

# LIBERTY

"We raise the watchword Liberty! We shall—we SHALL be free!"—Tolpuddle Martyrs.

No. 16.

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PRICE: THREEPENCE

## OUR LIBERTIES DEPEND ON ACTION

### Force Repeal Of Crimes Act And Other Repressive Laws

The Conference called by the Victorian Democratic Rights Council in Melbourne on June 5th unanimously condemned the use of the Commonwealth Crimes Act against union officials, demanded the immediate repeal of the political and industrial sections of the Act, and pledged itself to resist all other Government attempts to interfere in trade union affairs.

Other unanimous resolutions condemned the proposals of the Federal Government to re-introduce the Communist Party Dissolution Act; emphatically condemned its policy of bringing large numbers of Nazi migrants to Australia; set up a committee on free speech and assembly; and protested at recent film bans and censorship.

The Conference was attended by delegates and observers from at least 65 organisations (unions, shop committees, women's, youth and cultural bodies, etc.), and by many individuals personally interested in the preservation and extension of freedom.

The Conference proved once again that people with different personal beliefs and opinions can agree on united action.

All are aware that Communists—whether actual or suspect—have been attacked more and more fiercely during the last few years. All must have

experienced the growing attempts by press and governments alike to intimidate every person with progressive leanings, by means of tags and labels, vague talk of disloyalty and sedition, imminent threats of punishment and penalties.

The Conference saw (as many thousands of people are beginning to see) that such attacks are aimed not at Communism but at unity in the face of repression. It condemned the use of the Crimes Act as a danger to ALL.

And accordingly, it recognised the repeal of the Crimes Act and the defeat of the proposed Arbitration Act amendments as the two campaigns most vital to the defence of democracy.

But merely to recognise and not to

act is useless. The Conference therefore urged a variety of action—united action—in the form of deputations of protest, a public campaign to win the use of public halls, visits and letters to Members of Parliament.

We urge you to take part in such action and to initiate it yourself, assist with donations, help sell "Liberty"—in short, to do whatever is within your power to do. Our liberties depend on YOU.

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#### REV. FRANK HARTLEY'S MESSAGE:

## Liberty

Each time "Liberty" is published some new crisis is upon us. This is only to underline what has always been maintained, that the price of liberty is eternal vigilance and action.

Personal liberty is only achieved by self discipline.

Group liberty is achieved and maintained only by group discipline and intense watchfulness.

When Paul wrote his Epistle to the Galatians he was dealing with the same problem in a different form. Then it was a question of religious liberty, now it is the question of political liberty, the liberty of a minority party and the liberty of trade unions.

If we see the problem clearly we will

see that threat to the liberty of one is soon the threat to the liberty of all. Paul complains "of the false brethren unawares brought in, who came in privily to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage." (Galatians 2: 4).

Today we have raids on trade union offices, paid pimps, organised scabbery, and corrupt journalists and editors who distort the news.

Paul's reaction to the ancient pimps was clear and definite: "But we refuse to yield for a single instant to their claims; we were determined that the truth of the Gospel should hold good for you." (Galatians 2: 2).

Our answer to the enemies of mankind must be just as firm and decisive. Later on in his Epistle the Apostle uses all his eloquence and moral power to exhort his readers, "Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ has made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage." (Galatians 5: 1).

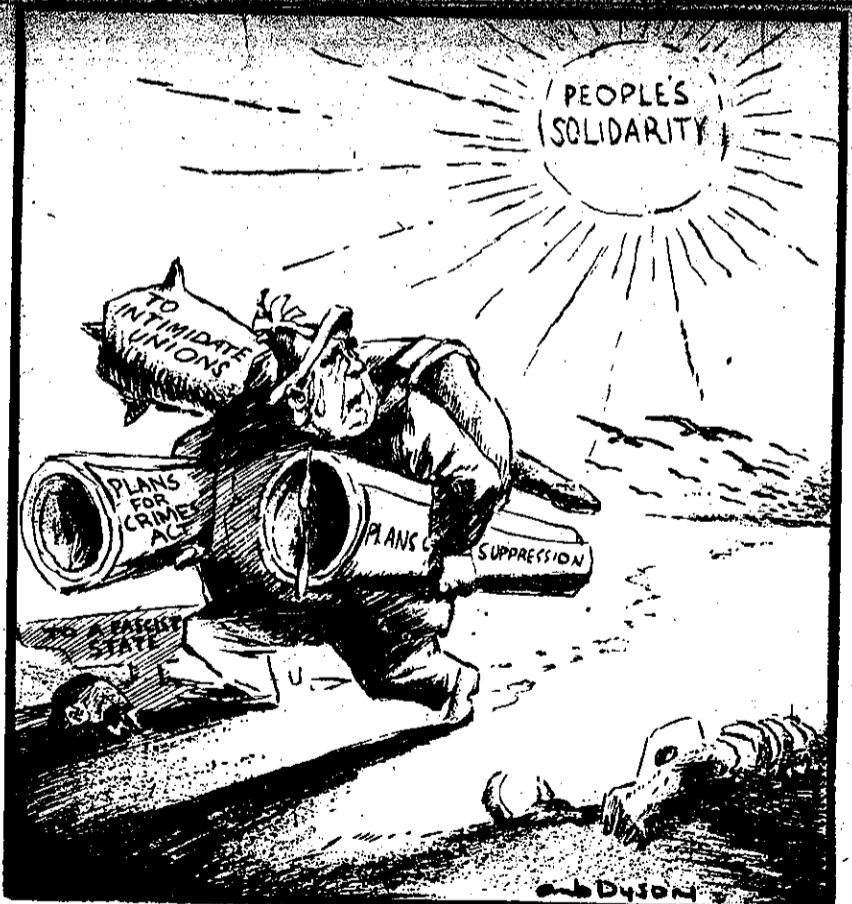
Today we call on all who have fought the hard way for their liberty to stand fast against the vicious attacks on traditional rights.

Finally the supreme challenge is issued, "For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another." (Galatians 5: 13).

Today there are many citizens who enjoy their comparative high standard of living and their trade union rights and liberty of conscience because of the sweat and tears of those who have fought the battles of the past. To which we could add the blood that has been spilt on the battle fields of the world.

Many of those who enjoy the privileges are quite oblivious to their responsibilities. They are bent on having a good time while the good time lasts. They are too self-centred to see their privileges are threatened.

To one and all this appeal goes out. Wake up before it is too late. Stand fast on your liberty. Use not liberty for self-indulgence. By love serve one another. March forward to still greater and more glorious liberty.



"There was nothing in MEIN KAMPF about this!"

## BIG PUBLIC MEETING ON NATIVE RIGHTS

A meeting of 900 people in the Melbourne Town Hall on June 19 contributed over £150 to the funds of the newly formed Council for Aboriginal Rights, endorsed its action, and resolved unanimously to call on the Governments to spare no expense in hastening to implement under expert advice the provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The meeting, which was chaired by Canon F. E. Maynard, President of the Council, heard a recorded message from the aboriginal tenor, Mr. Harold Blair, who was absent on a concert tour.

Speakers were Mr. Alan Marshall, well-known author and journalist, who has travelled extensively in the Northern Territory and Queensland; Pastor Doug. Nicholls, himself an aborigine, who is Secretary of the Australian Aborigines' League and Pastor of the Church of Christ Aborigines' Mission, Fitzroy; Mr. J. Walker, a former secretary of the North Australian Workers' Union; Rev. Colin Williams, Vice-President of the Council; and Dr. Charles Duguid.

Dr. Duguid, an Adelaide specialist, as for twenty years worked untiringly for rights for the aborigines, and was instrumental in founding Ernabella Mission, in the north west of South Australia. In the course of his address Dr. Duguid cited examples of brutal murders of aborigines which had gone completely unpunished. In some cases police, the so-called "Protectors" of the aborigines, had been the perpetrators. Even access to native game and water—one of the few rights guaranteed to the natives by law—was in fact denied to them by station owners and police. There were three main needs, Dr. Duguid continued: health, education, and work. The basic cause for the shocking disease rates among the N.T.

flour, 4oz. sugar, and 2oz. tea per week". The able bodied got nothing, even when unemployed.

Full opportunity for properly paid employment was the third essential. "Tossing them crumbs from the master's table is an insult," he said, condemning doles and handouts.

Concluding, Dr. Duguid appealed to the meeting to work to convince the majority of white Australians of the worth of the aborigines, and to stir them to action to "bring them into the full enjoyment of the benefits bestowed by the articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights."

"That," he said, "is your job and mine."

#### FRANK HARDY ACQUITTAL:

## "A Victory for the People"

"The acquittal of Frank Hardy in the 'Power Without Glory' case is a victory of the people against the forces of repression," said Alan Marshall, well-known author, in a statement to "Liberty" last week.

"WHEN Frank Hardy stood in the dock, charged with criminal libel," Mr. Marshall continued, "the future of every Australian writer hung in the balance. Had he been found guilty, such a precedent would have been established that freedom for a writer to expose social evils and corruption would have been impossible.

"A disquieting feature of the trial was the definition of criminal libel as given by the prosecution. It would appear that in their view criminal libel

tence if this interpretation is valid. "Frank Hardy, who was supported by most Australian writers and a large number of distinguished persons in the field of culture, is free today because democratic traditions are still alive in this country and cannot be extinguished."

#### PRICE OF FREEDOM

Although Frank Hardy has been found not guilty, the price he has paid for freedom of expression for

the sale of the book for six months. Two nights in gaol.

Remembering this, let us not only join the many thousands of people who have congratulated him on the splendid fight he put up. Let us also unite in demanding the repeal of this archaic law which does not allow truth as a defence, which does not require proof of any likely breach of the peace, and which fosters the growth of corruption by threatening all who would expose it in their writings.

#### Police Quiz Hardy and Other Melb. Writers

Despite the fact that a Melbourne jury last week acquitted Frank Hardy, police are still active.

Last Thursday, they interviewed the Hardys in the office of his solicitors. The Hardys refused to answer any question.

Police also saw Alan Marshall and C. B. Christesen, and questioned them regarding a leaflet thought to be issued by the Hardy Defence Committee prior to the trial.

Not content with this, they went to the Committee Rooms, and coolly requested permission to be present at the next meeting! And without disclosing any reasons, they asked for names and addresses of all Committee members.

ALL DEMOCRATS SHOULD PRO-