign for the health insurance payments.

In a fit of spite, the anti-union is now threatening to stop the prime maintenance section of the Newport power station.

Under his new law we will be declared guilty until proven innocent. Even ordinary legal protections are to be denied to trade union members.

He will be introducing compulsory secret ballots for wage strikes so that members of the same union not subject to intimidation can vote against a strike action.

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Any union, branch, sub-branch or subsection of a union

REFERN BANS WIN 139 JOBS

POSTAL workers at Sydney's Redfern Mail exchange have made a breakthrough in their fight for 221 jobs.

Australia Post has agreed to take on an extra 139 workers and to discuss the hiring of staff as required by the flow of mail traffic.

But it took a series of strikes which caused a pile-up of five million mail articles to do it.

Federal Secretary of the APFL (Postal and Telecom Union) George Skelton tried to get a settlement which would have meant no extra jobs - just 65 promotions. He was rebuffed by the State branch officials.

double

Water just happens to double as a Telecom Commissioner, so his "compromise" proposal wasn't too surprising.

Little wonder that the more menial of his name at meetings is met with a wave of jeers.

The offer of 139 extra jobs

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ON THE FAIRFAX PICKET

"Tell the truth and you go to jail".

That is what the police told the Fairfax pickets last week. Pickets were ordered to stop shouting the word "scab" at people working inside the building.

Obviously the constant heckling was getting to the pickets. Editorial manager Grove Williams had been forced with four pickets with leaflets the previous day. They stood a few feet away from him, surrounded him, and surrounded the word into his ears.

The company took fright, and got the cops to act the next day.

The printing workers were taken shock at first. "You must man!" they shouted defiantly. But after a meeting, they voted to force the issue.

One hundred and fifty pickets marched in a circle in front of the building here, chanting the word "scab" in unison.

Now the police were stuffed. They stood around looking stupid, and did nothing in an hour or so of chanting, they made only one arrest.

The pickets began singing

"Scabs are working in the Herald" to the tune of Solidarity Forever. Instant cries on their faces.

They then held another meeting, flanked with victory. At this stage, union officials could have defied the ban on scab but they were too cautious and let the opportunity slip.

As the meeting was about to end, a strange young man appeared in the centre of it, shouting insults at the strikers. He quickly hauled out of the meeting and handed to police.

He had "police agent" written all over him.

But the incident provoked a lot of disorder, and the police were able to make several more arrests.

They concentrated on students who had come to support the picket.

The aim was obviously to play on the "outside agitators". The pickets immediately informed the media that they supported the students, and that they had a right to be there.

It was stormy day, but not the first on this picket, which is now in its fifth week.

The crowd had repeatedly marched along the line of waiting scab cars.

and trucks, handing out insults through the loud hailer.

One scab was scared enough to break out into his car, and put his arm around him. Scouted by this fatherly touch, the scab was escorted to the front of the line by police, so he could get away quickly.

Several attempts have been made to turn over vehicles, but this is a point where organization is vital. It is all about, however, there is a little organization in all that's needed to do the job.

The pickets have never been able to repeat their victory so far, and several unions are all that's needed to do the job.

And now they have to cope with the ban on loud hailer.

But the daily roll up of printing workers on the picket line has remained steady, and their ranks have been swollen by a growing number of students and workers from other unions.



Cops pushing the picketing printers, who have a Labor Government and Labor premier Nixon. When in charge of the police, the cops are as rough as ever - doing the work of the Fairfax strikers.

One of four strikers players and Sons strike in a defiance.

The strike and the picket have succeeded in drastically cutting the circulation of the Fairfax papers in Sydney.

The picket has been running at over a hundred people each day and has been strengthened by delegations from the wharves, the dockyards and the support of individuals and members of political organisations.

Over the past few weeks, there has been an escalation in police violence, obstruction and intimidation.

Over 20 picketers have been arrested and charged with a variety of concocted offences, such as obstruction and assault.

They've been on strike trucks and there is a mass picket company's office.

Trains and overalls of a special unit. "Fair fax" been fact workers of Fairfax dressing supports the places right away.

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Trains and overalls of a special unit. "Fair fax" been fact workers of Fairfax dressing supports the places right away.

Don Paget, Father of the Chapel at Fairfax outlined the background to the strike for the *Battler*.

"We've been trying to negotiate an agreement in respect of our loss of claims, and all the time in the background was the automation which has become to some extent the major issue."

The strike we're involved in now was started when Judge Cahill brought down a strike order. The members met at Wentworth Park on October 20 and decided to stay out.

From the printers side, Automation is the major issue. The company has new equipment which includes using a keyboard and screen.

The PKU says that this is a typing operation, but the company says it will be a printing operation. There are 300 jobs at risk.

Yet Farrell, (Fairfax Executive) said that if the printers were to operate the equipment, no AJA member and no clerk would lose their job.

The Fairfax company are advocates of union busting. They carry it out, not just in their editorial, but in their dealing with the unions.

For example, they have gone outside the newspaper industry for industrial executives, to BIP and you know what bastards they are.

"The issue we are fighting is important to Trade Unions generally. The threat of automation is affecting workers everywhere and we welcome it if we get a share of it. The company's attitude is that all benefits flow to the shareholders."

"We accept that technological change is coming and we welcome it if we get a share of it. The company's attitude is that all benefits flow to the shareholders."

How the printers have fought them... and now

"Fair Facts"

QUESTIONS BEING ASKED ABOUT FAIRFAX NEWSPAPER PICKETS

1955 1967 1976

the refusal to scab... the flow of printing industry...

in 1955, the bosses tried to create a strike in the printing industry.

In August 1967, the Journalists' strike after large numbers of them had been downgraded after a pay offer by the journalists' decision to scab.

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FAIRFAX

Since the dispute began, Fairfax has been publishing full page ads, proclaiming their "care for the welfare of their employees, a humane approach to their problems."

But the unions have proved that Fairfax is raring on commitments made to its employees. And they have caught the Company red-handed in a Watergate-style cover-up of its actions.

In June 1974, Company Secretary H. E. Scotland stated:

"In the long term we are all well aware of the advanced technological changes that are in the offing, most of which will require regulations at the Union and Chapel Executive level before they are implemented."

"Again, we expect full co-operation in the course of such negotiations, and a full study by all parties of the implications of the changes."

The Company again gives the assurance that such changes will not involve the loss of individual employment in the Company.

When the unions produced this statement in Court, Executive Manager T.H. Farrell replied that he had been unaware of the existence of this guarantee, until the Union had showed it to the Company.

But the unions produced a statement by

Farrell himself, quoted in the Fairfax staff news, that no one would lose their job through automation.

This was company policy and would continue to be so. AJA, he said, "People are more important than machines."

The Company then replied that this had not been asked as an unconditional guarantee, and that at that time the Company had been unaware of the full implications of the new technology.

The Union then produced the text of a speech by Farrell at a Telecom seminar in February 1974 - four months prior to Scotland's guarantee.

Farrell stated that technology was in effect what would allow the COMPLETE ELIMINATION OF TYPESetting within 5 years.

This is the equipment that is now being introduced. The unions have pressed the court to recognize officially that Fairfax had lied.

The court agreed that "the Company has not fulfilled what it wants to do."

The Court later stated that it would "make no order or award, nor would it make any recommendation other than that 'work should be resumed and that matters in dispute should be submitted to arbitration'."

The Claims

- 1 A 35-hour week as the only logical, equitable outcome of the introduction of technological change.
- 2 There to be a company guarantee of no redundancies as a result of technological change.
- 3 All basic Medibank deductions to be met by the company.
- 4 A \$20 wage increase to all members of the Combined Unions.

The Unions

The Combined Unions Committee (CUC)

- Printing and Kindred Industries Union (PKIU)
- Amalgamated Metal Workers Union (AMWU)
- Federated Ironworkers of Australia (FIA)
- Australian Society of Engineers (ASE)
- Building Workers Industrial Union (BIWU)
- Farmers Union
- Plumbers and Gasfitters Employees Union
- Miscellaneous Workers Union

In addition, the Transport Workers Union is out in support.

Still working are members of: Australian Journalists Association, Electrical Trades Union, Federated Clerks Union.

HOW THEY'RE FIGHTING

There is widespread support for the Fairfax strikers.

Trade Unionists remember the role played by the press in bringing down the Whitlam Government and during the election campaign that followed.

It's strongest support has come from other newspaper chapels. PKU members on Melbourne newspapers have pledged a night's pay to the Fairfax fund.

So far, over \$4000 has been contributed at The Age and a similar amount at The Sun.

Workers on the Illawarra Mercury (also owned by Fairfax) gave an immediate donation of \$500 and are leaving all members \$5 per week.

According to Deputy Fairfax, only one station, even the apprentices are helping.

Money and offers of support have come in from PKU, Claret, and other unions in Australia.

The NSW Branch has called on all in the printing industry to donate half a day's

pay and asked members to televise themselves \$2 per week.

But there has been plenty of support from other unions, as the week continues. The Fairfax workers use the vital not only to raise money, but to discuss the issues. They distribute their excellent strike paper, *The Fair Facts*. The result is that there is fantastic support among workers all over the State.

This is clearly affecting sales of Fairfax paper. As many newspapers are selling public use. Not all are out of circulation lines. One newspaper in New South Wales told Fairfax:

"I can't go down there. Their jobs are at stake."



"The News" the journos forgot

One thing is missing from the Fairfax strike. Solidarity between the journalists and the printers.

In the past joint action between printers and journalists has won strikes against Sydney press owners.

This time is missing because the AJA (Australian Journalists Association) is foolishly chasing temporary gains.

The new equipment being installed eliminates many steps of the typesetting of a newspaper.

In fact, under the Fairfax action, the journalists will upgrade their articles using VDU keyboard and they will be edited by keyboard with the editor using TV screens instead of paper. Those there will be led

only by TV screens and when the final look has been decided on, a photographic image is produced automatically by computer.

The Fairfax company are planning to use this equipment. The AJA are leading the way for the rest of the industry. And Fairfax themselves are simply following the lead of overseas papers which have sacked thousands of workers and crushed printers unions to cut their costs.

There is absolutely no need for the journalist to use the keyboard equipment instead of a typewriter. The keying in news is typesetting (as the PKU claims) and a printers work.

In fact, Fairfax themselves have admitted that if the keying in was done by printers there would be no loss of jobs among journalists and clerks.

Now in a period of technological advancement in the newspaper industry, the journalists have taken the bonus side to win some temporary gains.

But the journalists themselves are under long term threat.

As the growing popularity of television news leads to drops in newspaper circulation and cuts in the AJA members will come to regret breaking with the printers.

bitter

Three times in the last thirty-two years, journalists and printers on all four Sydney dailies were out on strike, for the first time ever.

The bosses then tried to get their paper printed by the Mirror under a joint banner. The printers at the Mirror refused to scab.

They then tried to set up a composite paper with staff labor, but the journalists refused to scab.

Within a few days, printers and journalists on all four Sydney dailies were out on strike, for the first time ever.

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Dear Battler,

'Vain' strikes and Empty Stomachs...

Dear Battler,
Tom O'Lincoln's article in the last "Battler" on the Peoples Budget contained a lot that was quite true.

Certainly class collaboration holds no future for the workers.

Equally it would be quite wrong for a revolutionary organisation to propose measures to bail the capitalists out of the crisis in their system.

The Communist Party would be the first to accept such notions, we've been saying that for a full a long time.

Support according to Gde O'Lincoln, we are "prepared to judge on the question" and the proof of that lies in our support for the notion of a Peoples Budget.

But neither do we believe in vain postures or empty slogans. Tom O'Lincoln tells us "It's not our system," a ringing truth which is in fact a quote from the author's own book to make our position and his own objectives to all it clearly than that.

In fact, the Peoples Budget, as it appeared, contains a large number of points with which

Defending the Peoples Budget

This perspective was put into practice in Sydney when the CPA called a public meeting around the Peoples Budget. All three speakers at that meeting made it clear that they had specific objections to the text of the document but supported the notion in principle as a part of the development of the workers' movement.

Compliments

Such a position is not easily reduced to a pithy slogan or a stark headline. But in the real world that's the way things are. We are not so crazy as to believe that our position will be reflected in that programme because we recognise the current state of the class struggle.

But if the notion of a Peoples Budget gets off the ground, then it provides a forum within which revolutionaries can advance their perspectives.

More important, it provides the working class with a vehicle for transcending narrow sectional issues and obtaining an overview of the strategy of the ruling class and the potential of alternative programme to the annual programme of the bourgeoisie.

CONFESSOR or else!

Dear Battler,
1984 is well on the way to being a reality when you get sacked for being a non-conformist.

This happened to me last year at St Vincent's hospital in Sydney. They told me I was fired for being a "socialist".

They said that person who questions authority and we don't want to hear that.

This seemed to apply to me, but I was not going to staff meetings there were patients, and to my change of supervisor.

The Welfare Union tried to help me but to no avail.

I was given a notice, but that was changed to four weeks pay in lieu of notice. But I felt that as professional social worker, I could not work and tried to carry on normal.

So I "worked" - went to work and tried to carry on normal.

The hospital locked me out of my office and lost my files. They told other employees not to cooperate with me.

Negotiations

During the month that I worked in the union I registered yet was not registered by the Industrial Commission, the PSA, hoping they were bringing their act to court.

At first, three Labor Officers said they would offer three weeks pay in lieu. The PSA thought I had to go.

Most of the members of the PSA's local work branch were from hospitals.

They were not taking this challenge from a social worker.

In fact, the PSA worked to disavow my name. I was not in any department, but that was at least an excuse. At least an excuse had my letters supporting me.

AMWU and BWU members who sent their representatives to the hospital for my statement.

They were told it was none of their business.

Now I'm trying to get matter to the State Administrative Court with a private solicitor.

Jenny Hoffmann

Homeowner's other public works Scandal



This is what they could be building

THERE are now 10,444 people on the waiting list for housing in Victoria.

This is a rise of about three thousand on last year and is increasing daily.

The average time on the waiting list is three years.

This is a result of deliberate Government policy. It has been stated publicly that it is the intention of the Government to give as much of the building of these homes as possible to private contractors such that the great public benefactor AV Jennings and phase out the Homeless Factory.

This means that in the long term housing will become a more expensive, as all private industry is there to make a good profit for the shareholders as possible.

We at Homeless can produce twenty mila units per week at the moment. This could be increased if all our resources were used.

But we are told that our price is "too high". Here are the reasons why:

WHILE Victorian suffers one of the worst housing shortages in their history, the Victorian Government is deliberately forcing down the cost of the factory so that it can hand the business over to private enterprise.

Workers at the factory, the Holmington General Industrial, exposed the scandal this month.

The workers are leaving themselves a week to finance the committee.

Norm Thompson, AMWU steward and a member of the committee, gave this report to the Battler.

Any firm that is geared for mass production finds that its costs escalate if it does not produce in volume.

Our day labour force is being used to rectify private contractors' faulty workmanship. This is not paid for by the contractor but added to costs.

Private contractors are using our equipment too. These costs are all added to the price of our houses, not theirs.

Each year we read of the shortage of classrooms and children turned away from schools.

At Holmington we can produce a single story school consisting of ten classrooms, all amenities and a covered play area in eight days. We can produce a two story school in thirty days.

Why then is the State Government still having portable classrooms built by private contractors here and there?

These are the types of buildings that make perfect targets for the landlords who are setting fire to our schools as present.

It all comes down to one fact. The taxpayer's money - our money - is being put in the pockets of Private Enterprise. It is not being put to its best possible use.

Public Service Elections - FRIGHT FOR THE RIGHT

The ACOA, which covers Federal, Public Service and Victorian Government, has recently had its Triennial elections for all office-bearers in all states.

Perhaps realising their list of achievements was embarrassing, the Branch Officials resorted to a campaign of degradation and re-baiting against.

These were the sort of tactics used by the Branch Groups when they tried to smash the union movement back in the fifties.

The most fantastic of these was contained in a broadsheet to all members entitled "Who's Kidding Who" in which they tried to substantiate earlier statements that the Reform Group was "extremist" by referring to the fact that the Battler has published articles written by a Reform Group member.

Hardly a convincing argument and one which did little to enhance their already tarnished name.

The ACOA traditionally drew 1300-800 against the communist candidates.

Although no Reform Group candidates were elected to any Branch Executive positions, we managed to poll up to 46% of the vote and emerged from the elections with a substantially increased number of delegates to the Victorian Branch Council.

The Reform Group was supported by almost half the candidates with three Communist candidates won all three Council positions.

Most members realised that it was a waste of time to try to distract attention from the issues the Reform Group were raising.

Tramways R & F Succeed

The Tramways Union rank-and-file committee has won close to 40% of the vote in the recent union elections.

The bureaucratic "Militant Group" that controls the union has had to suggest to the Executive weakened candidates.

Hardly a convincing argument and one which did little to enhance their already tarnished name.

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The Battler

EDITORIAL (031 429 1610) AND FIGHTING FUND PO Box 1 Richmond, Vic. 3121

SCRIPTIONS (031 694-214) AND CIRCULATION (031 694-214) GPO Box 1172N Melbourne, Vic. 3001

NEW COPY (031 972 048) PO Box 54 Newtown, NSW, 2042

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NEWCASTLE 121 Wrentham St, 121 Wrentham St

3 Peake Place, 3 Peake Place, 3 Peake Place

and all good Left Bookshops.

Notices and Meetings

Meeting on 24th Nov 11.00am

Meeting on 24th Nov 11.00am

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THE RUSSIAN WAY

Dear Battler,

I was very pleased to read in the November issue of the AMWU Journal, a completely uncritical article on the 'Quality of Life for Workers' in the Soviet Union and Hungary.

Fred Thompson, Queensland organizer visited Australia after visiting there with other union representatives, including National President Dick Scott.

It sounded like something out of the thirties, when people believed that the Soviet Union was a heaven on earth for workers.

affluent

Thompson used the same tired old phrase: "there is no doubt that socialism is working and working well - going from strength to strength - socialist societies are affluent societies - we saw no evidence of poverty or hardship - the keynote was enthusiasm - and so on."

It's strange enough these days to read such glib platitudes, but comments on the 'socialist' countries.

What is surprising is that my own staff would be so naive as to believe their members have better conditions for workers. They're the better off people.



Leon Broomfield, Dick Scott and Fred Thompson (left to right) in Moscow

the major factor in the wage structure seems to be payment by results"

out, for instance, that the right to strike doesn't exist in the Soviet Union or Eastern Europe.

Earlier this year, for instance, 500 workers at a Union Trust plant near Warsaw in Poland were sacked and imprisoned after a strike over increased food prices.

Thompson states without comment that "the major factor in the wage structure seems to be payment by results."

This is outrageous. The metal unions have fought bitterly in Australia for decades against payment by results.

As a shop steward for a number of hours workers, I know the effects this system has on workers' health and their pay packet.

Fraternally

Dear Battler,

In reply to Elizabeth's letter in last Battler, I would like to say that I am not a member of that sexist word, 'Fraternal Order of Women'.

It is a reflection of the sexist attitudes of the women's movement when the only step was to change this word to 'Fraternal Order of Women'.

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SUNSHINE'S DICTIONARY OF SACKS 28

Three weeks ago Cr Gillon became Sunshine's one-man council.

Last Wednesday it was announced that he had sacked twenty-eight white collar employees.

Gillon was appointed Commissioner to replace the sacked Labor Council.

He is a prominent member of the Labor Party. He is now a member of the Labor Party.

Contrary to newspaper reports, Gillon was not sacked - it was for the time being anyway.

Gillon has said that there won't be any more sackings. He is a prominent member of the Labor Party.

He is a prominent member of the Labor Party. He is now a member of the Labor Party.

Contrary to newspaper reports, Gillon was not sacked - it was for the time being anyway.

They were responsible for the planning of parks, kindergartens and so on.

Planning was axed on the basis that it was an "unnecessary department" (Did anyone do not have Planning Departments).

Besides Gillon and Hawer don't have much time for parks and kindergartens, anyway.

Only departments which are not to lose personnel are the rate collecting department and the general department.

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What's On

MELBOURNE

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 7.00-8.00 PM
 8.00-9.00 PM
 9.00-10.00 PM
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THE 1977 BIG RED DIARY IS NOW AVAILABLE FROM I.S. BOOKS.

This year's theme—
 "Law and Disorder" or
 Who are the real Criminals?
 \$2.50 from Top Floor
 28 Block Place, Melbourne.

INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

what we fight for

The International Socialists are a revolutionary socialist organisation, open to all who accept our basic principles and are willing to work to achieve them.

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8 weeks out and looking good

BY MIK HARMER
AFTER EIGHT WEEKS ON THE grass, the strikers at Ilwaco Cakes Works, north of Wollongong, are still going strong.

The workers are still fighting for their original demand of a \$40 increase in bonus or wages to restore their relative wage to 1st class shiftmen in the mines.

"So far the best offer made by the employer, owned by the giant multinational CRA, is for a payment of \$7 for 28 ovens on each production day. There are four production days a week, the fifth being for maintenance.

"But to get this increase in bonus the workers would have to give up breaks for had we accepted this offer and accept a dispute clause limiting their right to strike."

"In any case," as Mick Hamerby, the publicity officer for the Combined Unions at the cokerworks put it in his latest leaflet, "the dispute, 28 ovens is not always available, there could be only 20 ovens on any one day, thus reducing considerably the amount of weekly wage."

"There could be an argument at any given moment, re political or abnormal weather conditions precipitated by the militant and non-unionist houses and management's refusal to grant a walk."

"If we refused to work under

said conditions the bonus for that week could be jeopardised or taken away."

"Thus the workers voted by 24 to 9 on Wednesday night to support the strikers' offer to no see offer from CRA."

"Fortunately contributions to the CRA strike fund are still coming in strongly from the mines on the South Coast."

"After sending delegations to all the mine lodges in the new midline area, we have received additional financial support. As well they obtained the backing of the Newcastle Trades Hall Council and the Northern Miners' Federation."

"In an attempt to increase pressure on CRA which owns the neighbouring Coalfields Colliery, the strikers have called

THE MOST VICIOUS lock-out in Melbourne for years has just been run by Kenworth Trucks in Baywater, Victoria.

The 280 workers were locked out for four weeks. Eighteen were sacked outright, including the most active unionists in the plant.

The company did everything in its power to bring the workers to their knees so they would return without the militants. Tragically, they have now succeeded.

The company literally started its workers into submission. They told other factories in the area not to employ Kenworth workers. Those who applied for jobs with other employers were told, "Sorry, we're nothing for you" as soon as they revealed that they were from Kenworth.

The company convoked with the NSW branch of the union to force its sale at the moment. The NSW branch told the CES its workers were not to do any work in any occupation as the best way to fight back against the company was on strike. The CES accepted this outrageous lie—despite the fact that the company had signed documents and letters saying the workers were stood

down.

Kenworth's rampage began with a simple request by the Clerks Union to be granted the same remaining rights amongst the other unions in the truck plants around Australia.

They imposed a ban on Kenworth pickets on the shavers when the company said no pretext.

Kenworth used this as a pretext for the lock-out.

When Kenworth finally announced the pickets were "standing down" the factory AMU steward Norm Lane proposed an occupation as the best way to fight back against the company. The eighteen non-sacked, argued "If we leave the factory, we're doing just what the company wants."

Kenworth had previous stewards at

the factory. They approached the wharf clerks and the Federated Clerks Union to get an assurance that the ban on Kenworth would not be lifted until all sacked workers were reinstated.

But their efforts were to no avail. Vehicle Builders Union organiser Edly Lyons, who was responsible for the majority of the workers at the factory took the line that the only solution was for the Clerks Union to give up and drop their ban.

The utterly weak-kneed approach gave the company the green light to keep on with sacking who ever it liked.

Kenworth locks out 280

Kenworth have been out-and-out company men, and Kenworth workers have not had the leadership they were entitled to be confident of that sort of tactic. So the militant pickets ignored and the workers left the factory.

Then the militants got a motion through for a picket line on the factory: "It was the failure of the VBI steward and organiser to mobilise their members, the attendance at the picket line was not strong enough for it to do much more than hand out leaflets to the office staff as they walked in."

The militants worked hard to build support for their struggle. They printed and distributed leaflets to all Kenworth plants, to car factories and to metal shops in the area.

demoralized

By concentrating entirely on talks with the company, and being talked to by management members about the picket line, the VBI allowed the militants to be demoralized.

The question of unemployment benefits was also raised. Everyone agreed that while the "last-on-first-off" rule was in force, it was unfair that while women should be equal pay, men should not be discriminated against.

A lot of women felt that the demand for a shorter working week, on full pay, was the best way to fight layoffs.

The meeting discussed ways of setting up a local committee. For instance 50 Mary's, an inner north-western suburb, is an industrial area with a lot of housing commission houses.

There they are the possibility of a project involving cooperation of all workers, tenants, residents and companies.

ended

Now after four weeks the Clerks Union has broken its promise and lifted the ban on the eighteen being reinstated. Kenworth has ended the lock-out and work at the factory has resumed. The vehicle Builders Union didn't even organise a picket line before the return to work.

Kenworth workers have suffered a disastrous defeat. Even the VBI officials are forced to organise a serious fight to get us of jobs, their own interests will keep occurring throughout the vehicle industry.

Kenworth pickets bus route, the Australian manager, from street in the factory.

HERE'S HOW TO SMASH CABS

The gloves are off in Sydney's retail butcher strike.

The butchers, who had no previous history of militancy, are proving that they can stay out for weeks.

And they are showing that they know how to deal with scabs.

Being hands of pickets are scoring yards of picket strikers. They are finding them, too, and chasing them out of the shops.

There are few scab working in the daytime now. "Once we strictly fire our own, the second gets around town that it's not on," they say.

But there are plenty still working at night. So last week, the butchers organised a night squad, and again invited me along.

Our first stop was a shop in Cowslid.

There was a light on in the back and several pairs of feet visible behind a screen.

Several pickets went to the butchers knocked on the front window.

All we got to see was the clean floor and the parking lot.

This is how strikers are won. And the butchers certainly seem to win.

INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

what we fight for

The International Socialists are a revolutionary socialist organisation, open to all who accept our basic principles and are willing to work to achieve them.

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BHP 1,000 MORE ON THE SCRAPHEAP

BHP at Port Kembla are to cut steel production to May 1977 by 108,000 tonnes. This will mean 1,000 fewer jobs on the South Coast where there are already over 6,000 unemployed (8.6% of the workforce).

Australian Iron and Steel manager Burgess says that there will be no retrenchments, instead they are going to rely on wage cuts. A.I.S. are not going to replace the 70 workers a week who leave the steel works because of the dangerous and filthy conditions and the poor treatment section. Joseph Kewitowski, his leg amputated because of an accident and fatalities in the steel works are commensurate.

The run down of the work force will be used to remove militants and erode working conditions ever further. F.I.A. job delegate Keith Nixon said: "They will transfer the militants to shift jobs in an effort to make them leave." In particular A.I.S. will stand over the migrants, Turks, Yugoslavs and Greeks, who don't speak English and are frightened of losing their jobs.

Run-down

F.I.A. members in the steel during section have already struck to prevent the transfer of any workers away from the waterfront to other sections of the steel works. They have rejected the closure of the No 2 outer harbour pit, which A.I.S. are attempting to shut as part of the general run-down, and are demanding that all members be absorbed into the A.I.S. stevedoring section.

For the union leadership appear to be doing little to prevent the run down. With a right wing national leadership like Short and Harrell this was to be expected from the F.I.A. But we could have hoped for more from the A.M.W.U. which has some fine militant policies like the 35 hour week. A militant fight for the 35 hour week could save the 1000 jobs BHP is planning to scrap.

Scare Tactics

Dillingham will close the Qantas building site rather than reinstate two victimised dogmen.

That is the way it looks to workers on the site, who met Ian Frinkley after 6 weeks on strike, they found the company pleasantly subsiding. And they have learned that Dillingham's staff have been given notice.

HERE'S SOMETHING THE NEWSPAPERS DIDN'T TELL YOU about the Oil Disputes.

While those two-hour queues of cars banked up in Sydney, while the garages closed down and the motorists sweated out the long waits... petrol was readily available just 50 miles out of town.

The petrol companies had quite coolly and deliberately created an artificial shortage in Sydney to turn public opinion against the oil workers.

They had a lot of help in their little game of manipulation. From the Sydney papers who screamed hysterically about communist subversion.

And from Justice Moore who made dark threats about holding back indemnity. And from "Labor" Premier Neville Swan - who was even prepared to declare a State of Emergency.

That was the sort of pressure the oil maintenance workers were under this month. Why? Because they had the cheek to stand up and say, "This isn't enough, we want more."

The 1100 oil workers haven't had a significant pay rise since 1974.

Sold Out

And now that Bob Hawke, Neville Swan and the metal unions have sold them out, they won't get one for another year, either.

At first, the oil workers threw out official recommendations to lift their wages and accept a weekly \$2.50. What the rank and file wanted was a break-through to be paid by the companies. An excellent demand that would have been a breakthrough for all Australian workers.

So what about Bob Hawke? He cancelled his departure for the International Labor Organisation meeting in Geneva. Not to build the oil-workers' struggle... but to destroy it.

Hawke had two excuses, if you could call them that. First, indemnification might be held up. Second, the Arbitration

Commission might grant the Medbank levy in the February decision hearings.

Both of Hawke's excuses were pathetic. You don't speed up Arbitration decisions by caving in on struggles... we saw that last year when the judges held back their decisions for weeks.

And the Medbank levy is not going to be won by one man's actions from Bob Hawke at Arbitration in February... it's going to be won after somebody makes a break-through.

And the oilworkers were strong enough to do it.

Plead

What about Hawke's supporting act? He had Neville Swan flying to Melbourne to plead with the unions to drop the ban.

Great stuff from a Labor Premier, who then announced he was going to declare a State of Emergency. Supposedly to ration out petrol and prevent stand-downs... but his real intent was revealed when he said:

"I will get tough with any section of the community including the unions, that imperil people's jobs."

Hawke and Swan had their way in the end. The union leaders from the AMWU, ETU, FIA and ASE persuaded the oil workers to cool it till after February on the Medbank levy. Then, they claim they'll try and rebuild the campaign across the whole union movement.

We'll believe it when we see it.

THE Battler

BLACKMAIL AND BRAWLS



Dirty tricks at Molonglo

The bosses at the Molonglo construction site in Canberra are trying all sorts of tricks to divert the workers' attention from their claims for the Medbank levy and severance pay.

First they tell the delegates they can't possibly negotiate until a court hearing about wage relations between filters and crane drivers is over.

The workers wouldn't wear this and kicked off a rolling stoppage campaign.

Then on the 4th November, Parsons lashed out and sacked 40 AWU members for holding a 1 1/2 hour stopwork meeting to discuss the claim.

The AWU had told Parsons to stick their pink slips, sent back on site and worked in. Next day they started a picket outside the gate and blocked all Parsons' deliveries for 2 1/2 days.

Meanwhile the other 200 workers on site continued working. They voted to strike a \$20 levy to back the AWU blokes.

This was a good tactic as without the AWU crane chasers, riggers and scaffolders the company got bugger all production any day.

The picket went on the company first offered to reinstate some but not all workers, then everyone if the delegate resigned.

Finally their little scheme caved in. The workers wouldn't cave in. The workers couldn't be budgeted and everyone got reinstated on the terms before.

"We know our strength outside Fraser's and we've proved it again and we've proved it again without going to arbitration court."

"The company had to stop sidetracking and we were making some serious gains."

"We are going to get our hell until they do."

The Battler

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS
NUMBER 29, 15 December 1976

Don't let Fraser off the hook

THE LIBERALS are on the skids and Bob Hawke seems determined to save them. Malcolm Fraser has suddenly become the whipping boy of every cartoonist in the country. With three changes to the value of the dollar in a fortnight (it may be four or five by the time you read this) his economic policy has become an open joke.

The man who came to power with a fanfare about saving the economy now can't even save his own face!

But he needs't worry. Bob Hawke is going to do it for him.

Fraser's antics in the last fortnight have opened the eyes of thousands of people who were closed last December into thinking he had a solution to the economic crisis. He hasn't - and now the whole world knows. Suddenly, the ruling class is in disarray. For the first time it has become possible for us to think in terms of bringing down the Fraser government.

Even sections of the press are starting to wonder out loud about dethroning Fraser.

With the crying need for a wage campaign and Fraser's deception debate, you'd think the unions would take the chance to unite the labor movement and drive Fraser right off the political map.

But no. Instead, we are being treated to the pitiful spectacle of Bob Hawke crawling to Fraser with an offer of a wage freeze to help the bosses out of their problems (and Fraser out of his).

In return for the wage freeze Hawke asks (wait for it) ... Tax Cuts!

That means either more savage cutbacks in social services... or the sacking of more Government employees or a bigger deficit and skyrocketing inflation to make the wage freeze really hurt.

Hawke's call for tax cuts is precisely what Phil Lynch was screaming for 18 months ago. Bob Hawke is looking so splendid at the moment, he's waving up to a group of mildly-determined young men.

FRASER's economic strategy may be in tatters, but he still has two policies left to help the bosses: fair and square behind him.

Wage cutting and union bashing.

That was the point of the devaluation. Prices are going to go through the ceiling and Fraser is going to make sure we don't catch up.

And it's also why he's moving to bring the unions under the Trade Practices Act.

He wants to take away our right to strike, our right to boycott, to black ban and to force closed shops so that when we fight for wages, we'll be hemmed in by the law.

In the face of this kind of attack, all Hawke can think of is compromise.

Yet for Fraser, this compromising is just another excuse to step up his attack.

Fortunately, the Trade Union movement is a lot more than Bob Hawke.

The ACTU Executive has told him that any deal would have to be referred to a special Federal Unions Conference.

Twenty-six Federal Unions have already condemned the wage-freeze proposal.

The South Coast Trades and Labor Council has also condemned Hawke's manoeuvre as an attempt to prop up a system that is not in the interests of workers.

Bob Hawke can talk to the crazy gnat all he likes, he cannot be partial to Fraser's company.

Let's be absurdly understanding one thing: When he starts talking about deals, he does not represent us.

INSIDE
URANIUM p3
FAIRFAX p5
WAINER ON POLICE p6,7

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Trades Hall dithers over Newport

HAMER has come disturbingly close to winning his gamble on Newport. He gambled that if he took a tough stand on building the power station and backed it with a series of hard threats he could terrify the trade union movement into backing down and building Newport.

Last month he played almost every card he had in his hand. He brought down threats to just trade unionists dumping "vital state projects" they be went and disrupted every vital state project on the books - from the Sunshine Hospital to roadworks in Nar Nar Goon.

He has one card left to play. He has still to declare Newport a Vital State Project and begin actually doing and jailing unionists for non building it.

Despite strong rank and file support for the Newport ban, Trades Hall Council will not even call a shop stewards meeting on the VSP legislation. Neither will the left caucus (the rebel union).

The other way to avoid a confrontation on Newport is to stop it happening. But they are divided on how they are

DETERMINED

The whole Labor movement in Victoria is determined to avoid that happening. But they are divided on how they are

SUCIDAL

It is also suicidal. The State Labor Advisory Committee is made up of representatives of Trades Hall, the State Labor Party shop State Labor Parliamentarians.

continued page 2

The Liberals begin to panic

That is the only reasonable description of the massive "debate" on unemployment.

Likewise, any claim that the government will make anything out of the current boom is wishful thinking. It will take months, if not years, before the government will be able to do anything about it.

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EMPLOYMENT

The government will be able to do nothing about it. It will take months, if not years, before the government will be able to do anything about it.

BEHIND THIS CRISIS — A SYSTEM OF CRISIS

The reason Fraser is in trouble is that neither his old strategy, nor his new strategy will work — even though they are exactly opposed to each other.

In fact, no capitalist strategy will work, because the system is broken.

After the war, prosperity was manufactured, by means of public spending, especially on the arms race.

SPECULATION

In Australia, the same problem is exactly the same. Fraser made huge handouts to business, and wages have fallen. But the houses didn't rise.

The houses have fallen. But the houses didn't rise.

This is part of the decay of the whole capitalist system. But if the system gets less and less stable, they will be refusing to invest.

The system produced economic stagnation in much of the world during the twenties, and led to the Great Depression. It took the second world war to end the Depression.

After the war, prosperity was manufactured, by means of public spending, especially on the arms race.

The Newports have proved an economic recovery will mean a pickup in the class struggle. After the misery and anarchy of the past two years, the workers will demand their own back, and the struggle will be explosive.

The workers are afraid of us. But they can't defeat us. And don't our wages and conditions further still, they know profit rates will fall. That is why they must attempt to take on attacks on the working class.

Divide our wages, slash social services, divert all resources to the profit sector. That is the war cry of the capitalist class.

OBSTACLES

Fraser is his warrior. He has done his best to give confidence to their own capitalist system. This demands some sacrifice to level at grand relief.

Further ahead they see obstacles. The most serious one is the power of the working class.

The recession lessened the rate of strikes, and reduced wages. But the workers remained defiant, as the Fairfax strike and

by TOM O'LEIGHIN

Industries which don't benefit from the devastation will still have to face the same problems. They will stretch workers. And if Lynch imposes a credit squeeze to control the inflation, as seems likely, it will bankrupt many small businesses.

As a result, overall unemployment in Australia could rise.

The government will do something about the inflation, which devastation will cause.

REALISATION

Then, when unions go for wage rises, they will get the blame.

Even the most industry, which is not export industry, will be unable to expand its production all that much, because of meat quotas imposed in the USA and Japan.

Exporting unemployment. To the extent that Australian exports expand, and employment grows, it means a loss in sales for overseas competitors.

More unemployment has to be made. More unemployment has to be made. More unemployment has to be made.

Some experts are predicting inflation will hit 30% if something doesn't happen.

Fraser can do a number of things. He can reduce tariffs, which would make imports cheaper again. This amounts to reversing some of the effects of the devaluation, but it will hit particular industries. They will scream and howl, and Fraser is known to be "soft" on tariffs.

The government can also squeeze credit. With money pouring into the country, it is almost certain to do so. But some of the money has to be "mopped up". It will be done.

But a credit squeeze will devastate the building industry, which would make exports fall. It will make it impossible to export the whole industrial production.

Finally, the government can bring in a new round of devaluations. It will be blamed for everything, and it will be done.

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Finally, the government can bring in a new round of devaluations. It will be blamed for everything, and it will be done.

PROTESTS OUT-FOXING FOX

ACTU honours Mary Kathleen

by STEVE MORGAN

CHRISTMAS CAME early this year for the share holders of Mary Kathleen Uranium and its multinational partner CRA.

On Wednesday, December 8 the ACTU Executive voted to give the all-clear to the mining and export of the death mineral from Mary Kathleen mine in North Queensland.

Earlier, the Australian Railways Union backed uranium export and staged a twenty-four hour strike when over 200 of their members were sacked in consequence.

Having responded by persuading the ARU to lift its ban until after the release of the Ranger Inquiry.

On December 11 this year, the eighteen federal unions voted in the unanimous decision to approve the mining and export of uranium to meet existing contracts at a meeting held in Sydney.

An ARU resolution moved by Ralph Taylor called for "an immediate moratorium on the mining and export of Australia's uranium" and condemned Fraser's decision to issue export licences "contrary to the recommendations of the CRA/Ranger Uranium Environmental Inquiry Panel Report."

It demanded that the Fraser government should fund the re-education of workers affected by the policy.



These demonstrators were an attempt to attract the attention of the press.

Minister of Labour, M. J. Brennan, last night, after the meeting, said: "I am happy to see that the protesters are now being dealt with in a fair and just manner."

The protesters were told to leave the area immediately. They were warned that any further disruption would result in severe consequences.

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THE URANIUM companies and the Fraser government have interpreted the conclusions of the Ranger Inquiry as a green light to mine and export uranium.

Justice Fox, in a letter to Newmann, the Minister for Environment, claimed that their findings do not amount to a recommendation.

The Commission of the report stated explicitly that the findings and recommendations "are to be read and understood in the context of the report as a whole."

The Commissioners expressed alarm at the tactics of the Fraser government and the pro-uranium lobby.

And to avoid the companies involved in the Ranger project have already spent half a million dollars in putting their case, including

the hiring of a QC to attend each hearing in all cities that the Commission had evidence.

One of these expenses, E2 Industries, has had half page advertisements in the major daily papers. It quoted the first two findings of the report as evidence of its plea.

"The hazards of mining and milling uranium, if those activities are properly regulated and controlled, are no such as to justify a decision not to mine and mill Australian uranium."

The most dangerous problem, beyond the containment of the reactor, is the disposal of high-level nuclear waste which must be stored for long periods of years.

Current methods of storage have developed leaks after just a few years, while the safety of the claim the storage tanks have a life of only 25 years.

The Fox report strongly stated that we must all decide the future of uranium. It is agreed strongly with the view that the final decision should rest with the ordinary man and not be regulated by a committee of any group of scientists or experts.

Yet E2 would have us believe that Parliament is the proper place for debate. Government ministers have called for the establishment of a full-scale uranium export industry and with the complexity of the ACTU is intent on exporting the one recommendation of the Fox Commission: the call for simple time to hold a public debate!

The actions of the Fraser government when Don Chipp became the center of the uranium faction in the Federal Parliament in the Parliamentary amendment game, the "green light" to the Fraser government.

He said that what is needed is a firm resolution like the ARU proposal — not one open to interpretation by the Liberal Party.

On the other hand, the Labor Party has been keeping pretty low profile on the whole issue.

Whidman and Connor re-opened the Mary Kathleen mine after it had been closed several years. Yet Whidman is the gall to say that the Federal parliamentary Labor Party will honour the Fox report. They have already said it short.

NEWPORT

(Continued from page 1)

On Thursday November 25 it recommended that a board of inquiry be set up to look into sites for the power station and that both the government and the union movement were to be bound by its findings.

The committee was to be made up of Chairmen of the State Electricity Commission, the Gas and Fuel Corporation and the EPA (Environmental Protection Authority), and representatives of the ACTU and the Australian Conservation Foundation. In other words half the committee would be appointed of course.

The SLAC's recommendation went up to Trades Hall that night. It was passed. The ACTU and the Plumbers and Gasfitters were opposed to the whole idea. Ken Carr of the Publishing Trades Union moved to exclude the AMU. They were concerned that if they failed to build a power station at Newport until it fulfilled the AMU's rank and file of the ACTU.

Prominent among the AMU were officials from the ACTU. The chairmen of the Communist Party members on the TMC. Indeed the Communist Party's breakdown was so obvious that even the dating noted it.

However, even given the reluctance of some Communist and Socialist Left officials to fight for what's needed, it is absolutely foreseeable and contemptible for people like Ken Carr, Victoria, and the officials of the CPA, to go round accusing the rank and file of the ACTU of being "out of touch with industrial reality."

REJECTED

Hamer rejected the SLAC TMC back view. He probably believes that he can get a more ideal answer from Trades Hall. Unfortunately he is probably right.

The following week at the Left Union Caucus meeting Ken Carr was criticised for breaking silence in moving the amendment, which would award the seat. This represents an attempt to stop the union movement.

Where is the ALP?

WHERE IS THE ALP? Question which Don Chipp becomes the center of the uranium faction in the Federal Parliament in the Parliamentary amendment game, the "green light" to the Fraser government.

He said that what is needed is a firm resolution like the ARU proposal — not one open to interpretation by the Liberal Party.

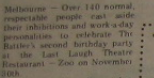
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I want to join the International Socialists

BATTLER FIGHTING FUND

BATTLER HAS THE AS LAUGH



Melbourne — Over 140 normal, respectable people can and their rebellious and work-day personalities to celebrate the Battler's second birthday party at the Last Laugh Theatre Restaurant — Last August (November 1974).

After gazing down what passed for reasonable food highlights of which was... Chinese food... 100 litres of wine... 100 bottles of beer...

Today's Wage Struggles

THE Canberra branch of the International Socialists held a forum on 'Today's Wage Struggles' last Thursday.

No workers are demanding pay rises above inflation... But bosses were feeling more belligerent and wanting to scrap the system of index increases to the Consumer Price Index...

The union officials have no response to this except to allow these struggles to remain isolated... If you want copies of the booklet, write to the I.S. Book Club...

I.S. BOOK CLUB

Big Red Diary 1977... The I.S. Book Club is a national, co-ordinated body... It is a quarterly journal...

SUMMER CAMP

Hang on to your hats! The I.S. Summer Camp on January 29-31 — which we conservatively estimate will be the best three days of your life so far — has left.

NSW CONFERENCE

Eighteen people attended the I.S. NSW Conference in Wollongong last weekend. First up were discussions on the industrial and political scene. Then David Lockwood from Canberra branch introduced the main discussion topic — the Communist Party of Australia and its role as a consistent partner in CPA practice since 1935.

SYDNEY

The Last Sydney branch meeting for 1976 will be held on Sunday 19 December at 5/11 Pitt Street, Sydney (Phone 7-3000). Friends of I.S. are welcome to attend.

Melbourne I.S. members have been campaigning heavily against Hamar's Newport offensive.

Together with western suburbs residents, we have held four shopping centre rallies in Footscray, Sunshine, Williamstown (Vic.)... We've had an excellent response to a petition we have been collecting, with many people saying they would like to be kept in touch with further activities we organise.

As a result of the good response, a new Youth Hall Committee Against Newport is being established. Its first public meeting will be on Thursday 16 December at the Raleigh Hotel, 100 Williamstown Rd.

The meeting discussed and built pressure for a rank and file group to be formed in the shops... The meeting also produced a leaflet for a distribution at a local shop.

Soon after that I joined the Communist Party, mainly because I was attracted by the things the party was doing in the industry. In the middle of 1974, I came to Sydney. I became involved in delegating meetings in the shops and workers were taking very advanced actions.

MILITANCY

The I.L.F. leadership cultivated militant militancy among the workers... The I.L.F. leadership cultivated militant militancy among the workers, smashing down each work-week, occupations like the occupation of the Hilton site at George Street. We saw the results they got with their tactics, and the way they encouraged the workers to take their own initiative.

Who's Right? The new view of the law

The Pluto 1977 BIG RED DIARY... An illustrated pocket book \$2.50 (plus 40 cents post)

NEW RELEASE!

CRIMES OF THE POWERFUL... Marism, Crime and Debt by Frank Pearce... The book is a collection of articles on the power of the state and the role of the police.

REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

To smash the system, we are opposed to the social partitioning of homo sexuals... We are building a revolutionary party, organised in the workplaces. Without a revolutionary party, there are no prospects for workers.

FULL EQUALITY AND LIBERATION

For women, blacks, migrants and all oppressed groups, discrimination against migrant peoples are all pillars of capitalist system. We are opposed to the social partitioning of homo sexuals.

RANK AND FILE ORGANISATION

Workers need their own rank and file organisations to fight the bosses' wage offensive... We are building a revolutionary party, organised in the workplaces.

WORKING CLASS by DAVID SHAW

DAVID SHAW is a Builders' Laborer, a veteran of the Green Bans and other great struggles of the NSW Branch of the I.L.F. He has written about his experiences and the political issues that have arisen from them.

The first job David ever worked, he had a serious accident when a scaffold collapsed, and he had to call in the union. That's when he first became involved in politics in the building industry.

Soon after that I joined the Communist Party, mainly because I was attracted by the things the party was doing in the industry. In the middle of 1974, I came to Sydney. I became involved in delegating meetings in the shops and workers were taking very advanced actions.

When I was out of the hospital, I was given a job by the union. I was very angry with them at times, and when they wouldn't support us we'd call them out, and so on.

But we have to be very 'super-militant' days. There was the famous Clarence Street strike in Sydney where they'd go home over a small thing, and the way they'd lift the steel and then go home.

That's when we were arrested, the arrests, the demonstrations, all of that. At that time the industry was booming, and you could have job left, right and centre, because you could always go and get a job somewhere down the road.

Another thing that impressed me was that the CPA made an attempt to bring women into the industry. There can be no doubt that during those weeks some of the workers voted in favour of it for actual reasons that it would be 'great to have a bella on the job', but nevertheless I think that it did a lot to break down the myth that women can't do hard physical work.

And even though nearly all workers that I have driven out of the industry it was a lesson for a lot of workers that women should work in the building industry. Of course, it was mostly just a token effort, each job had its token woman.

Dave went back to Canberra in October, 1974 and formed a rank and file group with another CPA member. The local union leadership was right wing, and their years of neglect were reflected in poor conditions and safety.

So we started to bring out a newsletter called out a false name because we couldn't work under our real names. As soon as the company found out, they'd sack us, the union wouldn't give us any support maybe if we were lucky we'd hold a meeting of the mob, but we'd never get any support from them.

We had no concept of communicating with the workers on site. We were very arrogant with them at times, and when they wouldn't support us we'd call them out, and so on.

But we have to be very 'super-militant' days. There was the famous Clarence Street strike in Sydney where they'd go home over a small thing, and the way they'd lift the steel and then go home.

That's when we were arrested, the arrests, the demonstrations, all of that. At that time the industry was booming, and you could have job left, right and centre, because you could always go and get a job somewhere down the road.

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the sixth floor, and when the Foreman... underneath we'd let them... I trapped the lead form in a big cardboard box, then stacked more boxes around it and on top up to the ceiling... screaming and shouting.

Even today, for two hours, my job workers have been known to go home because there was no sugar in the lunch bag, or even in protest over the "general attitude of the company".

Of course you can outsmart yourself. The company can get fed up and close the job, sometimes for years.

But for the most part those heady days came to an end with the invasion by the Gallagher brothers. Gallagher had no support from the rank and file. In fact there were virtual riots on building sites when his organisers arrived.

On construction jobs it's been arrested when they occupied the site in protest at the Gallagher forces. On Qantas, there was a riot in Jamison Street.

SURROUNDED

At the Martin Place Eastern Suburbs Health site, a couple of Gallagher's new organisers were in the middle of talking to the mob. All the workers marched up from the site, they surrounded the shed, and the organisers couldn't get out. In the end they had to back a paddy wagon up to the shed to get them out.

But as time went on, it was clear that the employers were prepared to do almost anything to knock off the NSW leadership. Owens and Pirgale finally recommended that everyone go Gallagher's new branch.

David is emphatic that the decision was correct, though it came in for some criticism. Defeat was inevitable by that stage, he says.

There's no doubt that each worker, Thibaut is trying to make a play to reach the other side. Now, it's important to work among workers as well as on the streets. We used to fill wheelbarrows of wire up on

the sixth floor, and when the Foreman... underneath we'd let them... I trapped the lead form in a big cardboard box, then stacked more boxes around it and on top up to the ceiling... screaming and shouting.

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went wrong, and what the party can do to rebuild its work in the working class, and I think that it will move into the uranium campaign, and it can't see the qualitative differences between the two. But it's the workers who will make or break capitalism.

"The CPA is still militant, but it's militant reformism. As the crisis of capitalism matures, I think it's going to continue to promote reformist solutions."

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INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS what we fight for

WORKERS' POWER... Workers control over the whole of society... We are building a revolutionary party, organised in the workplaces.

throwing the capitalist system, not patching it up gradually... We are building a revolutionary party, organised in the workplaces.

cannot survive in one country. It must help other countries or it will be crushed... We are building a revolutionary party, organised in the workplaces.

system. We are opposed to the social partitioning of homo sexuals... We are building a revolutionary party, organised in the workplaces.

Workers need their own rank and file organisations to fight the bosses' wage offensive... We are building a revolutionary party, organised in the workplaces.

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THE BATTLE

Dear Bartler,

We will only have 21 days in which to obtain as many signatures as possible. We would like every adult resident to sign an objection form. It is Sunshine's name that will change, but for some of our neighbours in surrounding areas, homes, lives and environment will change.

Pam Antsee,
Secretary,
SUNSHINE ACTION COMMITTEE.

Telephone 393-1790.

Dear Bartler,

I was amazed by Pete Cockcroft's letter (Battler November 24) criticising my article on the People's Budget.

I was now at the stage where we need more help from all areas.

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Dear Bartler,

I was most interested to read in Battler No. 27 about the unemployed workers in Wollongong getting up an Unemployed Workers' Movement to fight for jobs. Many of your readers will be aware of the continuing struggle for the Right to Work campaign in Britain.

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Comrades,

Just a short note on recent happenings at the South Coast Labour Council that show just how much help towards a new society can be expected from trade union bureaucrats.

At the SCLC meeting held October 23 (one day early so as not to clash with a visit by Hawke and Scullion) a resolution was moved by secretary Merv Nixon calling for Council's support for a rally organised by maritime unions to be held in Port Kembla on November 11.

An amendment, was moved calling for a combined rally with the 11th November. The amendment also condemned the SCLC's support for the maritime unions around the issue of the rejection of the Whitlam government by the maritime unions.

The amendment was drawn up by George Murray (WV) and supported by a number of the rank and file against and amongst the voting.

With the resolution it was obvious that the only way planned was to hold the union rally in Port Kembla. Consequently the ALP organ, Sydney for the meeting, held the following week.

The following week the union delegates to a meeting of the 10th October 24 (in an amendment) One delegate ARU, whose details were not provided, defeated amendment.

Because of the amendment made in the ALP organ, it was obvious that the meeting was too late to organise any other action (possibly the idea).

At the November 2 meeting AMWU delegates were disappointed in the October 24 meeting in an attempt to begin the AMWU's action on this date. However, the delegates who had moved the amendment in an attempt to begin the union not being informed of the meeting) and was able to tell the meeting that the truth of the matter was that the AMWU motives were.

Mick Owen
Mount Warrigal NSW

WHAT DO YOU THINK

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WHAT DO YOU THINK

Tell us! Write to: **WHAT DO YOU THINK**, c/o THE BATTLE, Box 1, Richmond, Vic. 3121.

The Communist Party and the People's Budget

recruit to the CPA, may be unaware of the party's historical record on class collaboration from 1947, when Lance Sharkey praised the British Commonwealth as a "free nation of peoples" to 1974, when Jack Mandey gave his preferences to the Australia Party in a Senate election.

The letters column of Tribune in recent weeks indicates that Pete is painfully aware of John Halpin's role over Newport — and of Tribune's whitewash over the matter.

As for the People's Budget, I never said that the CPA had any official policy either way. What I said was that leading members of the CPA are preparing to fudge the question. That is undeniable.

In July, Tribune carried such extensive coverage of the People's Budget that it was obvious to anyone that the CPA was deeply involved in initiating it. Leading CPA members were featured on page 1, making entirely uncritical statements. These and the rest of the coverage hammered the theme that increased public spending was the solution.

Tristram helpfully advised the government that "Frazier is barking up the wrong tree in his concern to cut government spending" and proceeded to put a straight under-consumption line approvingly.

It is this economic theory which Cockcroft's article is based on.

And it was John Hayden who argued that the People's Budget — all of it. We have heard a critical view of a socialist party's policy in a similar manner, to believe in the People's Budget. So, we have heard it again.

So my contention is that the CPA's present position is well terminated is why Pete Cockcroft is preparing to compromise himself to cover up his soundings.

Tom O'Leary
Sydney

Dear Bartler,

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SIT IN NO.1: Cops Drag Out 9

NINE TEACHERS from Fawkner Technical School in Melbourne were arrested after a sit-in at Education Department offices.

The sit-in, comprising the T.Y.A. branch at Footscray, was called for two hours outside the office of Assistant Director General Neville Shephard.

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THE BATTLE goes to press, the bosses at Don Smalwoods in Altona, Melbourne, are packing 150 workers on their militant workers.

First they locked out their 150 employees after they announced they were on strike. Then they said "any worker that agrees to break the overtime ban will get their job back."

THE BATTLE goes to press, the bosses at Don Smalwoods in Altona, Melbourne, are packing 150 workers on their militant workers.

SIT IN NO. 2: Wills Workers Refuse To Budget

AMWU MEMBERS AT W.D. & H.O. WILLS cigarette factory in East Bentleigh, Melbourne, have just had a two week sit in.

The bosses tried to "lock-out" the workers when they refused to fill in on a requisition a crucial response.

LOOKS ASHAMED of himself doesn't help. He is in the process of making a pre-arranged visit to do some more strike-breaking.

Thanks to him and fifty scum like him, the bosses at Concor Shear farms machinery have smashed a strike by their 250 workers.

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After four weeks, the Concor Shear strikers have gone back to work with only minimal improvements to their working conditions and a five dollar rise in attendance bonus.

During the strike, one of the workers on the picket line told The Battler about the shocking conditions they were fighting against.

"We've seen ten tons for 250 workers. We have fifty chairs in the canteen and there are three old-fashioned tables which are 100 workers." "We have to provide our own tea and sugar and our own cups. We have been brought in by a man in a station wagon so he hasn't got a license to carry his own car."

"I've got fumes from the furnaces when they're making the plates out. It's like the fumes are so thick, it fills the place out. There's no ventilation out of the top of the welding department either."

"We've just got the conveyor belt used in their tanks for the first time since the conveyor belt has been used for over 23 years ago. We don't get any air in the tanks. We've got fingers in the openings or disintegrate."

"Safety at the factory is atrocious. But they've got medical units. A few weeks ago, a worker lost his fingers on a lathe man wandered around the factory with a glove full of fingers, wondering whether to find them to the hospital. He didn't."

"Rather than improve these terrible conditions or raise the pathetic wages at Concor Shear — \$117 for a punch operator up to \$165 for a first class organist — the company organised its staff into a union and smashed the strike."

The Disaster

THE BATTLE goes to press, the bosses at Don Smalwoods in Altona, Melbourne, are packing 150 workers on their militant workers.

First they locked out their 150 employees after they announced they were on strike. Then they said "any worker that agrees to break the overtime ban will get their job back."

"Most of the people don't read or write English. They don't know what they're signing. They just signed it because they thought it was their job — that's all. They want the job, that's all."

"Some of them have big responsibilities, you have to understand the situation. They've got to pay for the house, pay for the car and they've got to go and get a job on their own."

"Most of the people don't read or write English. They don't know what they're signing. They just signed it because they thought it was their job — that's all. They want the job, that's all."

REIDY BURNS ACT

AS part of his campaign against sec. 57 of the NSW Education Act, Don Reidy brought a copy of the Act outside the Department Offices. He was watched by a group of unionists, supporters, including Peter Woods, President of the Western Region of the Teachers Federation.

Both Peter and Dan had been considered by the Federation Executive over their militant actions. The Western Region had just two alternatives: a) Reidy should be expelled; b) Reidy should be expelled.

The Federation has already taken action on this.

STABBED IN THE BACK

Mark Roberts was CBU chairman of the CBU workers at Castle Hill, NSW, in the photo, as explains how they were sold out by their officials.

I believe that your last report in the Battler on the strike at Blawrns Coke Works is completely factual. But in the last week of the strike, a change came over the scene, when after ten weeks, the NSW Labor Council, unfortunately for the coke workers, entered the dispute.

The delegation was given the usual "lock-out" go home.

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Savotage!

That's the only way you can describe what Tobacco Workers' Union secretary Ron Davies has done to Philip Morris workers in their campaign for company paid health cover.

Davies and the rest of the Tobacco Workers' Union executive have pulled out of the Works Council at Philip Morris. This has virtually decimated the work-inmate campaign that the Works Council was leading to try and make the company pay for health cover.

A number of the tobacco workers at Philip Morris aren't too keen on what Davies has done. Some of the women are trying to start the campaign up again.

They are putting pressure on Davies by walking out when ever he tries to address one of their meetings.

Instead of health cover, Davies is after a dangerous package deal. It has some attractive looking gains in it but is a 17% hour week and a slight increase in pay.

But in return, there will be much tighter control of sick leave and other losses of conditions.

The really dangerous part of the package is a proposal to have small groups of workers "super-vise" their own machines.

POLICE

This will mean no supervisor hovering around - but it will also mean that workers will be expected to police themselves. Even perhaps to the point of dobbing in fellow workers.



John Wolin, VBU steward, AMI, Port Melbourne writes.

AMI workers say:

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!

WHAT CAN WORKERS That's the question workers do when the bosses attack at AMI's Port Melbourne car and attempt to provoke assembly plant were forced to ask themselves: **enough is enough!**

JOURNOS TURN ON THE HEAT

THERE WAS NO HILAWARRA MERCURY in Wollongong last Tuesday when journalists struck in protest over the near century heat in their office. Air conditioning, which has been promised for some time, is now not due to be installed until next June.

Gordon Stanton, PHU Deputy Father of the Chapel, said that the Fairfax management then attempted to get out a reduced handout and work week and were stood down by management.

It's a pity that journalists in Fairfax's Sydney papers are not prepared to show the same solidarity with striking printers as they have shown with the Mercury's journo.

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THE Battler

MILLIONS OF DOLLARS HANG OVER

who aren't keeping up with the rest of the group.

And each group will have to keep its machine running non-stop. So when one or two take a meal break, the others will have to work twice as hard to keep the machine going.

Worst of all, this measure will mean the loss of three to four hundred jobs in the long run.

Little wonder that so many Philip Morris workers are angry at Davies selling out their health cover campaign for the last time.

THE BATTLERS in America have done something which should interest readers working in steel plants.

We've just got our Menus for the 1977 American Trucking Conference. That's where the Ford, International Harvester, Kenworth, Caterpillar, plus assorted heavy-duty monster-brands in the Motor-Hilton.

The buffet - sponsored Goodyear Tyres - includes coffee, shrimp cocktail, milkshakes, chicken, Swedish meatballs, crab, scallops, cheese, hors d'oeuvres, cheese and nuts.

They also had live poppy lily there with liquor and orchestra to soothe nerves.

STUFFED

But it's not all fun and being a truck industry has helped them recover from the recession of the Gulf. Kuwait, they thoughtfully took over Hotel's position and turned it into a beautiful garden as the conventional lives could staff themselves German food, was all part of the plan.

In a change drive (foundation) which will help with the German market from the pool (!)

But it was back to lunch with Ford's school of lunch (semi) and some wine (I don't know if it was a bit more of a palate than when OJ had their turn at all.

All in all, there was "hospitality rooms" (some beer, and the Hilton Hilton alone made over \$100,000 from the event).

So, when you have been times your pay because of his skills and resources have some sympathy. All you can eat this time still come back for

noon shift and was blamed for damage to crates that were badly packed in Japan.

Fifteen hundred of us marched to the factory gates, where shop stewards presented the list of demands to management. Industrial relations officer Rod Walters gave a smug "No!"

We just had to take action. It was decided that we would stop work for the afternoon and hold a demonstration outside AMI's city showrooms.

Only about 40 of us turned up to picket the showrooms for an hour, and then marched through Melbourne's streets to the City Square.

If the three can't get their jobs back, then all of us will feel uncertain about our jobs. We need to take further action before Christmas.

Another stop work meeting will be the first step.

Surfside wreckers must be stopped!

MILITANT UNIONS have overwhelmingly defeated an attempt to lift the South Coast Trades and Labor Council's ban on the development of Surfside Drive, Port Kembla. However, Jack Brown, the local BWIU organizer, without consulting local residents has agreed to go ahead with the development in defiance of the Labor Council.

The ban has been in force since May 1974 and was originally placed to prevent 15 store high rise development by a company controlled by right-wing Liberal MP Billy Wentworth.

Noel Mulligan, a spokesman for the Port Kembla residents' action group and a Clerks Union delegate to Council, called for a continuation of the ban to protect the sand dunes and the use of the beach for shore public recreation.

PETITION

Over 6,000 residents of the predominantly working class Port Kembla area have signed a petition calling for restoration of the Port Kembla beach for the use of working people. The residents have called a public meeting this Wednesday, December 15 at Port Kembla to discuss the issue.

ABU delegate Mick Mervin moved a successful motion calling for a meeting of the residents and the council to be held before any P.E.B.M. was taken on the ban.

ABU delegate Bill Kelly, who moved the amendment, said the members don't see the need for equipment needed to do the job and they intend of taking any without the agreement of residents.

State Library of Victoria

The Battler

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

THE BATTLER NUMBER 30 FEBRUARY 2 1977 10CENTS

FRASER'S CHILDREN

NO JOBS, NO JOBS, NO JOBS, NO JOBS, NO FUTURE

BY PHIL GRIFFITHS

NOV THAT the school holidays are over, a lot of kids will be going back to school to repeat years that they have already passed because there are no jobs for them.

A lot more kids who left school hoping to find work last November will receive their first dole cheque this week after having gone into bank to live for the last three months.

A lot of those kids will not get jobs at all throughout the whole year. Not because they don't want jobs, but because the jobs don't exist.

They do not exist because employers are not taking on apprentices, because employers are not taking on staff of any kind.

The jobs do not exist because the Fraser government deliberately chose to increase unemployment as a means of controlling inflation. They devalued and lost control of inflation anyway.

Last year, the Commonwealth Employment Service found jobs for only a quarter of school leavers, and for working class kids the situation is grimmer still.

In Mt Druitt (NSW) only 15% got jobs through CES. Not surprisingly, when there are 121 school leavers for each job in that part of town.

And, as if the situation isn't bad enough, the Government is cooking the unemployment figures.

First they denied school leavers the dole until February. That alone should have cut the figures of registered unemployed.

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Tony Street had the nerve to suggest that only the "dole bludgers" would fail to register just because they couldn't get benefits.

These kids are desperate for jobs. When the manager of CES in Newcastle placed ads calling for school leavers to register, 700 turned up in one day.

Paul Baker of the Youth Service in Sydney says: "We don't dare put up specific school leaver vacancies on our bulletin boards. If we did, there'd be 300 people rushing into our office."

But with no jobs going, and no dole, why should they come in and wait for hours to register? So naturally, the figures for registered unemployed are going to be low.

But Fraser was not satisfied with that. Letters were sent to CES offices. They encouraged local officials to find means -

NEWPORT INQUIRY PICKET

Tuesday February 8, 10 a.m.
Demonstration 5 p.m.
171 Flinders St. Melbourne
See Story Pages 6 & 7

STATE LIBRA

WHILE THOUSANDS of kids start life without jobs, while thousands of men and women are without jobs they held for years, industry claims it cannot afford to give them jobs.

The bosses scream that because of high wages they don't have the money to invest. The poor dears are living in poverty. Well, not quite.

Some people have a lot of money to invest. In luxuries and speculation.

The Golden Gate building in Surfers Paradise is probably the most expensive block of home units in Australia.

The 35-story building has 177 units and is topped by four 15-story penthouses with making prices of around \$240,000.

The penthouses have air conditioning, floor to ceiling windows, bars, swimming pools, saunas and views as far north as Brisbane. (see above)

Thirty five of the units were sold at an average price of \$70,000 within three days of Golden Gate opening for inspection.

On opening day a Melbourne businessman flew to the Gold Coast, bought an unit and flew back to Melbourne.

About half the buyers paid deposits in cash and many units were sold to investors.

The press used to say a lot about bludgers living on the Gold Coast. Well, have we right. There are bludgers on the Gold Coast. They are not living on the dole. They are living on our backs.

Leslie Jackson (left) and Susan McEwan are two school leavers from Collingwood, (Vic) who are being denied the dole. They're just one of the thousands of other unemployed school leavers. But the Supreme Court has postponed their case till March. Meanwhile, presumably, school leavers like Leslie and Susan eat stars.