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**COMMUNIST PARTY of AUSTRALIA**  
**Goulburn Branch**

OCTOBER 1971.

## EDITORIAL

This news sheet is published by the Goulburn Branch of the Communist Party of Australia in the hope that it will stimulate discussion of events and issues and to publicise communist policies. It will not be confined solely to local issues though it is intended that local problems will receive particular attention. The views of others, including non-communists, are most welcome, and should be forwarded to the Secretary at 123 Faithfull Street, Goulburn.

Firstly, we acknowledge that it is not only communists that recognise the irrelevance and inadequacy of modern capitalist society. Increasingly, people are seeing society as a rat-race, as outmoded, immoral, and corrupt, yet at the same time there is a general apathy and indifference, with many taking the view that "I'm alright Jack" or that they cannot do anything about the situation.

The inherent ruthlessness of modern capitalist society is clearly exemplified in the Vietnam war as it is also in the Attica prison bloodbath, and these are but two of many reasons why capitalism should be abolished.

Communists believe that reforms must be seen as but palliatives; partially effective, but clearly acting upon only the symptoms rather than the fundamental causes of society's many ills. The Communist Party of Australia firmly believes that there needs to be established a new, more humane, society; one in which the social ills engendered by capitalism are abolished. We communists advocate the establishment of an independent socialist Australia, one that is firmly founded upon direct democratic control by the people. We do not believe in mere lip-service to democratic processes and practices and for this reason the C.P.A. has sharply criticised the rigid centralised bureaucracy that dominates the U.S.S.R. We supported the reforms attempted, with popular support, during Czechoslovakia's "Prague Spring", and opposed the military intervention by the U.S.S.R and others. We saw the reforms as an attempt to transfer to the people essential democratic rights in the running of their industries,

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the mass media, and government. It was a move away from the one-party state, to one in which all shades of opinion were given opportunity for expression.

Those who have sought to understand what the communist party is about will appreciate that it has been forthright in its attitude to all nations, east or west, capitalist or communist. We believe that this is why increasing numbers of people are being attracted to our party, or support its policies.

THE PROGRAM OF THE C.P.A. INCLUDES:

- \* Abolition of censorship
- \* Abortion on request
- \* An end to the white-Australia policy
- \* Equality for women
- \* Priority for education and social services
- \* An independent foreign policy, with maximum support for the principles and organisation of the United Nations.

The control of government would be taken out of the hands of the powerful monopolies, which would be nationalised.

In Goulburn, for instance, socialism would mean direct workers' control of industry through the establishment of factory committees. It would mean more power and influence to local rural and community organisations, as opposed to centralised bureaucratic government and powerful individuals. It would mean a rationalisation of incomes, less disparity between the richer and the poorer. Equality for all is the ultimate goal.

Communists are willing to work within organisations and with individuals when their efforts are directed to the advancement of our city and country, and this willingness arises not out of a desire to manipulate, as the ignorant and the prejudiced might suggest, but because we firmly believe that greater influence for these organisations is essential for full democratic and social progress.

