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TRIBUNE

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Labor Council's
Move Worries
Press Barons
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Legal Action Against Sharpley: Union Move

• New South Wales Branch of the Federated Engine Drivers and Firemen's Association has recommended to its Federal Executive that a writ be taken out against Cecil Sharpley and the Melbourne Herald.

• Waterside Workers' Federal Secretary Jim Healy has branded Sharpley's allegations against his union as "figments of a distorted mind." The Wharfies' Federal Council meeting on May 2 will consider action on the allegations.

These are the latest developments in the so-called "exposures" made by Sharpley, who last January was expelled from the Communist Party.

Editorial ATTLEE MUST EXPLAIN DEATH OF UK SAILORS

THE Attlee Government will be asked to show cause this week why it should not be held guilty of the deaths of British sailors aboard two British vessels in China's war zone.

The entire British Commonwealth will echo the query of the British press how it came about that British warships were placed about the path of the Chinese Liberation Army's sensational advance.

It is officially stated by the British authorities that the "Nationalist," or Kuomintang, armies on the South bank of the river were notified of Amethyst's mission.

Why weren't the Liberation forces on the North bank told about it?

If the British naval authorities didn't know that the Chinese Liberation forces were in that area and were planning a swift advance at that time they were ignorant of facts well-known to the rest of the world.

The People's Liberation Army radio speaks of "Sino-British" attacks on its advancing forces.

What's Mr. Attlee's justification for involving Britain on the side of reaction in China's war for liberation?

The suggestion that the Chinese Liberation forces would make an unprovoked attack on British or any other foreign ships is ridiculous.

How would such an attack help their prospects of winning the war quickly and easily?

They have already freed more than half China, yet, not one instance (until last week, had been alleged of any infringement of British rights or interests.

The real "gain" from the incident accrues to those who are using it to make fresh propaganda against Communism.

The avidity with which the daily press has seized on the deaths of the British sailors is a disgusting exposure of the real estimate they place on human life.

Official admissions that the "Nationalists" had fired at Amethyst were carefully played down by the Sydney press and completely suppressed by some of the papers.

Despite all provocations by the daily press, friendship between the Australian and Chinese people will be strengthened by the victory of the Chinese peace-lovers and progressives.

THE FED & FA's branch's writ recommendation results from allegations by Sharpley that Mr. W. P. Evans, general secretary of the FED & FA, was returned on a rigged ballot.

Following this allegation Mr. Evans resigned his position pending a thorough investigation of the allegations.

Mr. Evans is one of the panel of ACTU advocates in the £10 Basic Wage claim. His attempted smear-campaign was linked with the actions of other advocates Jack McPhillips reveals the whole sensational smear campaign as a well-timed effort by employers to divert workers' attention from the struggle for higher wages.

Mr. S. J. Williams, who acted as returning officer for the election, filed a statutory declaration which will be submitted to the FED and FA executive early this week.

In his declaration Mr. Williams says he counted the ballot in the presence of two scrutineers; to his knowledge there was no alteration of the order of preference for candidates.

In his opinion no such alteration could have been made without his knowledge.

Mr. Williams also says that at no time during the counting of the ballot did he make a report to the Communist Party headquarters and

to his knowledge, Sharpley did not visit his home, where the ballot count took place.

Mr. Evans has received expressions of support and confidence from other FED and FA branches.

It has been pointed out that when Mr. Evans left the Workers' Compensation Board to become general secretary of the FED and FA he sacrificed £4 a week in salary.

Mr. Jim Healy, General Secretary of the Waterside Workers' Federation, said last night that Sharpley's references to the waterside workers' ballot showed very clearly that his so-called "revelations" were "sheer invention."

"Sharpley refers to the Victorian Branch of the Federation but the fact is that there is no Victorian Branch," said Mr. Healy.

"There are branches at Melbourne, Geelong and Portland in Victoria."

[Sharpley wrote in the Sydney Morning Herald on April 21 that, "In the elections of the Victorian Branch of the Waterside Workers' Federation held last July the first day's count showed that the Communists would be defeated.

"Two other Party members and I investigated the possibility of breaking into the union building in Flinders Street that night and burning the ballot papers."

"The Melbourne branch of the Federation held its annual election last July in accordance with branch and Federal rules," Mr. Healy continued.

"Election of Federal representatives was conducted at the same time.

"The actual ballot took a week and the counting took another week.

"According to an official request made by the branch returning officer, the counting of the first votes did not begin until 3 p.m. and finished for the day at 5 p.m.

"Only the position of branch president was dealt with at this count, and to suggest, as Sharpley did, that in two hours' counting the whole ballot result would be indicated, is ludicrous.

"Only Sharpley's distorted imagination could conceive that any benefit could be gained from getting into the waterside workers' offices and burning ballot papers."

Mr. Healy said it was well known that, as well as being protected against burglary, the federation's Melbourne office employed a resident caretaker.

Dealing with Sharpley's reference to the wharfies' ban on Dutch goods for Indonesia, Mr. Healy said Sharpley knew nothing about a matter on which he posed as an expert.

The facts were that the lifting of the ban was a matter of lengthy negotiation between different interested parties, including unions, Government and shipping representatives.

The initiative was most certainly taken by the unions, Mr. Healy emphatically declared.

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Rex Chiplin Says . .

MINDSZENTY, the man whose trial, to quote Australia's US Ambassador Norman Makin, "was an abridgement of human rights," wrote this in Zalai Ujsage (News of County Zala) in 1942 . . .

"Dazzling vistas open up before heroic sacrifice. The Japanese living Stukas, living torpedoes, and living bombs show that the heroic soldiers are ready to sacrifice their lives, to go together with the tools of destruction towards their destination."

ON page 53 of the second volume of his book Mother, which appeared in Zalaegerszeg in 1942, Mindszenty enthused about Mussolini and fascism in these terms:

"Italy, as a great power, happily united in language, race and religion, has taken over, on the side of the Vatican, the historic role of France and the great Habsburg Empire.

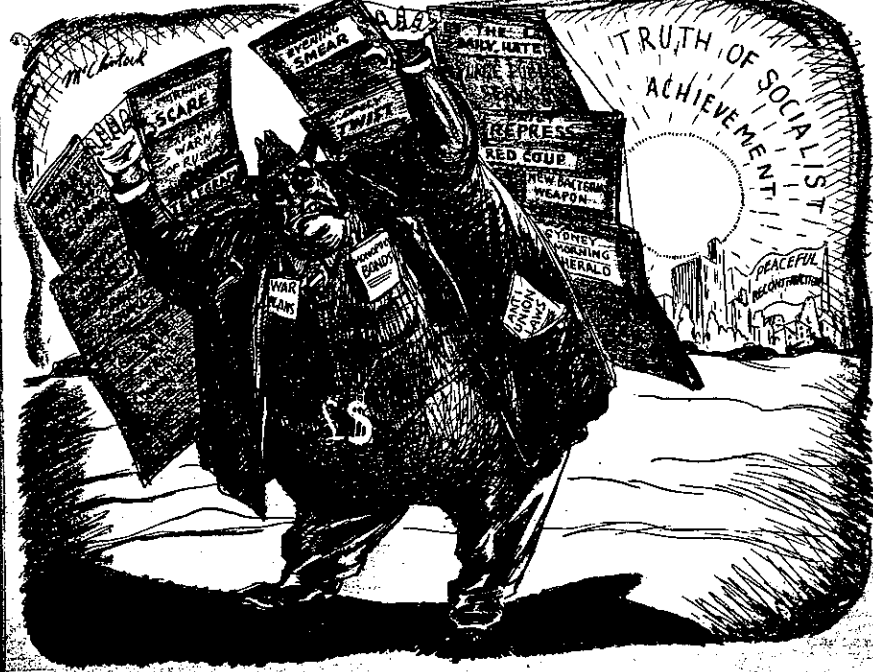
"Mussolini is responsible for Italy's present greatness."

ANY day now, we may expect to see the boys who sweated it out in Changi and other death camps indicted for harboring ill feeling toward fascism and fascists.

THERE'S a cafe down town in which it is forbidden to have the electric fans switched on.

The management is scared that the draught will blow the grills away.

SHARPLEY lined himself up with some great types last week when the Herald reported him as saying that he would be placed in the same category as Kravchenko, Gouzenko and Budenz.



AUSTRALIA received some Bevin-Attlee Aid last week.

The US freighter Fort Wellington unloaded hundreds of cases of Tray Bintos soup made by the British firm Ono Ltd.

The week before, Cripps further reduced the starvation fare of the British people in line with Marshall Aid demands.

IN the heart of Lands Minister Sheahan's Yass electorate a large estate was broken up for soldier settlement. Before the digger owners took over the former owner ripped out all water pipes, took down the windmills and had the Kurrajong trees grubbed out. Kurrajong trees are vital stock feed in dry periods.

A READER draws our attention to the similarity between the Marshall Plan and the Amazon Ant.

The Amazon Ant seizes the young of certain of the species and makes slaves of them in order to milk them later on.

And the Marshall Plan. . . ?

VIENNESE Catholic organisations have sent 2,000 children to Spain "for a holiday."

The children will be under the supervision of Falangist (Spanish fascist) organisations while they are there.

PRIVATE enterprises. Bendix washing machines sell in America for 190 dollars (about £58 Aust.). City stores here sell them for £151/4/-.