

Tribune

Inside Story of Victory over S.A. Cricket Tour



Migrants

With Sydney County Council elections about to take place rascals of Macquarie, Gipps, Fitzroy, Flinders, and Phillip wards should be made aware of their rights to local government. Not only do the days have gone when elected aldermen inform residents, for example, of impending legislation, Aldermen, too, should be residents of their wards. Now only eight aldermen live locally; the remainder live on the North Shore, Eastern suburbs, etc.

Residents of those wards have the percentage of migrants in the whole of Australia and need information and assistance. It is necessary that we communists develop more activity among migrants and encourage them to join the CPA. As a Communist, I deal with many migrant problems in my area and there is a great need for an advisory centre in all wards. In addition to fulfilling a serious need, it is interesting work, packed with drama. If we can get such a centre started it will be rewarding for all, for there are ghettos here more remote from society than in any other western civilization.

Anne Duffy,
Surry Hills (NSW).

Selling

I refer to the important decision at the recent National Committee meeting spelling out again "the first responsibility of all CPA members, as set out in the Constitution, and of deciding how they will support and sell Party publications first of all Tribune."

This decision, fundamental to the building of any political organisation, has come, I'm sure, by all regular Trib sellers.

However, some members still expect the party to advance numerically and at the polls, when the bulk of our members do not regularly attempt to gain new Tribune sales. This attitude has concerned many, including myself, for many years.

I believe that this N.C. resolution puts a responsibility in particular on all party activists to re-think our own mechanical approaches to Tribune as a separate job.

Our party has the basic structure to become a significant revolutionary force in Australia today. The N.C. decision should be seen as a step towards that goal. Let's put our party's voice into our actions and not whispering seditiously about the reasons.

David Ross,
Newcastle (NSW).

Nationality?

I would like to take issue with S. C. Johns (Tribune, Aug. 18) "Since when has there been a nationality of Jews?"

The Jewish nationality has existed for a long time. In proof I would recommend a reading of "Marxism and the National Question" by Lenin.

F. Kearney,
Secretary, Connolly Assoc.,
Melbourne.

Meritocracy

I thought the full-page article on Melbourne High School's authoritarianism (Tribune, Aug. 11) educationally highly insignificant. Most Australian State School systems do not pretend to be meritocratic and it was very clear from the parents meeting during the Melbourne High strike that that school gives the parents and children just what they want: lots of good academic passes to put them on one of Australia's golden highways rather than in a back alley. How can one have "democracy" when attendance is compulsory?

SRB or the Tribune could be a little revolutionary and attack the whole meritocratic system that throws money on the intellectual rubbish heap. They could question, as many in the US, UK and other countries are doing, the so-called "meritocracy" that it is so institutionalised, that it teaches what it does and how, that the university entrance should so influence the curriculum and the teachers that they are forced (in the words of Holt) to be baby-

minders, jailers, policemen and ticketers for employers.

My experience is that in our society a great many senior pupils invite authoritarianism. They think the paid knowledge that pays off in this country, on the other hand there are many teachers in Australia doing a job of thinking, as their strike action has shown, and a precious little support they have had from press and public.

I would think it very likely that the Senior Teacher referred to in the article participated in the recent Melbourne High School strike.

M. Mortimer,
Richmond (Vic.).

Czechoslovakia

In view of the controversy over the line of the National Committee, CPA, in relation to the action of the Soviet Union and other Warsaw Pact countries entering Czechoslovakia, I wish to state that I completely endorse their action and compliment them for the efficient and speedy completion of their task. I am glad there is not a repetition of the Hungarian events where traitors endangered the country and cost the loss of many lives.

I grew up in a small town in Prussia where the town population was 50% Polish and 50% German. The Poles were Catholics and the Germans Protestants. The children were encouraged by priests and parsons to fight each other with sticks and stones. We had one thing in common - hatred of the Russians.

My father decided to send me to a military college in Spandau, but I refused to return after six months. At the Military College we were taught to hate Russia, as we were in the schools. The General Command had a plan to march through Czechoslovakia and Romania to slit open the "soft belly" of the Russian Bear which we know to our sorrow they tried to do. This is still the policy of the capitalists was proven by the Sydney Morning Herald (2.8.68) which reported "The private captain who led the German invasion force boss Walter Ulbricht has thrown around his country has developed an embarrassing crack right in his own backyard."

It stated that Mr. Ulbricht objected to the large number of West German tourists entering Czechoslovakia. This was also confirmed by the West German Minister of the Interior who complained that West-Czechoslovakia at the rate of 100 a day. In fact that ask yourself would these tourists be workers? Or Nazis held in readiness to pour into Slovakia as soon as the frontier was opened, as they did into Hungary?

Joe Shelley,
Sydney.

(A foundation member of the CPA in Perth 1951, who has remained a member until about 20 years ago.)

Assistance

Soviet economic and military aid to Vietnam, running into hundreds of millions of rubles yearly, has been described in detail by the general secretary of the Communist Party of India, Rajeswara Rao, in a recent article in Indian "New Age".

North Vietnamese armed forces "are for the most part equipped with modern weapons and military equipment supplied by the USSR," he says. This has enabled them to set up new arms of the services - air force, air missile defence, radio, technical, etc.

In the last few years the Soviet Union has aided the South Vietnamese patriots with mortars, rockets, automatic and other weapons.

One hundred and twenty-two industrial enterprises have been built or started with Soviet aid. Now under construction are a iron and steel works, a large machine-making equipment plant, a cutting tools plant, refrigerating plant at Hai Phong, bakery in Hanoi, six macaroni and seven tea factories and two berths at Hai Phong. Other factories are being enlarged with Soviet aid.

North Vietnam is also receiving from the Soviet Union most of its transport fuel, road building and other equipment and drugs.

Five thousand Vietnamese military specialists have been trained in the Soviet Union, 7000 have received production and technical training. 8450 have completed courses at higher Soviet schools and technical colleges. The Soviet Union is at present training 5000 students and 6300 military and civilian specialists from Vietnam. Meanwhile 12,300 Soviet military and civilian specialists have been sent to North Vietnam.

Large-scale free aid is being contributed by Soviet mass organisations, including large regular food shipments, fabrics, blankets, drugs, cars, bicycles, radio sets and school stationery.

The Soviet Union has met the real cost of all goods sent from the European socialist countries by way of free assistance. Since 1965 it has been assisting the Laotian patriots also. It has supplied them free of all charge with aircraft, air defence installation, rocket launchers and

charge a 500-bed hospital with a polyclinic and a higher technical institute for 1000 students. Hundreds of Soviet specialists were sent to Cambodia every year till 1970. The Soviet Union delivered military aircraft, air defence and artillery material, armaments, torpedoes, etc. without charge. This aid has been stopped since March 18, 1970 and the Soviet specialists have been recalled from Phnom Penh and aid has been extended to the Cambodian liberation forces.

Ralph Gibson,
Oakleigh (Vic.).

An Insult

The latest Budget is an insult to the working people. It shows the gross incapacity of our capitalist government and the incomprehensible incompetence of Mr. Snedden.

The rise in tax on the people will do nothing but increase inflation (the unions will not allow the working people to be subjected to such exploitation). A rise in petrol after an increase in train fares is in itself inflation and, since there is no other practical form of transportation, the workers suffer. Pensions have risen by \$1.25 (less than the cost of 3 packets of cigarettes).

The right-wing government is neither by, nor for, the people.

A.W.K.,
Northmead (NSW).

Not cricket

Roger Millias' article "Bringing Politics into Cricket" (Tribune, 26/8/71) was very enlightening up to the last paragraph.

When dealing with this important question, we must not fall into the error of attacking outstanding personalities in the mass movement.

For instance, Roger Millias writes: "It is hoped that the cricket tour will be no repetition of the deplorable Ponting Placism", referring to ACTU President Bob Hawke's departure overseas on the eve of the Springboks arrival. We must not step into the camp of such reactionaries as McMahon, Hewitt, Willis and Harradine. Recently a false statement that was made by Harradine on 10 September before the tour was made in Tasmania and after request, was withdrawn.

S.B.

Malabar (NSW).



grenade throwers, armed troop carriers, guns and small arms, radio equipment, means of anti-chemical defence, etc., as well as lorries and cars, oil products, equipment for road building, mining, oil drilling, etc.

Till the coup of March 18, 1970, the Soviet Union extended economic and military aid to Cambodia. It built free of

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Activists' Sports



The decision of the Australian Cricket Board of Control to cancel the South African cricket tour is a clear-cut victory for anti-racist and racial forces in Australia...

It is a stunning defeat for the McMahon Government and its allies, the Vorster regime, for all the political and repressive police forces of Australian capitalism.

Early plans

In Sydney last December a small meeting of a couple of dozen anti-apartheid supporters decided to attempt to bring forces for mass demonstrations against the Rugby tour...

The women's militants protests served as a focus for what was conceived as a first serious phase of the movement — nationwide protests against the South African tour...

The militant protests against the surfing tour made the anti-apartheid issue front page news and also a subject for widespread discussion throughout the country.

Unions act

At this point, the refusal of the South African regime to allow even a token representation of two non-white cricketers in the team to tour Australia after the foot-ballers...

If the trade union calls for boycotts of the Rugby team were not totally successful in practice, they nevertheless ensured that the team left South Africa in an atmosphere of tension and hostility.

Education

Except for a few unions, Tribune and other CPA and student publications, it was left to the anti-apartheid movement to carry on the educational campaign over the period from March to June.

violent action in recent Australian history — the throwing of smoke bombs which forced the introduction of special police training in counter-techniques; the attempts to cut and seize the barbed wire fences...

It was the sustained threat and the practice of this pattern of action which, from the time of the Adelaide match on June 30, led the State governments into hysterical and massive mobilisation of thousands of police...

Self-action

The anti-apartheid movement drew thousands into mass use of whistles, chants and other effective measures to ruin the atmosphere of the matches.

Militant began to develop their initiatives without waiting for some direction from above. Within the general context of attempting to disrupt the games, an incredible number of plans and initiatives were taken...

Second, despite serious failings, the anti-tour campaign saw the development of a new level of student and worker cooperation and joint action.

Although the active participants in the demonstrations were in their big majority youth (students and workers) and alienated...

ETERNAL

though militant unionists played an important role in boycotting the tour, only a relatively small number of the working class took part in the demonstrative protests.

However, a qualitatively new weight was laid to the struggle when the Queensland general stoppage, or what is known in reply to the State Government's declaration of a state of emergency, giving it special powers to "protect" the Spring-

Unhappily the same could not be said for some other radical and revolutionary "ruption" line, and particularly for the mass potential of the racist issue and the advanced tactics.

Lessons

Third, but not least, important, from the advanced direct action demonstrations followed a nationwide discussion on the issues involved in all media and a growing chain reaction of anti-apartheid protest groups, escalating right up to the day of the cricket authorities made their decision.

It is a regrettable fact that the Socialist Youth Alliance (SYA), for example, was almost totally absent from the campaign. Writing afterwards in "Direct Action"

SYA monthly, in August 1971, and commenting on the Sydney protests, Frans Timmermans, speaker of demonstrators realising the "fruitful use of fire throwing" and said the "failure of tactics used" had led many radicals to "re-evaluate their position".

The Australian Socialist group also badly misjudged the situation. Reporting an anti-apartheid meeting in Sydney, the Australian Socialist attacked those who had deplored "violence" and "disruption" in place of peaceful protest.

The fact is that the campaign had a clear, concrete and above all realisable target: to disrupt the games and for cancellation of the cricket tour as the most important, concrete contribution in solidarity with the non-white peoples of South Africa and their fight for liberation.

The vital key to success in the anti-tour campaign, as has been openly recognised by almost all the daily press (see Sydney Morning Herald and Telegraph, September 9), was the militant, direct and effective joint action at the games and wherever the tour was.

Solidarity

The more conservative "revolutionaries" spoke of "adventurism" when goalsposts were knocked down and slogans put into the grass at Orange when an attempt was made to saw down the goalposts at the Queensland Cricket Ground.

On the other hand, some subsequent individual actions of the "Peoples Liberation Army" have taken this legitimate, guerrilla-style action outside the frame-work of mass action, and appear to be an attempt to replace mass action with "guerrilla" acts.

On one hand it is essential to connect the growing anti-racist sentiment more to the issues of black liberation in Australia (Aborigines and Islanders) and in Papua-New Guinea.

"P.L.A."

On the other hand, it will mean continuing action against apartheid (trade unions call for a break in diplomatic ties with South Africa, etc.) and any growing military liaison between the two countries.

The complex task of reassessing and re-organising the anti-racist mass movement reaching a national point of proposed anti-racist conference at Queensland was held in February. Specific anti-racist actions in the country districts of NSW and Queensland in the Summer holidays will also be considered.

In any case, the main task now is to build on the great, new historic victory by preparing for further mass anti-racist actions in 1972, an election year.

All this gloomy talk about the economy must cease!

It has happened before. First of all prices go haywire, workers stage mass strikes for wage rises, bankruptcies increase, stockbrokers commit suicides, currencies inflate, deflate, float, sink. There are mass sackings in industry. A pool of unemployment forms.

Then irresponsible people begin to spread gloom and panic, and the result is economic trouble!

Article in the Financial Review by Sir Howard Beale, member of the Menzies Cabinet from 1949-58, and Australian ambassador in Washington from 1958 to 1964 expresses an interesting view of Australia's involvement in the Vietnam war.

"... part of Australia's process of growing up nationally, part of the agony of nation-building, in the course of which our men did well, and established high standards of military skill and judgments. Looked at this way, I think that what we did has taken us a long step towards national maturity."

Is Sir Howard joking? Or has he been listening to a few too many speeches at Anzac Day booze-ups?

This "new" phenomenon of the Jesus Revolution calls to mind an article of Karl Marx, "A Criticism of the Hegelian Philosophy of Right", written in 1844. One short quote: "... Religious misery, it is in one mouth the expression of real misery, and in another is a protestation against real misery. Religion is the moan of the oppressed people, the sentiment of a heartless world, as it is the spirit of spiritless conditions. It is the opium of the people."

If some of the people wearing Mao Tseung badges took the trouble of reading some of his works — even the red book of quotes — it might save them some embarrassment.

Take the bloke at the Moratorium meeting at the Richmond (Vic.) Town Hall last week. He said he took notice only of the unionists on the factory floor, not the officials and shop stewards.

He had read Mao's words "No investigation, no right to speak," he might have avoided making a fool of himself to every unionist at the meeting. Might.

Another loud-voiced person sporting a big bright Mao badge would be well-advised to have a look at the quote in the red book beginning with the words, "Pay attention to uniting and working with comrades who differ with you..." It may have stopped him yelling at a speaker who had just announced his support for a particular resolution: "Scab bastard!"

Reader tells of a factory worker who found in his pay packet a two-dollar note with different serial numbers on either side.

Speculation as to whether inflation now means that every two-dollar note is as well as traditional penny note to be turned over? Or whether one note has to do the work of two?

Who said that because of the massage scandal, the Queensland police were in a parlous state?

Overheard: "I don't really object to young people. It's just that I wouldn't like my child to be one."

Dave Davies

GILBS v. AUSTRALIAN TRADE UNIONS

From Jim Moss

ADELAIDE: Working people don't share the creed of General Motors Corporation of USA that "what is good for General Motors is good for the United States" but it's true that when things aren't going so well for General Motors a great number of people are liable to suffer. Another adage which is generally acceptable is that the ups and downs of the motor industry are a barometer of the rest of the economy.

In Adelaide 450 trademen have been sacked from General Motors' Australian subsidiary, General Motors-Holden and another 200 are facing retrenchment in the near future, and at Chrysler 180 workers have been told they will be laid down.

The cause is the slump in the economy, lower car sales and prospects, and increased competition.

Like most other symptoms of the economic sickness, the infection comes from overseas.

Profits of the giant General Motors Corporation, which were running at 10.6 per cent on sales in 1965, fell to 4.7 per cent for the first half of 1970 before the strike at Detroit.

The competition in USA from imported cars, which in 1970 shared 13 per cent of the US market, is steadily growing. It is one of the reasons for the import surcharge of 10 per cent imposed by President Nixon.

SLUMPING

In Australia, registrations of motor vehicles for 1969-70 were 33,600 above the year before. For 1970-71, the in-

crease was a mere 1200. The slump in the rural economy, the Budget effects and the McMahon-admitted likelihood of 100,000 unemployed by January are causes.

Imports of cars into Australia are increasingly competitive, with Japanese vehicles alone averaging 16 per cent of the total sales.

The car companies in Australia, segments of the multinational corporations, are out to cut costs at the workers' expense in order to meet the competition and maintain their rate of profit. They have agreed among themselves to limit the number of new models so as to save on tooling and skilled workers.

The motor workers and the unions have been aware of this for some time and last year they began a campaign for a 35-hour week to stave off redundancy. This is now the central issue in their dispute with the car companies.

The sacked trademen, who were paid in lieu of notice, ignored the order and continued to turn up for work, and the trademen still employed have banned overtime and are considering a proposal to restrict the working week to 35 hours by knocking off on Friday mornings.

A delegation from the SA Trades & Labor Council went to Melbourne this month to interview GMH general manager Gibbs, who refused to meet the unionists and referred them to the SA representatives of the company. As a result, 2000 GMH trademen downed tools in protest.

With the South Australian economy weighted heavily

towards motor car production, the sackings will have a wide, and possibly snowballing, effect. It will not be easy for 700 trademen to gain comparative employment. If skilled workers take the jobs of non-trademen, then those in turn will become unemployed.

The 35-hour week and the elimination of overtime is a logical reply. GMH's profits nearly \$30 million net profit last year, could well afford the reduction of hours. Other demands being discussed are for full payment for any workers laid off, to be paid from company profits. If this is not forthcoming, then the State Government (which provides services for the motor monopolies and is opposed to any interference with big business) should make up the pay. Judging from the 23 per cent increase in salaries which the members of State parliament have just received, this should be possible.

The State Government must diversify industry, take a more active part in planning the development of the State and give lead by itself legislating 35 hours for Government workers.

FOR PENSIONS AT 60

Motor workers say that there is a case for retirement at 60 for workers who spend arduous years on the assembly line. Full pensions should be paid, free of means tests.

There is also need for a slower tempo of production, afternoon as well as morning breaks and, above all, workers' control of the speed of the production line and all other working conditions and matters affecting their lives on the job.

If the economic situation worsens, more radical steps will be required to provide a livelihood for the thousands of motor workers.

lution a request that the union's Federal secretary, Mr. N. Gallagher, attend today's meeting.

During the meeting, to a question concerning propositions which Mr. Gallagher had raised for consideration, the NSW secretary, Mr. J. Munday, said that the NSW executive had rejected these as they still contained an anti-strike sanction.

The meeting applauded a message from the secretary of the Water, Sewerage & Drainage Board Union thanking the builders laborers for support during their recent strike and reciprocating with support to the builders laborers' strike.

The NSW secretary of the BWU, Mr. P. Clancy, said on Monday that the building unions were completely opposed to any union being denied the right to strike under the provisions of any new industrial provisions, including the new award.

UNIONS CALL TO CRICKET BOARD

TELEGRAMS from the Federal Council of the Waterside Workers' Federation, which was meeting in Sydney, and from leaders of the Amalgamated Engineering Union were amongst calls which went to the Cricket Board of Australia on Wednesday last week in the last-minute pressures to cancel the projected tour by a team selected on a racist basis from South Africa.

The WWP telegram said such a tour "would bring discredit on our country in the world community of nations which have in their overwhelming majority condemned such sporting engagements and expelled South Africa from all major international sporting bodies."

The AEU telegram, signed by the union's Commonwealth president (Mr. J. Devereux) and secretary (Mr. J. Garland), said that the South African government's political and racial interference with sport made Australian acceptance of the team impossible.

It was notable that, in his announcement that night of the decision to cancel the tour, Sir Donald Bradman acknowledged that views of union leaders had been among those weighed by the board in its decision.

At its meeting last week, the NSW Labor Council congratulated the board and Sir Donald on the decision to cancel the tour, but said that the decision vindicated the policy of the ACTU and the Labor Council against apartheid sport.

Neither the resolution nor any of the speakers in it mentioned the demonstrations which took place against the sector South African sporting teams and which undoubtedly provided the decisive element in cancellation now of the cricket tour.

ADVISE UNIONS NOT TO COMPLY

NEWCASTLE: A call to all unions not to comply with the NSW Government's projected "secret ballot" law has been made by the Newcastle Trades Hall Council.

The TIC described the legislation which is now before the NSW Parliament as a "blatant attempt" to interfere in trade union affairs. It decided to advise the NSW Labor Council of its non-compliance call and to ask it to follow suit.

Tribune, Wednesday, September 15, 1971



THE TRUTH ON N.S.W. WATER BOARD STRIKE

From a report by Mick Tubbs (Sydney)

THE nine-day strike by over 11,000 workers of the NSW Metropolitan Water, Sewerage & Drainage Board this month had some significant features. For instance:

• The workers, a substantial proportion of whom were migrants, were on strike for reinstatement of two migrant brothers who had been dismissed and in protest against affronts to the dignity of workers on the job. This should serve as a salutary contrast to the idea held by some Australian workers that "migrants don't care" and that they will cop any sort of conditions so long as there's a quid in it.

• The alarm in high places over the possible consequences of the strike illustrated the importance of the work that is done by a Board's work-force that is substantially migrant in composition.

• The media, for the purpose of anti-strike hysteria, made it seem as if pollution by sewage in the water supply to the strike, and ignored the fact that sewage pollution is a 365-days-a-year occurrence and the situation during the strike was simply a temporary deviation from normal pollution. (The Daily Mirror deserves some sort of a prize for its poster during the strike: "PLAGUE: Sydney facing disaster.")

• Against the background of the strike solidarity and an angry and vigorous demonstration to Parliament, a State Industrial Commissioner (after an urgent Cabinet meeting and Ministerial intervention with the Industrial Registrar) did what he had refused to do earlier, that is he ordered the reinstatement of the two brothers. So anyone coming from now on to convince these workers that "strikes don't get results" has the job ahead of him.

The dispute originated from workers' resentment over the attitude of an overseer and his dismissal of the two thousand workers in that division marched off the job and, under a decision of the union's committee of management, all Board workers joined in the strike.

"We are not going to allow anyone to speak to and treat our members as if they were slaves, and we won't allow any migrant brother to be treated in any lesser way than we Australian-born workers would tolerate." the union's newly-elected secretary, John Glebe, told one of the mass meetings of the strikers at Wentworth Park (Sydney) last week.

The union's leadership, in fact, demonstrated its sincerity on this in practice, not merely displaying concern with the problems of migrants, but in finding the way to give them a lead on how to act to help themselves. Meetings were held in Sydney and Wollongong and were unanimously for the strike.

Interpreters in Italian, Greek and Por-



Water, Sewerage & Drainage Board strikers, demonstrating outside Parliament House in Sydney last week, took the opportunity to ceremoniously burn a copy of Packer's Daily Telegraph.

A Telegraph editorial that morning had, after referring to an official of the union, said that "many people would no doubt like to see him dunked, at regular quarter-hour intervals, in the sewage effluent"; a nauseous example of the Telegraph's hostility to militant union action.

tuguese were used to ensure that migrants were fully informed.

There was applause for the announcement at a mass meeting that the secretary of the Hunter River board workers' union (Mr. C. Dumbrell) had said that, if the strike continued, a mass meeting of that union's members would be called and he was confident that they would join the strike in a solidarity action.

On the Monday, in a remarkable statement after some hundreds of strikers had marched to the court where a hearing was taking place on the case, Commissioner Burns said that he had intended to order the reinstatement of the two men but had not done so because of the demonstration. Workers said that this implied that the merits of the case had been over-riden.

On the Wednesday, strikers marched from Wentworth Park to Parliament House. When officials closed the gates, a number climbed the fence. In an effort to have the situation cooled, police political-squad chief Longbottom resorted to his own brand of conciliation by offering Mr. Glebe the use of a police amplifier to address the members.

It was in the course of this demonstration that Premier Askin agreed to meet a delegation. From this came the urgent Cabinet meeting, the contact made by Minister for Labor with the Industrial Registrar, and then Commissioner Burns' reinstatement order.

The workers' victory was further consolidated the next day when the salaried division of the union agreed that the overseer concerned should in future have no direct supervision over members of the union's wages division.

FIGHT TO HOLD STRIKE RIGHT

SYDNEY: Defying a NSW Master Builders' Association threat of deregistration proceedings against their union, builders laborers last Friday voted at

'Populate America or perish': a radical issue?

By Denis Freney

"Populate America or perish" is the message Dr. Paul Ehrlich, Professor of Biology at Stanford University (USA), brought to stir Australian audiences in his recent visit to this country.

Ehrlich advances three major interconnected factors as threatening our future on this planet: the population size; the per capita consumption of the population; and the way in which technology is applied to producing goods for consumption.

Most prominent scientists are unanimous that such a danger exists. The Mentone Message ("A Message to 3.5 billion neighbours on planet Earth") was adopted by 2,200 prominent scientists from 23 countries at a conference in Mentone, France. The signatories include 4 Nobel Prize Laureates, and others such as Paul Ehrlich, Margaret Mead, Dr. Julian Huxley and Renee Dumont. The Message was presented to UN Secretary General U. Thant on May 11, 1971.

More measured in tone than Paul Ehrlich's speeches, the Message is horrifying enough. After listing the evils of pollution, including "penetration of food chains all over the world by poisonous substances such as mercury, lead, cadmium, DDT and other chlorinated organic compounds" and "air-borne pollutants" which have "killed trees hundreds of miles away", the Message notes that the world is already running short of some materials of "critical importance to a technological society".

"Even under the best of circumstances, the Earth could not provide resources in amounts sufficient to enable all people to live at the level of consumption enjoyed by the majority of the industrial societies", the Message continues.

Dealing next with population explosion, the Message estimates a world population of 64 billion by the year 2000, as against the present 34 billion, carrying the threat of large-scale famine.

The problem, however, is not only in the Third World, but above all in the advanced industrial nations. In the USA, the Message notes, a child born there will "consume twenty times as much as an Indian child and pollute fifty times as much".

The scientists call for a "moratorium on technological innovations the effects of which we cannot foresee and which are not essential for human survival" for "intensified programs in all regions of the world to curb population growth... without abrogation of civil rights", for reduction "in the level of consumption by privileged classes and a more equitable distribution of food and other goods among people", for "defusing war weapons" and effective pollution control.

Paul Ehrlich, in his book, "The Population Bomb" wrote:

"Americans have assumed the role of the robber barons of all time. They have decided that they are the chosen people to steal all they can get of our planet's gradually stored and limited resources... Maybe one can hold them down by force, you say. Maybe so — that remains to be seen. It is likely to be uneconomical to do so. Besides, what has been properly called the 'effluent society' shows signs of stragging itself without the intervention of the enraged have-nots."

Ehrlich also speaks of the "glut, waste, pollution and ugliness of life" which makes the hallowed Gross National Product (GNP) really gross!

There has been some contestation in scientific circles of Ehrlich's stress on the population explosion as the major threat.

Dr. Barry Commoner and others in an article in the American magazine "Environment" (April 1971) contests Ehrlich's stress on population as the major factor, replying that technology is the main culprit, while also providing valuable insights into the nature of the pollution explosion in the post-war period.

In the post-war period, "photochemical smog, radiation, pollution" have become major problems.

Some figures illustrate this. In the period 1946-1968, nitrogen in surface water and municipal sewerage in the US rose 260 per cent, phosphate 500 per cent, while airborne lead increased 400 per cent. The bacterial content in New York harbour rose 890 per cent.

Population in the US in that period grew 43 per cent, while the GNP per capita grew 59 per cent.

Plastics

In the same period, however, increase in per capita use of the natural fibres (wood and cotton) only rose by 61 per cent and 33 per cent respectively, while the use of wholly synthetic fibres, largely indestructible by natural decay, rose by 1792 per cent. Plastics in other forms also virtually indestructible by natural processes rose by 1024 per cent.

Commoner points to the high energy cost of producing synthetic materials — i.e. the cost of power resources necessary to produce them.

Photosynthesis — the natural production of food or (for example) cotton fibres — is the cheapest in energy cost.

Similarly, aluminium, which has replaced steel in many uses, is six and a half times more costly in energy cost than steel. Chemicals and cement are similarly costly.

Fertilisers, according to Commoner, do not improve the total crop in the US, but decrease acreages (good surpluses are produced in the US in any case). In other words, profit is the real index, not social or environmental cost.

Total calorie consumption per person in 1946-1968 in the US dropped from 3,390 to 3250 p.c.t. day. Protein consumption dropped in the same period from 104 grams to 99 grams a day.

According then to Commoner, the population increase of 43 per cent from 1946-1968 and the per capita increase of consumption by 59 per cent (which includes an actual drop in calorie and protein consumption) cannot explain the pollution explosion. This is caused rather by the nature of US consumer capitalist society.

Socialists and marxists have only begun to come to grips with the problem of environmental destruction. The Statement of Aims of the Communist Party of Australia, drafted 1969, included a statement on pollution which must have been one of the first such statements on this problem in a programmatic socialist document.

Engels

Certainly, Engels, who could write so blithely about the conditions in the "dark, satanic mills" of Nineteenth Century Britain, and the pollution they excreted, would have been a thousand times more biting about our cities.

Essentially, marxists must now ask: what sort of society and "standard of living" do we want?

Will it be simply "more of the same" or will we begin to realise that the "standard of living" is a false and mythical thing?

As Ehrlich said, the more the SOL (Standard of Living) and GNP rise, the more the QOL (Quality of Life) falls.

In any case, even if it was desirable, we have the word of the Mentone scientists that the world's resources could not support all the present population of the world at the level of the US SOL.

But it is not desirable, anyway. Ehrlich pointed out in his Sydney Town Hall speech that if we produced only what we needed, without the waste, pollution and wars, in a society where men had no more than two children and lived rationally, we would be on a twenty-hour week.

Ehrlich also pointed to the obvious: that we need deeply thought-out national and international planning to save the future.

Such planning should go beyond the social accounting socialists' and limited resources — as essential besides purely "economic" market-accounting to environmental costing.

The environmental cost of using aluminium instead of steel, of widespread chemical

fertilisers, of cars, may all well dictate the banning of these devices and their substitution by more "expensive", less convenient alternatives which however will significantly save the environment.

In fact, in many cases it would be cheaper by any standard to use non-pollutant methods (e.g. food additives, aluminium beer cans, even lead-free petrol...).

It is significant that in the US the youth revolt includes as a large element in it the turn to a new life-style, rid of the consumer society's standards, much simpler, much less wasteful and resistant (as much as possible) to the sirens of advertising saying "consume, consume". As a result of the rationalisation of their life styles, many American "drop-out" youth can live at a much lower standard of living but with a much higher "quality of life".

Youth revolt

This extends into food habits, the desire for pollutant-free, naturally-grown food; the rejection of wasteful packaging; the rejection of "fashion" and adoption of inexpensive dress; down to the rejection of cars (or at worst, use of small, foreign cars)...

The "abundance" socialists aim for becomes then not the "abundance" of a super-consumer society based on waste and quick profits, but abundance for a rationally-organised society, where the economic compulsion to work will be overcome and "work" become part of a new life style that will combine a simple but adequate material existence, with the highest level of intellectual and mental achievement and human fulfilment.

And of course, in such a society, a family (if the family unit will exist as we know it) will only want two or fewer children, no more.

Meanwhile, the fight against pollution and the ecocide the capitalist system practises cannot be resolved by a few minor changes or tinkering with the system.



Ehrlich in his speeches spoke of simply reformist aims (an appeal from Nixon to families to have only two children!). However, the conclusions that must be drawn from what he said lead inevitably to radical demands (free abortion, full support of women's liberation) and to totally revolutionary demands which are unacceptable to the whole present system (total national and international planning, ending the private capitalist "right" to buy and exploit resources, eliminating industry pollution of atmosphere and water, etc).

It should be clear that if any serious attack is to be made on the problem, the whole value-system and very nature of capitalism — the search to maximise profits and blindness to the future — must be destroyed and a revolution take place which would not only be "political" but social and in terms of human priorities.

Ecology Action

The two main organisations in Australia dealing with the problems outlined above, Zero Population Growth (ZPG) and Ecology Action, need in the coming period to develop a campaign around specific demands, radical yet visibly correct and concrete, to mobilise and educate the mass of the population around this issue.

Like war and racism, ecocide can only be ended when capitalism is ended. Not that the problems are automatically resolved in conditions of socialist power, as experience already shows. But given a critically democratic society and freedom of scientific application, the obstacles to success will be vastly reduced.

Chile's road

Regis Debray's interviews with Allende

["Conversations with Allende: Socialism in Chile," by Regis Debray. NLB. 190 pp. \$3.30. Reviewed by ERIC AARONS.]

IN November 1965 when Pete Thomas and I were in Chile, the socialists and communists were still licking their wounds after the defeat the year before of the joint Left candidate in the Presidential election. Although they then won 40 per cent of the votes, I say "defeat" because they had felt they were going to win.

However, they were still confident in the line which led them to believe that such a victory was possible. There were many who criticised it on various grounds, including that the ruling classes of the countries of Latin America, and particularly of the United States, would not permit such an electoral victory.

The socialists and communists who, together with a number of smaller groups, form the "Popular Unity" (formerly FRAP), estimated that President Frei must fail in his "reformist" program, along with the Kennedy-sponsored "Alliance for Progress," already on the rocks in 1965.

Now we have a government of Popular Unity headed by President Salvador Allende of the Socialist Party. Regis Debray, the brilliant young French revolutionary intellectual, recently released from a long term in a Bolivian prison, has published an account of his interviews with the President. (The publishing company is associated with the British New Left Review.)

This is a fascinating document, and a "must" for all interested in the strategy and tactics of revolutionary struggle. Debray asks searching questions, and himself shows a greater flexibility of thought than may have appeared likely from some of his previous writings, exclaiming: "It is not my wish to be cast in the role of the ultra-leftist all the time!"

UNCERTAINTY STILL

Of course, those looking for some principle or lesson to transfer directly from Chile to Australia will be wasting their time. First of all, because conditions in Chile are so particular, and secondly because it is still uncertain what the future outcome will be. If it succeeds, that will certainly be a proved success, whether applicable elsewhere or not. But if it fails that will not prove that it was wrong to make the attempt. Armed struggles have also been attempted, and failed, and there is no reason to claim that a failed insurrection is better than a "Chilean road" — for Chile.

The key question is not to pronounce in advance what is right and what is wrong, for there are no infallible answers to such questions.

The thing is to examine the circumstances, the dangers, the possibilities, and the things to be done, and this is what Debray does, concluding: "They (Allende and the Left) say it is still a gamble. There is nothing to prevent us from hoping this gamble will be won." And "personally, I have seen and felt your victory as an encouragement to continue to struggle, come what may".

How could such a thing happen? The situation in Chile must be seen in its uniqueness, both internally and internationally. The traditions of western-type democracy are strong in Chile. The army has a long record of not involving itself in politics. There is a strong mass movement and strong communist and socialist parties. The Socialist Party is a marxist, revolutionary and not a Labor-type party; the Catholic church has developed a strong wing supporting radical change (in 1964 this was only just beginning to develop).

The United States, in the earlier period, before Vietnam escalation, was determined to



SALVADOR ALLENDE in the Chilean countryside during his successful campaign last year in the Presidential elections.

prevent even a real reform victory anywhere in the continent in case it "did a Castro" on them, but in 1970 they were so dragged down by Vietnam as not to have the same freedom of movement.

Castro's sister had made many speeches in 1964 against socialism which were influential, while Castro himself refrained from supporting the elections. Che Guevara had just left Cuba to launch the guerrilla struggle on the continent. This time, Fidel gave a television interview declaring that, in the special circumstances prevailing in Chile, participation in the election campaign was essential and victory plausible.

In 1964 the reaction united behind one candidate; this time they were unable to prevent the vote being split three ways.

The problem, of course, pointedly put by Debray is "Who is using who? Who is taking who for a ride?" The state forces are still intact, more or less as they were. The bourgeoisie and landowners and US investors are still powerful economically, though nationalisation of copper and banking and seizure of agricultural and building land by peasants and poor are undermining them. The capitalists and some of the middle class are withdrawing capital and skills (not a few are migrating to Australia) to sabotage the economy.

There was an attempt by the Right to precipitate a coup when, two days before Allende's electoral victory was to be ratified by Congress as required by law, General Schneider (Commander in Chief of the army) was assassinated by rightwing gunmen, after an unsuccessful attempt to kidnap him which was intended to open the way to launch civil war.

Two attempts have been made on the life of Allende, with varying degrees of failure by the police to act and investigate. Now the President has his own bodyguard of reliable revolutionaries.

FINELY BALANCED

In other words, things are still finely balanced. For those interested in drawing parallels (which solve little) it is a sort of "dual power". The outcome depends decisively on the level of consciousness of the mass of workers, peasants and poor (about one-third of the population of most big Latin American cities, including Santiago, is composed of destitute unemployed).

Consciousness is high, but not high enough, as witness the fact that a majority of copper workers in one centre voted for the Right in the elections due to fear that nationalisation would interfere with their privileged position in regard to pay. This is not a new question; there was criticism at the Chilean Communist Party Congress in 1966 about the lack of reaction by workers to campaigns for nationalisation.

Workers' control (just recently workers have taken over a brewery and a tyre factory), peasants' action, and occupation of building land by the poor are being actively encouraged to develop mass action and consciousness. At the same time, centralisation of the economy,

and occupation under leadership rather than anarchically are being upheld.

Another problem is the maintenance of the unity of the Left in the coalition. While the unity between socialists and communists is solid and of long standing, there was a report recently that some representatives of smaller parties had resigned from the government. This followed a successful reconciliation of a quite acute struggle in a university between the students following the communists and those following the Revolutionary Left (MIR), in which a student member of the latter was killed.

This led to a recognition for a need for meaningful dialogue as the only proper means to adjust relations within the Left, a process in which Allende has played a major part.

GUARANTEED FREEDOMS

Prior to the ratification of Allende's election (he secured the highest vote of three candidates, not an absolute majority), a State of Constitutional Guarantees was drawn up between the Popular Unity and the Christian Democrats.

This guarantees freedom for political parties, protection of freedom of the press, the right of assembly, freedom of education, inviolability of correspondence, freedom of work, freedom of movement and other provisions. Luis Corvalan, leader of the Communist Party, has expressed support for these freedoms not only now, but after a socialist transformation. (See ALR No. 32.)

Debray's account makes it clear that there is a great battle around use of democratic rights for and against socialism. For example, the constitution can be changed by popular referendum, and laws are (because of previous history when land was being seized by the Spanish from the indigenous Mapuche Indians) stricter on re-occupation than on seizure of land, and this now favors the peasants.

It has just been reported in the press that a referendum is to be held to replace the present two-chamber house by a single house of parliament.

The further development of the struggle in Chile will surely be followed with close interest by all revolutionaries.

REVOLUTION FROM WITHIN: NEW BOOK

The publication has been announced this month of "Revolution from Within", by J. D. (Jack) Blake, of Sydney, well-known as a long-time member of the Communist Party of Australia and until 1956 a member of its highest committees.

The book, published by Outlook, Sydney, sets out a contemporary theory of social change derived from the author's study of the exercise of power over people and some of the forms it assumes: capitalist and managerial forms, and the Stalinist variant in a number of countries. The book will sell at \$3.50 (paperback) and \$6.00 (cloth). It will shortly be reviewed in Tribune.

ACTU Congress and the future

By B. Taft

THE Australian Congress of Trade Unions is over and the dust has settled. Now that the various commentators have had time to write their pieces, some flippant, some sensational, it is appropriate to ask some of the more serious questions about this Congress and the perspectives that it set for the Australian trade union movement.

There are certainly some unanswered questions and some features which call for comment.

1. Why was it that this Congress, at which the Centre-Left leadership increased its majority on the ACTU executive and where the extreme rightwing was clearly isolated, relegated discussion on such vital questions as Vietnam, conscription, foreign policy and the Springbok cricket tour so far down the agenda that they did not come up for discussion?

2. Why was it that J. Riordan, from the Clerks' Union, changed his mind and on the last day voluntarily abandoned his union's motion to attack the ACTU leadership for its involvement in political issues, especially in view of the press build-up prior to the Congress for the proposed attack?

3. Why was it that the executive, having the numbers to carry the Congress with it, consistently defeated attempts by the Left to determine that motion would be taken about Congress decisions?

4. Why was it that, as one commentator (John Edwards in the National Times) noted, "on strictly industrial issues, the executive pursued a line so moderate that it almost always found itself voting for its own resolutions in company with the traditional ACTU rightwing and in opposition to the traditional Left?"

5. Why was it that on a number of good policy recommendations (such as the resolution opposing secret ballots, the resolution opposing penal powers, and the resolution on pensions and other social welfare issues) the executive, with the support of the rightwing, defeated Left amendments calling for action?

HAS IT CHANGED?

6. Why is it that, after all the build-up about "who is running the country?" and the campaign about "too much power for Bob Hawke," there has been such a mild reaction by the mass media and the Establishment spokesmen, especially in face of the increase of the Left-Centre majority?

How is it that a writer (Patricia Bowden) in the Financial Review (2/9/71), after the election gave the Centre-Left a 10-7 majority on the executive, asked "Have things really changed?" and pointed out that "rarely in the past two years did the executive split on a Left-Right basis, that is 9-8, and it is unlikely that it will split on a 10-7 basis often either" (one could perhaps add that it certainly never divided in this way at the Congress) and "the majority feel what has really emerged is a fairly united Centre-Left executive" and "in the next two years there will be a lot of sound and fury, but more practical members of the executive will probably concern themselves with obtaining a good standard of living through activity in areas such as consumer credit and a shorter working week?"

7. Why did the unity of the outgoing executive take on such grotesque forms that some executive resolutions were moved by prominent Left leaders and seconded by rightwing executive members? What was the purpose of this "we are one happy family" message?

8. Why did the executive act in an authoritarian fashion in rejecting out of hand nearly all proposals from the floor, including some that were obviously sensible? Why this tight grip on top?

9. Why was it that the policies and proposals of the ACTU executive were not challenged by the small number of CP (ML) representatives nor (with one exception) by the Victorian Socialist Left? In fact the only serious Left policy challenge at the Congress came from the Communist Party (Carmichael, Hallpenny, Sealat, Bevan, Munday, Docker, Walsham) and from some of the NSW Labor Party Left (Heffernan, Garland).

10. In the light of these questions, what conclusion is to be drawn from Mr. Whitlam's estimate that "the most significant factor of last week's ACTU Congress was the lack of confrontation between the extreme Left and Right factions" and "in the trade unions now,



HAWKE . . . under his leadership, changes and contradictory reactions to them.

as in the ALP, one has the situation where confrontations which used to be prevalent are now at an end" (Australian 7/9/71)?

Is this Mr. Whitlam's personal view alone, or is it shared by representatives of the Centre-Left majority on the ACTU executive?

The immediate answer to some of these questions is the obvious desire by the ACTU executive to do nothing to jeopardise an ALP victory in the next Federal election.

Without having any illusions about a Labor Government in office, we certainly want to see the Liberal Government defeated and the ALP elected at the next election.

But does this mean that the trade union movement should subordinate all its activities to the ALP electoral strategy to the point where, as Mr. Whitlam claims, confrontation between the Right and the Left "is now at an end"? Is this the price for a labor victory? In any case, is this the way to achieve it; that is, by avoiding anything that will lead to a confrontation with the rightwing? And if an ALP electoral victory was achieved in this way, what will it mean for the trade union movement?

Surely the lesson from the history of all reformist governments, at home or abroad, is that it is essential for the mass movement to remain active and that the working class movement will only achieve that which it is prepared to actively fight for.

Are reformist governments really much different in this respect from other governments? Even on narrow tactical grounds, one cannot sustain the view that ALP electoral victories are achieved by not rocking the boat.

Victorian workers will recall the experience in September 1964 when, during a big struggle of workers in the State instrumentalities, which led to stoppages and to a mass march of 15,000 workers down Bourke Street, some Victorian Labor Party leaders were strongly critical of these actions on the plea that it would help Bolte in the impending by-election. In the event, it led to an ALP landslide victory in a traditional Liberal seat of South-Eastern Province. Even Bolte acknowledged that the mass movement was responsible for the change in public attitudes.

The idea that a Labor victory ought to be achieved, or even can be achieved, by avoiding a confrontation with the rightwing is wrong in principle, and tactically shortsighted. But the real question involved in all this goes much deeper than the tactics to achieve an ALP electoral victory; it concerns long-range perspectives for the trade union movement, it is about a socialist strategy.

The last two years have seen an enormous positive change in the Australian trade union movement. For two decades, the far-reaching changes in Australian society seemed to bypass the trade union movement.

The pressure of the long-overdue need to modernise the trade union movement brought Bob Hawke into the leadership. He, in turn, influenced the nature and direction of the

urgent modernisation of the trade union movement. Few would doubt that at long last the Australian trade union movement is changing, despite the stubborn persistence of deeply-entrenched conservative moods and attitudes.

The ability and vigorous nature and style of Bob Hawke, the man most directly associated with these changes, have helped to capture people's imagination. They have also stirred up the prejudices and fears of the traditional reactionary elements in the country.

PUBLIC REACTION

There are two features of these changes which have brought forth fierce and contradictory public reaction.

First, there is the militant style in fighting for trade union demands, and the assertion of the worker's right to a greater share of the wealth that he is producing.

The second feature, which has been even more controversial, has been the involvement of the trade union movement in areas beyond wages and conditions, including such political issues as price maintenance and trade union opposition to apartheid.

This involvement in broader "political" issues, especially has aroused the working people of this country. It has given a new scope and range to their activities.

When the ACTU "took on" the big monopoly concern Dunlop and forced them to capitulate, it got a response in the hearts of hundreds of thousands of ordinary people, who applauded Bob Hawke's stand for the rights of the public against monopoly dictates.

It was the very success of this operation and the prospects that it opened up for trade unions to "take on" the mighty of this country that led to the inspired campaign against Bob Hawke to denigrate him and portray him as an ambitious, power-drunk trade union boss, who wants to "run the country".

It is in the light of these very positive developments that the revolutionary Left, in evaluating the ACTU Congress, must note that, while it made some good policy decisions and forced the extreme rightwing on to the defensive, it also displayed some of the features discussed above. They must cause some concern and disappointment to socialists.

AIMS & PERSPECTIVES

The revolutionary Left has its own aims and perspectives. In so far as Bob Hawke's leadership in the last two years has opened up long closed windows and has let out some of the stuffy air that had accumulated in the trade union movement, it has and will continue to have our support.

At the same time, we must recognise that there are differences in perspectives. We do not believe that mass initiatives should be restricted and the movement should be toned down under the plea that this will help to elect a Labor Government.

In any case, our perspectives go much further. We do not see the election of a Labor Government as THE aim. A Labor Government, at best, can only be a step along the road of changing our society.

Neither do we want to see the trade union movement integrated into the present system — be it under a Liberal or Labor Government. In this respect, there must be some concern about priorities in the trade union movement.

After all, while the official trade union movements in West Germany and Israel on which it seems the ACTU is modelling its ventures into the spheres of housing, insurance and credit unions are certainly powerful, they do not constitute any serious challenge to the social system in either country and, in both cases, are well integrated into the existing capitalist system.

In fact, the West German trade union movement has in recent years been critically evaluating its experiences and a growing number of voices are critical of the results of the widely practised "workers' participation policy" in West Germany.

Some of these matters should be made known to the Australian trade union movement before it is drawn too far along this road. It would be useful if these experiences were discussed openly among all those who are on the Left in the working class movement.

New trade union demands in Italy

By Laurie Carmichael

THE Australian working class has vitally important lessons to learn from developments taking place in Italy since 1968. That was the year of the great "pensions struggle", a campaign which brought millions of workers into united action around a social demand achieving pensions of 80 per cent of wages and agreement that they shall be 100 per cent by 1975.

Nineteen sixty-nine was the year of the "hot autumn" in which metal trade unionists from the Socialist, Catholic and militant trade union centres, supported by the mass of Italian trade unionists won new and remarkable collective bargaining contracts.

Nineteen seventy saw the housing campaign get under way, and in one action early in 1971, 11 million workers stopped work on housing demands.

Through all of this unity in action, the feeling for organisational unity of the workers has been constantly increasing.

Instead of the craft divisions which plague the Australian trade union movement and to overcome which efforts are being made toward amalgamation of unions in our country, the Italian workers were divided on political grounds.

Unions split

A split took place in 1949-50 alongside the division of the world trade union movement with the formation of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions at that time. Three organisations predominate in Italy — the CGIL which is a Left militant class-conscious trade union centre; CISL, a Catholic centre; and UIL, a "Socialist" centre.

In the lead of these three bodies stand the metal workers' unions: FIOM (CGIL), FIM (CISL), UILM (UIL).

As a result of their experience in recent years the move towards their amalgamation has become very powerful, only a small group of rightwing Social Democrats continuing to stand in opposition to unity.

Extremely significant is the development taking place among Catholic workers which will be most apparent in the content of the documents referred to below.

In particular the 1½ million-strong Catholic workers' organisation (not trade union) called ACLI has adopted a most radical social reform program with a clear opposition to capitalist society. This development comes from the workers' struggles, the burgeoning desire for reform amidst abounding capitalist plenty.

Also of fundamental significance to what is happening are the deeply democratic concepts of strategy held by the Italian Communist Party, the determined views it has on trade union autonomy, of trade unions as the mass organisations of the workers themselves, of the mass self-action of the unions, in particular the mass self-action of the workers organised at factory level.

Metal unions unite

The three metal unions have now concluded a second unity conference at which decisions have been taken for the formation of one single metal union by 1972.

The documents coming from this conference are truly remarkable for their class understanding and their democratic character. It is a program dealing with the real essentials of policy and organisation.

The first section of the documents deal with basic matters of industrial policy — the main characteristic in these is that the workers shall decide what shall prevail and will enforce it by their sheer strength in industry completely independent from any reliance upon employers or any employers' institutions.

This section covers absolute control of overtime, a minimum of classification, a reduction of relativities by making sure that the lowest paid workers have a decent wage to live on, control over incentives, safety and production in speed.

All three constituent parts of this amalgamated body have agreed that none of these matters is to be left to the employer to control at all and, alongside these, agreement has also been reached for the most democratic discussion to be launched as to what demands shall be made in the next round of contract negotiations.

It must also be recognised that one of the big gains made in the 1969 contract was the right

of workers to raise any new matter at any time in the course of the agreement and that all restrictive penalties and enforcement procedures directed against workers were eliminated.

This is the heading to the second section of the document. It calls for decisive action in linking factory and social demands. It lists these social demands as: Direction of overall investment, housing, taxation reform, health service reform, education reform, support for agrarian reform.

Social issues

The section says: "We must link the general questions of social development with specific objectives of reform, so that both are welded together in an overall trade union strategy, in which one can support the other and vice versa."

Probably the most remarkable section of the document as an agreed program for the single metal workers' union is that dealing with international policy.

This section draws attention strongly to the need to develop multi-national trade union action to fight big capital in its real multi-national dimensions. It said that such action must not be limited to "diplomatic meetings at leadership level", but should involve "the whole organisation starting from the factory floor, in the development of international policy."

The document raises the perspective of a united trade union organisation at European level, but points out that capitalist concentration is taking place not only in Europe and America, but is an intercontinental phenomenon, throwing upon trade union organisations the responsibility to achieve a working relationship with the workers of other countries, especially those of the third world.

Internationalism

The document says: "The basis of this international policy is in the experiences of the rank and file movements which in recent years in many European countries have through their struggles thrown the old trade union structures, the old policies and corporative conceptions, into crisis, raising the question of the renovation of the trade unions, the direct participation of the rank and file in the decision-making process and the autonomous role which the trade unions must play in the transformation of society."

"It is now possible and, indeed, urgent to move towards concrete agreements with all those unions which sincerely want to attack the capitalist policy of the big monopolies, starting from the concrete problems of the factories, combines and industrial sectors."

The Italian engineering workers' unions are firmly committed to the struggle against capitalism and imperialism, to the movement against fascism in Greece, Spain and Portugal, and to people's struggles for independence and self-determination everywhere, especially in Indochina.

The document adds: "In developing this international policy based on class principles, we are fighting for a different social system, not to belong to any particular political bloc. This means, among other things, that we must have an open debate with the trade unions of the socialist countries, particularly on the role of the unions and the forms of worker participation and control in a socialist society; we also want to exchange information and experiences on the pro-

blems of the living and working conditions of the working class, and on the use of science and technological development.

"We consider that a fundamental factor in the construction of a socialist society is not only the public ownership of the means of production, but also the real participation of the working class in the control and exercise of power in the factory and in society. This should be carried out through forms of direct democracy in which the trade unions have a primary role to play. And it's on the basis of this analysis that our organisations have expressed their judgements on the events in Czechoslovakia and Poland.

"The Second United Conference instructs the three engineering workers' unions to develop a debate along these lines, and to undertake concrete actions together with all European and international trade union forces."

The entire basis for this new class-conscious united metal workers' union is to be that of real democracy, democratic participation and control.

The document traces the outlines of the structures which will make this democracy operable.

These are:
"The Assembly (i.e. general meeting of all the workers), shop stewards and factory councils (the committee of all the shop stewards) is the basic structure of the new, united trade union."

"The assemblies, inside or outside working hours (10 hours of these meetings on the job annually already exist without loss of pay) must be used more and more, increasing the workers' participation in them, and taking the important decisions through them."

"SHOP STEWARDS: These are the direct expression of every 'homogeneous' group of workers (i.e. those working together in the same stage of the productive process), which elects them, and can revoke the election at any time. They must give a political leadership (using the word in its broadest sense) within the group itself, contesting bargaining with the management on all matters arising from the organisation of labor within their section, along the general lines decided by the factory council."

Shop stewards

"THE FACTORY COUNCIL: All the shop stewards together form the factory council. It must construct the general policy to be followed in the bargaining in the factory, overcoming purely selfish tendencies which may exist among the group of workers, and also it should take up the more general questions of the struggle outside as well as inside the factory, forming the connection with the experiences of workers in other industries."

"Conference accepts the task of taking the experiences of democracy and renovation which the factory councils represent outside the factory, making them exist inside the factory, as well as inside it."

This magnificent document for working class unity raises all of the questions discussed by Australian communists in relation to the 22nd Congress document "Modern Unionism".

Its importance is that (in the Italian conditions) it provides a factual example that such a kind of trade unionism is possible and can be achieved.

Comrade Novelli, of l'Unita, Italian Communist Party paper, visiting Australia recently, showed that this maturing of working class union unity comes at a critical time for the political development of Italy. The overall mass movement of the people place social reconstruction issues in the forefront.

The mass movement, at whose centre stands the trade unions, has effectively blocked the reformism of centre-left government.

In face of this the capitalist class has thrown off its facade of "modern enlightenment" and is resorting to provocations and renewed sponsorship of neo-fascist groups throughout the country.

The new level of working class unity is capable of meeting these Rightist attacks because it is not based on top level "coups" or imported power but is based on the most powerful mass movement of the people themselves. But more than that it is laying the foundation for far-reaching and deep-going social transformation.



US CIA NOW ECHOING PART.

A serious split in the ruling Japanese Liberal-Democratic Party on China policy is the background to last week's flurry in Canberra over whether or not Opposition Leader Whitlam had been congratulated by a Japanese Embassy representative on his presentation of Japan's attitude to China in his speech at a National Press Club luncheon on July 26.

Whitlam claimed he had. The McMahon Government produced an assurance from the Japanese Ambassador that he hadn't. Two interesting political facts emerge from the row (from which, as is usual these days, the government emerged worsted).

The first is that the known differences on China policy within the LDP are reflected in Japan's Embassy in Canberra, with a supporter of the present minority position no doubt being responsible for the phone call to Whitlam.

The second and more general fact is that probably for the first time, but

ROMANIA— SPAIN CPs IN TALKS

BUCHAREST: A delegation from the Communist Party of Spain has just completed an official visit to Romania as the guests of the Communist Party of Romania.

In a six-page communique marking the end of talks, the two parties declare: "There is no need, in any part of the world, of a leading centre in the communist movement."

"In no case must differences of view between parties generate suspicion and animosity or lead to condemnations."

The communique also said: "It is the prime international duty of each party not to encourage faction fights within another party."

Pentagon Papers deceit "still on" - Author

PACIFIC PALISADES, Calif., USA: Prof. Gurtov, one of the authors of the secret Pentagon study of Vietnam, feels that the papers reveal a pattern of government deceit that is continuing in the Nixon Administration.

Professor Gurtov, who recently left the Rand Corporation to teach political science at the University of California, is glad the papers were released to the press.

"But I hope people don't simply regard the documents as an indication of faulty thinking that stopped in 1968," he said in an interview at his home.

"It's terribly important that the real significance for present policies not be lost sight of, and that it not become a political football. That would be a great tragedy."

Professor Gurtov, who is 28, was one of about 40 authors who contributed to the study. But except for Dr. Daniel Ellsberg, who has said that he turned the papers over to the press, Professor Gurtov is the first writer to comment publicly on them. The New York Times, he said, published a series of articles based on the papers, "has refused to discuss the source of its material."

The author of three books on Asia, Professor Gurtov was one of a number of Rand people recruited for the study. The largest group of authors, he said, came from within the Government, with Rand second and outside scholars third. Like most of the authors, Professor Gurtov worked on only one section of the papers during a three-month stint in Washington in 1967.

While conceding that the researchers did have access to most White House and State Department papers, Professor Gurtov feels that the study was "of high quality."

"I genuinely feel," he said, "that by and large the effort was a scholarly one without outside pressure, without any efforts to skew questions to get the right as opposed to the 'wrong' answers."

"The degree of access was extraordinary, even for a study such as this, which could command a great deal of bureaucratic attention and cooperation to get material."

certainly not for the last, a division in Japanese domestic politics has found its direct reflection at the top level of Australian political life.

Nixon's initiatives in US China policy have dealt the present Prime Minister Sato a blow from which he will not recover.

Present front-runner to succeed him is Foreign Minister Fukuda. But he labors under the disadvantage of being in poor health and, more important, of being closely identified with Sato.

A man who is gathering support from those Japanese business circles who are pressing most actively for a breakthrough in Japan's relations with China is the former Foreign Minister, Takeo Miki.

Much significance is attached in Japanese political circles to the recent meeting between Miki and Wang Kuo-chuan, the vice-chairman of the China-Japan Friendship Association, who was visiting Japan. After the meeting, Wang spoke approvingly of Miki's attitudes.

—Malcolm Salmon.

BIG ANTI-WAR ACTIONS IN USA NOV. 6

NEW YORK: The National Peace Action Coalition (NPAC) in the United States has called for massive million-strong anti-war protests throughout America on November 6.

As a lead-up to this massive protest a "national Moratorium" will be held on October 13 in which a "diversity of activity organised by local Peace Action coalitions will demand total, immediate US withdrawal from South-east Asia."

October 25 will be celebrated as a Day of Solidarity with Vietnam Veterans. There are an estimated two million US Vietnam Veterans.

The week from October 25 to November 5 will be "Peace Action Week" in which the NPAC is calling on each section of the movement "women, religious groups, labor, students, veterans, Third World, gays, GIs and professionals" to organise particular actions and choose a day in that week for their own action. The action will culminate on November 6.

"The NPAC calls for action on these dates have been endorsed by the student major anti-war coalition, the People's Coalition for Peace and Justice.

Asked the main lesson he had drawn from the study, Professor Gurtov replied:

"It seems to be that the major import of the study lies in what it tells us about decision-making today. Of course, the study says that documentation through 1968, but I think that the public record of this Administration on Vietnam is sufficient to demonstrate that the same kinds and order of magnitude of error — lack of foresight, arrogance of power, and most importantly, deceit and manipulation of the American public and of the Congress — continues to this day."

"The first and most basic deceit is the Administration's contention that we're winding down and getting out of the war."

Vietnamisation is a "domestic political ploy" that really involves the "substitution of air power for ground power," he said, adding that under President Nixon "American air power has expanded in scope and intensified in

From Spain to Warrane

The Inside Story of Opus Dei



El P. Escriva
Master mind of Opus Dei

10c

THE COVER of a pamphlet published last week by the Communist Party of Australia in association with the Young Communist Movement. The pamphlet contains material from Spanish communist sources on the background to the clerical-fascist organisation Opus Dei ("God's Work") which has seized virtual control of the Spanish State apparatus, and whose activities have recently extended to Australia, through its control of Warrane College at the University of New South Wales. The pamphlet provides a full background to the storm now raging among the University of NSW student body over the presence of Opus Dei on their campus. (Available from all CPA offices, price 10c.)

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released to the press?

"Dan Ellsberg has admitted he gave over the documents and that he's prepared to accept the consequences, and I think he could say no less," said Professor Gurtov, who was a colleague of Dr. Ellsberg at Rand for several years.

"I myself would not have the courage to do that sort of thing. I feel, however, that knowing Dan's degree of commitment and knowing that he acted faithful to his principles, and not as some grandstand play for his personal or professional enrichment, I cannot in those circumstances criticise what he did."

"HAIRCUT OR ELSE" FOR PAPERS MAN

NEW YORK: After being jailed for refusing to tell a grand jury how Daniel Ellsberg acquired the secret Pentagon Papers, Anthony Russo, 34, has been put in solitary confinement for refusing to have a haircut.

District Judge William Gray, who committed Russo to prison on August 16, has said that the Terminal Island prison where Russo was being held insisted on short haircuts to aid with identification.

"The choice is his. He can remain in solitary if he refuses to abide by the rules. Or he can return to the general prison population if he gets his hair cut."

Russo and Ellsberg worked as researchers in the same office of the Rand Corporation in Los Angeles which held a copy of the Pentagon study on the Vietnam war. Ellsberg's trial date will be set on January 4.

Russo was ordered to jail until he tells what he knows about the papers, or for the life of the present Federal grand jury, which has 18 months to run.

Women's liberation conference

at the Melbourne conference

Participants in the recent Women's Liberation conference in Melbourne have prepared for Tribune the following comment and analysis on the conference

JOYCE STEVENS

(Sydney)

If the conference had achieved nothing more than the charter, the lobby of A.C.T.U. congress delegates and the demonstration in the Melbourne city centre, it would have to be counted as a successful and productive venture.

As reported in Tribune (September 8) the policy points set out in this charter were arrived at by discussion and consensus and attempted to direct the attention of the trade union movement towards demands that might alleviate the continued social and economic discrimination against women.

Perhaps the success of any conference can be measured by the degree of discussion, exchange of views and activity which precede it and flow from it. In this respect the W.L. Conference came at the beginning of efforts to define the main issues concerning women at work in terms of women's liberation, and to consider how to work so that these issues would impact other women and the labor movement.

It should have come as no surprise then that the conference had to be organized and made up for the lack of pre-conference consultations and flow of ideas. Had more recognition been given to this in the structuring and organizing of the conference, we might have avoided at least some of the fire accompanying the discussion on the Saturday morning on concepts of the conference.

One of the lessons learnt over recent years in the radical movement is surely that differences must be confronted and discussed and that organizational structures must be designed to make this possible.

The Women's Liberation movement places great emphasis on helping women to move out of their positions of "inferiority" and "deferring to male opinions,"

and by side with men to develop ideas, policies, and actions. Unless women are encouraged to move beyond passivity and dependence then liberation will be as far as ever it was.

Therefore, for many at the conference, the debate on concepts was as important as anything that followed.

As one had to rely on the information provided by the daily press, this discussion was primarily concerned with the relevance or irrelevance of men, despite the fact that this question was never actually discussed at all. What was discussed was whether or not the presence of men at that particular conference was "helpful, a hindrance or a neutral factor in the effects of male chauvinism on women, and the fact that most women are inarticulate when confronted with male female conference type discussion, it is surely not hard to understand why the presence of men at the conference came under fire and discussion.

To argue that to exclude men is not a liberated attitude is no argument at all. We know that women are not liberated and it will take a great deal of time and effort to overcome centuries of discriminatory attitudes. Freedom and liberation cannot be bestowed on anyone — women must be the vehicles of their own liberation. Therefore, our priorities must be given to releasing the creative energies of women, and dialogue with men is of secondary importance. This is not to argue that no such discussions should take place, but in the mainstream of women's liberation activities the primary thrust is for women to feel free to talk, argue, and develop their own strength and solidarity.

The experiences reported at the conference showed clearly that women as workers are consistently discriminated against on the basis of their sex.

Many of the papers contained a great deal of valuable material which did not receive much time or attention. These however, need not just remain words on paper. Together with other views they can provide food for further group, district or State-wide discussion.

A variety of views on how women can best work around the issues raised were put forward. Some thought that women should continue to try and change attitudes in established organizations, others that women should get behind the main problems of the working class, "join the class struggle," and others that liberation is a later stage than women's liberation. Others that women's liberation is the way, and others that women wherever they are must start to work in



Part of the demonstration held during the Melbourne Women's Liberation conference.

small groups around the burning issues concerning their sex. Perhaps the most disappointing aspect of the conference was that none of these views was really discussed or argued out.

If any issues emerged as central then these were — one rate for the job and wider job opportunities for all women, 24-hour-a-day community-controlled child care facilities (i.e. facilities for pre-school children, for children after school, and in the holidays) and the absolute right for women to work with social responsibility being accepted not only for child care but also for provision of meals and home cleaning.

Several groups reported on activities already initiated around child-care facilities and some ideas were raised about possible co-ordinated national actions. These included considering a take-your-child-to-work-day or a take-your-child-to-Parliament-House day.

The view also emerged from discussion and papers that actions around issues are very important, but that campaigns not linked to the broader social issues of women's status and liberation cannot lead to the changes necessary to free women from their present position.

LIZ ELLIOTT

(Melbourne)

The success of the conference is hard to judge except from the standpoint of one's original expectations of it.

Women who wanted an immediate strategy for the factory floor or vigorous theoretical stuff (like myself), or a synopsis of women's lib, were probably disappointed with the conference. Because the conference, being only two days, could not have achieved these things, what I DID do, however, was just as important.

The conference established that the democracy of women's liberation must be total. Small groups were shown once again to be essential organization for W.L. In all our meetings, small or large, the way we organize reflects the way we think about our sisters. Organization is political. I feel that future mass conferences must be against a background of frequent small inter-state meetings on specific topics. At once-in-a-blue-moon conferences, however much they specify a topic, women only indirectly involved in the issue flock in desperation to contact interested sisters. This spoils the specificity of the conference for the women directly concerned with the issue. Groups presenting their political

credentials in the name of tenuously related debate are no substitute for general session and intensive specific discussions. We must increase communication between groups, by personal contact (which regular inter-state get-together would facilitate) and by co-ordinating publications. Right on, to the March conference!

ZELDA D'APRANO

(Melbourne)

Because the issue of the concept of the conference absorbed a great deal of time, which we felt could have been more productively spent on the many aspects of the theme of the conference, we were disappointed.

This does not mean that we did not understand and largely agree with the broader aspects of women's liberation as a movement, which were stated so forcibly by our more consciously radical sisters, but many at the conference were bewildered by the fierce debate, the highly developed relationships between members of various groups, and the assumption that women's liberation must be determined by a set of rules, as laid down by the experience of others.

The Women's Action Committee, Melbourne, was formed for action — to spread the word of women's liberation, which we saw as a broad spectrum of opinion and concepts — exposing and fighting sexual discrimination in all its forms, in all spheres. We think that humans beings become radicalised from the recognition of their own experienced oppression. Therefore no issue is too small, no concept can be disregarded, and all women are potential sisters. Only their own consciousness can lead them to see that Sisterhood is possible.

Small groups also grew from the concept. A very large percentage of our membership are sisters who have not taken part in any previous political activity. Many liberation groups have been formed from our action on specific areas and we strongly believe that each group should be autonomous, with structure and leadership minimal and interchangeable. But we believe that organization for ACTION is necessary — and we saw the conference as ACTION — to involve as many women in industry and the work force as possible, and our hopes were high for a program of action to come from the conference itself.

We saw the papers to be presented as important, both from the point of view of what exists now (i.e. the 'bourgeois' economic papers), and in laying a basis for discussion — and hoped that many new sisters would be moved to give their individual work experience, and be helped in their own struggle by other experiences. This did not happen.

For these reasons, the conference was not completely successful, although many useful things were achieved. The degree of interest, the numbers who registered, the stimulation of discussion in and around the conference of the serious issues involved.

The Women's Liberation movement in Australia is only just beginning, and many women who attended the conference and many who have heard about it feel the urge and need to start groups in their own areas.

Women's Liberation is a necessity for Human Liberation. But the question still remains — how to involve all women as sisters.

EILEEN HALEY

(Canberra)

I came from Canberra where there has been a Women's Liberation group going since about May, 1970.

In this group there are a lot of teachers and all of us, married and single, are also housewives. So we have a lot of commonalities about women's work. But we don't have many women actively engaged in trade unionism. So I came to the conference to learn to see women's oppression in a way we in Canberra hadn't talked about much as intimately connected with the way work is performed. And I came to see how we could get rid of this oppression; I came to learn about Women's Liberation. Well, I learnt a lot in the way I'd expected. To me one of the big things about Women's Liberation is that means and ends are united. If women don't stand

up with self-respect and self-confidence, and if they don't join with other women in solidarity, they will never be liberated. But the achievement of this self-respect and sisterly solidarity, the removal of the barriers to this is liberation!

But in the organization of this conference means and ends were separated. Well, I've been to a lot of conferences and even had a share in organizing some. Even if a conference is successful, everyone always has something bad to say about the organization, and no one fully appreciates the trouble the organizers have taken. So I hope I don't sound as though I'm just making mean criticisms, because I do want to say some things that seem to me to be important for future conferences. Everyone, rich and poor, had to pay a set registration fee. It seems to me that it would have been better just to say "Here's what it cost to put on this conference: how much can you contribute, according to her ability?" We have been taught to distrust one another for so long, surely it would have been worth the risk involved, for us to have experienced trust.

The Guild Theatre, where the conference was held, has a brightly lit stage at the front and the rest is dimly lit. This meant that all everyone's trust was at the front and had to turn around and peer into darkness when anyone spoke from the "floor." This inhibited discussion. Many women came to the conference and went away without having opened their mouths. They may have listened and learnt much but they had not learnt one thing it is not for us all to learn: to speak up with self-confidence to criticize justly, to accept just criticism, in a spirit of sisterhood.

Also, the conference was originally structured so that there was room for smaller discussion groups, just for talking and general discussion.

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Women's Liberation Conference (cont.)

But I don't think any woman who was there will forget that we were women who, two days before, hadn't known one another and we were acting together — laughing, singing and backing one another up when we were confronting the delegates. It was an experience of sisterhood made possible by the conference, and I don't think I, or any other sister who was there, will be down from that high for a while to come.

JANNE REED (Wollongong)

We were very enthusiastic about the prospect of the Women's Lib. conference.

On the first morning of conference some differences occurred over the attendance of the press and the rights of men present at the conference. The fact that the first two out of three speakers were very demanding males didn't help the situation and the vote was that they remain as observers. As our conference had a very tight schedule to get through to formulate a worthwhile list of demands for working women I agreed with this decision. To turn the conference into an argument between male and female would have only hindered the conference. This was emphasised later when some men from the Nazi Party tried to register as delegates. Had they been allowed to speak they certainly could have caused a lot of disruption. The press also remained while papers were being given without T.V. cameras or photographs being taken inside the hall. There might have been some good press reports, but certainly I didn't see any. Not one paper reported on the positive aspects of the conference and what I stated the movement. This only upheld the hostility of some members of W.L. towards the mass media.

The problems that occurred during the first morning were really healthy growing pains and demonstrated the wide variety of views and ways of life represented in the women's liberation movement.

The first paper delivered by Zaida D'Aprano was excellent, covering women

in the work force since the turn of the century and the social conditioning of male and female, which keeps women as second class citizens.

The next two papers on economics and equal pay were too long and had too many figures and should have been spoken to instead of read. A lively discussion followed these papers, especially the economics paper which tended to be bourgeois and quoted the I.L.O.

The papers by women on the problems in their factories and other work areas and how they were tackled at job level by the rank and file women were very good, and showed how women could organise to improve their conditions where the existing union structure will not co-operate. The discussion showed that a large number of women with predominantly women membership had bureaucratic leadership, reflected the paternalistic society and were only considered by women members as second bosses, not representative of them.

If women who are unrepresented and unorganised can begin to organise at grass roots level around specific problems then this is preferable to working on the "top" of the union structure if that structure is not a reflection of the rank and file. Although the trade union movement was given support by most of the women, there was certainly concern that unions will not support the women's demands or at most only pay lip service or pass paper resolutions on them.

When we broke into group discussion on the Sunday it was interesting that a number of women in our group were not involved in unions but were academics who belonged to associations. They pointed out the importance of the conference and papers given as they said they hadn't realised the immense problems faced by working women in the lower income groups and the lack of employment opportunities faced by women. Their concern and interest brought about a good discussion and proposals on how to tackle the problem.

The problem that women face through citizenships due to automation was reported on by one woman worker. Although men and women both face this problem, the indications are that women will be the first to go as the male is usually classed as the "breadwinner".

The papers given and the different views expressed certainly need more thinking about. The "Bread Winner" paper, based on a tape recording of a woman union activist, certainly showed to me the need for Women's Lib to develop a deeper understanding of women's problems. The differences on the class struggle that were raised showed some interesting arguments and the need to look at old methods of work.

The solidarity of the women when the draft proposals were put forward on the list of demands that were to be placed before the A.C.T.U. was tremendous. The enthusiasm and zeal with which the women tackled the situation of getting the papers, leaflets and placards etc. printed and organised in time for the Monday demonstration was really good. The reaction in the streets from the women, particularly the girls, was terrific and surprising, particularly after some of the adverse press publicity we received.

The feeling of sisterhood between the women was perhaps the best aspect of all and, if the delegates from each group were representative of the rest of their groups, then Women's Lib in Australia is well on the way to showing that sisterhood is powerful.

The People of Australia are invited (BY THE CANBERRA MORATORIUM) to come to Canberra to participate in a

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MEETING ON FAIR

As Saturday, Sept. 18, is the day of the local authority election in Sydney, the Sydney meeting on the Tribune Fair will now be held at 8.30 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 17, at 168 Day Street.

Frederic McConnell

The death has occurred in Brisbane of Frederic Jordan McConnell, member of the Communist Party of Australia for 30 years. Frederic McConnell, son of a pioneering family, was born in the Valley, was an engineer for many years with the Main Roads Department.

He lived for some years in San Francisco, USA, during the early '30s, obtaining his degree in engineering. He was a convinced socialist and had a deep admiration for the achievements of the Soviet Union and other socialist countries.

Although Frederic McConnell had differences with some of the policies of the CPA, he continued activities in his local branch, having a Tribune sales run and donating funds generously to the party. Although his health was failing and he was in his '70s, he assisted enthusiastically in putting up posters in the Lib Moratorium and played a part in other branch activities.

Members of the South Brisbane branch, CPA, had a deep respect and affection for Frederic McConnell and feel a keen sense of loss at his passing. Tribune and members of the branch extend condolences to his wife and family.

What's On

NEW SOUTH WALES

NEW THEATRE presents NUGENT's four plays from Papua-New Guinea "The Degrated Daughter", "The Old Man's Reward", "The Unexpected Hawk", "Alive" Each Friday, Saturday and Sunday at 8.15 p.m. Bookings at David Jones, Mitchell's, New Theatre 31-237.

"THE MAGIC TRAVEL BOX" by John Mulligan, a play for children, matinee each Saturday at 2.15 Bookings as above.

VICTORIA

NEW THEATRE presents "A DOLL'S HOUSE 1971" by Clara Booth Luce. A play on the theme of women's liberation. Last three performances next Friday, Saturday and Sunday at New Theatre's new

location on the ground floor of the Pram Factory, 325 Drummond St, Carlton.

HEAR DENIS SKIOTTIS (Industrial Chemist) speak on POLLUTION & CONSERVATION, Saturday, Sept. 25, 8 p.m. at 95 Paisley St, Footscray. Questions, discussion. Footscray Branch, CPA.

NATIONAL DRAFT RESISTERS' CONFERENCE: Melbourne, University, Sept. 18 & 19. Further details from DMZ, 674A Chapel St, South Yarra, phone 24-4174. Accommodation available to country and interstate people.

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DRAFT RESISTERS' UNION meets every Tuesday, 7.30 p.m. at The Friends Meeting House, North Quay. Info. 5-4866.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA LIBERATION, 75 Bulwer St, Perth is open for Coffee and Discussion every Thursday night from 7 p.m.

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SALE OF POSTERS: All posters on the wall 50c, at AIOD, 587a George St, Sydney Ends this Saturday.

Read DOWNDRAFT — a manual on draft resistance. Essential reading for all opposed to conscription. Price 50c. Published by Melbourne Draft Resisters' Union. At leaving bookshops, or ask your Tribune seller.

WANTED by secondhand book shop: Books, pamphlets, documents, lectures dealing with the Left movement, local & overseas. Contact International Bookshop, 17 Elizabeth St, Melbourne (61-2859). WUI arrange to collect.

A group of financially embarrassed young communists living at "Middle Earth" Consume urgently need (free or dirt cheap), furniture and household effects, in fact anything. Ring 31-9428.

CPA cables on death of Khrushchov

FOLLOWING last weekend's news of the death in Moscow of Nikita S. Khrushchov, the following cable was sent to the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, on behalf of the National Committee of the Communist Party of Australia—

"Extend deep regrets at death of Nikita Khrushchov. History will remember his contributions to the USSR and to the international communist movement, particularly his leadership in the new course initiated by the 20th Congress of the CPSU."

Another message was cabled to the dead leader's widow, Nina Khrushchova, expressing condolences. It said that, for his leadership in the course initiated by the 20th Congress, "he is assured of an honored place in history. We share your grief at his passing, and extend deepest sympathy."

Khrushchov, a former coal miner in the Ukraine, became a prominent official of the CPSU in the 1930s under Stalin. Three years after Stalin's death in 1953, Khrushchov as CPSU First Secretary delivered a speech at the 20th Congress denouncing the systematic and brutal political repression developed under Stalin's leadership. The period that followed was marked by fruitful democratic developments in the USSR, as well as by some serious errors in policy.

In 1964, Khrushchov was removed from all his leading positions and lived in retirement until his death.

Creating a people's park

From an Adelaide correspondent
ADELAIDE: For the past seven Sundays, a People's Park has been developing on the banks of the Torrens.

It was initiated by Red Angelo Panic, one of our best bands, who give a free show in the Advertiser Sound Shell at Elder Park. About 200 people were treated to rock and pop on the grass. The following Sunday, there were 600 people, a couple more bands, a few more people and some street theatre—all free.

By the fourth week, the numbers were up to 2000 and a tremendous festival atmosphere had developed.

On the fifth Sunday the concert was dedicated to the Oz people in London and featured some so-called "obscene" limedicks, and street theatre which was an

tribmart

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CPA. The concert was dedicated to the Oz people in London and featured some so-called "obscene" limedicks, and street theatre which was an

"advertisement" for a new brand of cigarette with added sex appeal.

One of those involved said: "We were saying that our society was obscene—in Vietnam, in advertising, in its repressive sexual attitudes."

Two members of the Vice Squad who were present tried to intervene but were hounded out of the park and chased up to the city by 700 people.

The following week there were 10 Vice Squad detectives, uniformed police and a police movie photographer.

In what had been up till then a cheerful festival police ordered the removal of a sign saying "F—ing Cops." For this, they were booed, hissed and sworn at, so they arrested some people.

We tried to keep the concert going. They arrested some more of us, then the City Council decided, in all its liberalism, to cut off the power. So, fed up, we marched to Police Headquarters

about 500 people — and stood around till about 6 o'clock, jeering and being hustled off the road. Twenty people were arrested, nine of them females.

The next Sunday, things were cooler. There were 3500 people there. We had music because someone got a generator.

The police and the City Council had moved in before because they saw what was really happening. They saw an alternative way of organising things, an alternative way of being happy. The concerts are free, the concerts are spontaneous. It worried them. But they don't worry us.

The young people at Elder Park are making it a People's Park.

CPA stand in Newcastle

NEWCASTLE: Leading Newcastle communist Dave Ross is standing as Communist Party of Australia candidate in the election for Central Ward in next Saturday's local government election.

Main points in his policy platform include the gearing of rates to the profitability of the rated property and for referendum to be held on projects likely to cause major changes in the environment.

Candidates of a large number of other communists and Independent Lefts in Sydney, Broken Hill and Wollongong were announced in Tribune last week.

HELPERS NEEDED

SYDNEY: With Council elections being held throughout NSW this Saturday, workers are needed to help various left and progressive candidates.

Communist candidates in Sydney seeking more helpers include:—

SUTHERLAND: Alex Ebbelston asks that people report to the Cronulla public school (near Cronulla station).

LEICHHARDT: Pat Aarons, standing in Rozelle ward, asks that helpers report to the Leichhardt Town Hall (Norton St.). This Leichhardt booth will be used to 'farm' workers out to other left candidates as well.

BIRWOOD: Brian Rix said helpers should ring B. McGahan, 74-2844, or go direct to a booth.

Oz police in news again

BRISBANE: Allegations against police of graft and corruption in connection with massed parades on Queensland's Gold Coast are the latest eruption within the forces of law and order to be headlined nationally.

Police Commissioner Whitrod on Sept. 3 put an assistant commissioner, an inspector and a chief superintendent to work on a police inquiry, and Police Minister Hodges said that this may lead to a Royal Commission.

Allegations made, Mr. Hodges said, in-

APOLOGY

Tribune wishes to apologise to Mr. M. E. Keain for an incorrect reference to him as the assistant secretary of the DLP in South Australia in an article in our issue of August 18.

Mr. Keain does not hold that position, nor is he a member of the DLP. Tribune regrets the error.

Tribune month soon

By Claude Jones
In some areas, preparations are under way for Tribune's month of October. As stated earlier the aim of this is to improve every side of Tribune.

The two important questions are circulation and money. Sales are rising where regular stands are operating. In some cases, they are quite significant.

What about an extra effort to open new stands in October with the object of making them permanent? Send precise details of all existing and new stands, as it is proposed that the list be printed regularly in Tribune. In this way, buyers can be directed to stands and, if any reader has an hour or two to spare, he or she can help man them.

Subscriptions should also receive atten-

tion, as this is an effective way of distribution.

Without continual and expanding financial support, Tribune faces difficulties. That is why a special effort is called for in October and continuing through to the Tribune Fairs held at the end of November or early December.

Shortly we hope to announce a plan that will give every reader and supporter an opportunity to make a special contribution that should raise a substantial amount for Tribune by the end of the year.

A special word of thanks to those guardian groups whose names appear regularly in this column and to the constant donors, some of whom have been putting into Tribune for many years.

FUND DETAILS FOR THE WEEK

TRIBUNE FUND DONATIONS this week from NSW \$75.10, Victoria \$7.80, Queensland \$28.50, Western Australia \$6.00.

NEW SOUTH WALES
Guardant Groups: Odd Beds \$2, CPA National Committee Office: Ross Coopers \$9, Tribune Tribune Editorial \$1.70, W. H. (Railway Sq. Trib stand) \$2, Margaret (Railway Sq. Trib stand) \$2, W. H. (Woy) \$4, A. P. (Punchbowl) \$11, (gift payment) A. P. (Punchbowl) \$11, M.O.H. 20c, Oxford St seller per Bill Fitzpatrick 20c, S. Davis (Glenow) \$10, Wymen "Poets" \$3, Kings X Donors 30c, U.M.S. & C.M.S. (Hurstville) \$2, Sandwick Bus \$10, Kings stand \$5.60, H.H. (Lionsville) \$6.

VICTORIA
Guardant Groups: Eagles \$1.30, Dockyard

Workers \$6, F.H. 50c.

QUEENSLAND
Guardant Groups: CPA State Office \$2.40, Bookshop Collection Box 22, North West \$1.20, Valley \$1.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA
Donations: V.W.P. (Busselton) \$5, H.P. (Busselton) \$1.
Previously acknowledged \$8,047.39
This week 113.40
Total \$8,160.79

cluded charges that a conspiracy was afoot against the Commissioner. Inferences are that the power struggle (last out in the open during the Springbok "state of emergency") between the Commissioner and the dihard sections opposed to him within his force is involved.

A threat of bombing has been made to one of two policemen known to have given information, and a Sunday Mail story reported nervous reactions, as well as claims of respectability and no "special treatments", from proprietors of rubbing establishments on the Coast.

The proprietor of Oscar's, whose most exclusive suite features Egyptian motifs in nude murals, wall mirrors and carpeting, said: "I don't know anything about vice and massage parlours. I don't want my head blown off."

Asks that the student newspaper change from the current name of the student newspaper at the French Health Studio the reporters' labors were as unproductive.

Earlier this month, in a maiden speech in State Parliament, Mr. D. Lane (Liberal), who was a well-known member of the police Special Branch, issued a call to combat "an influx of Southern criminals". In the first half of the year, he said, breaking and entering offences in Queensland were 6483, of which 5399 were un-solved.

Figures for the second half of the year in the first months of which 900 police

from all over the State were concentrated on the Springbok demonstrations at an estimated cost of \$864,000 may be even more disturbing.

Backing for Cristofides

WOLLONGONG: A 24-hour stop by Port Kembla waterfront workers was among back-up industrial actions taken yesterday in support of draft defier Louie Cristofides.

Louie, a Port Kembla ship's painter and docker, faced a two-year jail term when the 24-hour stoppage began.

December Sit-down

MELBOURNE: A "Dont Register" demonstration outside the Department of Labor and National Service building in Flinders Street will take place on Friday, December 3.

This was decided upon by a large meeting last week of Vietnam Moratorium Campaign supporters in the Richmond Town Hall.

The demonstration will stage a sit-down outside the building. It is designed as a "prelude to the Summer Offensive" on conscription — a campaign among holiday makers particularly on beach resorts to urge non-compliance with the National Service Act.

HORSE'S MOUTH

By The Strapper
SYDNEY HORSES
High Moss, Hot Head
MELBOURNE HORSES
Ranunc, Pagan Blue
SYDNEY TROTTS
Black Talent, Gay Glen.
SYDNEY DOGS
Painted Patch, Robert Abbott.

