

Peace Movement Gathers Way; Plans For Congress On April 16

From end to end of Australia the workers, farmers, professional people and other democrats, irrespective of creed, are rallying in defence of peace and preparing for the big Australian Peace Conference on April 16.

At hall meetings, street meetings, cottage lectures and rallies in town halls, parks, factory-gates and pit-tops they are taking their stand for the cause of peace.

A MEETING of 150 to 200 people in Newcastle Town Hall, where speakers included a Salvation Army major, called for support of the peace movement.

Other news on the NSW peace front:

- After a week intensive peace campaigning, it was reported that South Coast workers would send up 15 delegates to the Conference.
- The South Coast Labor Council appointed its Secretary, Mr. L. Mullin, as its delegate to the Congress.
- A Lithgow meeting of women of the International Women's Day also elected its Congress delegation.
- Dr. Thomas Kaiser, brilliant young Australian physicist, arrived in Sydney to do a full program of peace meetings.

competitions being organised in connection with it.

Entries close for the NSW Peace Poster competition on March 26 at the NSW Peace Council office, 176 Hay Street, Sydney.

An exhibition of the posters will be opened by Mrs. Jessie Street at Federation House, Phillip Street, on March 31.

Newcastle Rally

Major Cullen, of the Salvation Army, opened the Newcastle Town Hall rally in defence of peace, taking as her texts "Follow peace with all men" and "Love thy neighbor as thyself."

She graphically described the horrors of war as seen during her three and a half years' internment by the Japanese.

Other speakers were Mrs. Vera Barton, of the New Housewives' Association, and Mr. John Rodgers of the Australian Peace Council.

The audience subscribed £10 to a collection.

After questions, a peace resolution was carried unanimously and nominations received for membership of the peace auxiliary.

The resolution demanded general disarmament, peaceful co-existence of different social systems, banning of atomic bombs, the trial of Japanese war criminals and free speech for peace fighters.

Addressing the South Coast Labor Council Mr. L. Mullin, publicity officer of the Illawarra Peace Auxiliary, called on the delegates to speed the formation of auxiliaries in the top of the ballot and the sale of peace buttons.

Dr. Kaiser's Program

Hundreds of wharflies carried a peace resolution after hearing Dr. Kaiser speak to an overflow meeting at Sydney branch headquarters of the union.

Besides other meetings, Dr. Kaiser will speak at the University during Wednesday's lunch hour, at Commonwealth Forge and Engineering at 12 on Thursday, and at Eveleigh loco works on Friday.



Mighty Melbourne Rally Seeks Sharkey's Release

MELBOURNE. — Two thousand people met in Melbourne Town Hall last week filled with determination to secure the release of the imprisoned Communist leader Lance Sharkey, who was jailed under the Crimes Act, following a peace statement.

UNDER a great banner reading "Free Sharkey, Champion of Peace," six prominent speakers took the rostrum and were loudly applauded.

Points from some of the speeches: "If ever there was a case in which reasonable argument should prevail there is no better case than that for Lance Sharkey."

Mr. Fred Patterson, Communist MLA (Qld.), outstanding barrister who defended Mr. Sharkey at his trial.

"Act In Concert"

"This is an occasion when Christians and Communists can agree and act in concert. If Mr. Sharkey is not allowed to say what he thinks, then other people will not be allowed to say what they think and thought will be driven underground. I hope that the suppression of the Communists will be ruled out and prevented from ever happening in this country."

Canon Maynard of St. Peter's, Eastern Hill.

"We must ask why it is that Lance Sharkey, champion of peace, is held in jail while Japanese war criminals have been released by the Australian Government."

Mr. Kevin Healy, WA Communist leader, who was acquitted, when charged under the Crimes Act for a similar statement to that which brought conviction and maximum jail sentence to Mr. Sharkey.

"It would be proper for the Attorney-General to remit the remainder of Mr. Sharkey's sentence. There is a body of public opinion that will not tolerate the repetition and continuation of tyranny of this kind. We will not suffer laws like that under which Lance Sharkey was imprisoned."

Mr. Brian Fitzpatrick, secretary of the Council of Civil Liberties.

"I have known Lance Sharkey for 25 years as a selfless and courageous man who has given all he has to the Labor Movement. None of us can feel free while he suffers the privation and humiliation of a capitalist jail."

Mr. Gilbert Burns, Queensland Communist, who has just served a six months Crimes Act "sedition" sentence. He also urged democrats to write to Mr. Sharkey in jail.

"All experience shows that the people have the power to beat back present attacks on liberty. Lance Sharkey's release can be secured if the power of the people is unassailable if used in good time."

Mr. E. F. Hill, Victorian State Secretary of the Australian Communist Party.

"From this meeting such a great movement will flow that not only shall Lance Sharkey be released but the new threatened attacks upon our liberties will be driven back and we will say to the warmongers there will be no war in our time."

Wide Support

Messages of support from overseas were read to the meeting from Mr. Harry Pollitt on behalf of the British Communist Party, Professor Bernal outstanding British physicist

who was responsible for directing British operational research during the war and from Maurice Thorez, leader of the French Communist Party.

Messages of support from within Australia came from the Brisbane Trades and Labor Council, the NSW Branch of the Sheet Metal Workers' Union, Mr. J. Chapple, General Secretary of the Australian Railways Union, Mr. Ernie Lane Queensland pioneer Socialist (brother of the late Will Lane, and Katherine Susannah Prichard).

Amid applause the meeting resolved to emphatically protest against the prosecution which ended in the jailing of Mr. Lance Sharkey. It declared it to be an attack upon democratic liberties and upon peace and part of the same plan which calls for the banning of the Communist Party and interference in the affairs of trade unions.

The meeting called on all lovers of freedom to unite in demanding the release of Lance Sharkey and the repeal of the Crimes Act together with all other anti-working class legislation.

The amount of £256 was subscribed to the collection.

Police Threat To Lempriere Pickets

Police have been called in by O.T. Lempriere's to try and intimidate pickets who are asking staff men not to scab on them and their families.

LAST Friday police warned the pickets they would be arrested for loitering and vagrancy if they persisted in manning the picket line.

Still as solid as ever, the Lempriere men are in their sixth week of strike for a 10 per cent rise and say that intimidation is not going to deter them from victory.

Instead of being deterred by police threats, strikers were on the job with a whitewash brush over the pick-end with a neat sign in front of the factory "SCABS WORK HERE."

"Storing Up Bitterness"

One strike committee leader said that the company's petty action in refusing the men's modest request for 10/- was "storing up bitterness in the men which would linger long after the strike is settled."

"We know for a fact that the Managing Director, Mr. Turner, was inclined to settle, but Metal Trades Association Secretary Fowler stepped in and made it a top-level decision of the big metal bosses that our claims should be fought," said the Strike Committee leader.

"This decision has been made because big business policy now is to give the worker nothing in the way of wage rises. The metal bosses also see the strike as a chance to force a fight with the Ironworkers' Union, whose militant policy for better conditions they hate so much."

"Fowler, who only a few weeks ago was talking about giving Arbitration away changes his feathers as it blows him. Now he is saying that we should not get the rise because we

are on strike instead of relying on arbitration's benevolence."

"The company is playing along with Fowler and the big metal bosses and not giving a fair go to men who have made so much profit for them, and it is making them very bitter."

"On top of the dirty action of putting the police on us, they are putting out propaganda they know to be untrue. This is a claim that we added the 10/- rise demand after renewal of our job agreement."

"The company knows as well as we do that they indicated they would agree to a rise when they got a rise in price for their products. They got their 50 per cent rise, wiped us for our wage rise, and now tell lies about the claim being 'added'."

"They are underhand things we won't forget so easily."

NZ Greeting

THE recent meeting of the National Committee of the New Zealand Communist Party addressed a message of solidarity to L. L. Sharkey.

The National Secretary, Mr. S. Scott, wrote to Mr. Sharkey:

"We are confident of the future of your Party and of the common cause for which we all fight. We appreciate the outstanding role which you have played in building the Australian working class movement and in giving assistance from time to time to our movement here."

"We are glad that your term of imprisonment has been reduced and we trust that with the active support of the Australian working people it will not be long before you are free to carry on your great work in the cause of peace, freedom and Socialism."

SPILLED THE BEANS ABOUT "LIBS"

MELBOURNE. — Accusations of scandalous racketeering at the people's expense have been made against the Holloway "Liberal" Government by Messrs. Edmunds and Lechte, MLAs, who were recently expelled from the "Liberal" Government camp.

Their accusations, based on their personal contact with Cabinet members, underline the correctness of the many exposures of Holloway's racketeering government made by the Victorian Communist paper, The Guardian.

Indicating how money talks in the "Liberal" Government, Mr. Edmunds

said at a public meeting in his electorate of Hawthorn last Monday night: "The State Liberal Party is up for sale, it can be knocked down to the highest bidder."

He charged the Minister of Housing (Mr. Warner) with "using politics as an adjunct to business." He claimed that six large building firms had been given a monopoly control over building materials.

Mr. Edmunds claimed that a cost accountant had given him a list showing £20,000 in one government building project for which no documents existed.

At the same meeting Mr. Lechte accused the Holloway Ministry of "scandalous and disgraceful misgovernment."

When an interjector mentioned the word "competition," Mr. Lechte said: "There is much competition in Cabinet to see who can hold the greatest number of business directorships."

The exposures are final proof, if any is needed, that the "Liberal" Party is a party of Big Business that must be swept from office in the Federal sphere as well as in Victoria and other States.

Sold 50 Tribes. In 35 Minutes

DARLINGHURST Branch seller Les Fry sold 50 Tribunes in eight East Sydney hotels on Friday.

"The demand was greater than ever," he said. "People who'd never bought it before were buying it. Menzies' attack on the ALP must be making people realise that he doesn't mean to ban only Communists. They're beginning to see every worker is threatened."

Les doesn't talk much about his Tribune selling, but inquiries by a Tribune reporter revealed that he handles about 40 every Wednesday, and about 100 every week of the Saturday issue.

His sale of 50 last Friday took only 35 minutes, which betters the excellent record of Ron Roberts of 43 Tribunes in 40 minutes...