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NEW THEATRE
APRIL 12
THE EPIC STRIKE PLAY—
"SONS OF THE SOUTH"
BY GEORGE FARWELL

Guardian

(WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED "THE WORKERS' VOICE")

PROGRESSIVE TREND AT
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FOLLOW WAGE RISES P. 6

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ATTACKS ON COMMUNISTS DANGER TO ALL

Editorial

WHY COMMUNISTS ARE ATTACKED

There is one question that every one should ask who reads the daily leaders of the Communist Party in the newspapers.

It is: "Why has the Communist Party become of such overwhelming importance to the millionaires who run the show that they can scarcely print a page that does not attack Communism?"

The answer is becoming very clear, and many people are finding it.

The Communists are attacked because they are fighting for a better deal for the people out of the pockets of the rich. They are leading the fight for higher wages, the 40-hour week, speedier housing, and the lifting of taxes on small incomes. This fight has already led to the wage increases, the relaxation of rationing, and tax reductions.

Communists are leading the movement for high prices, exposing the racketeering, taking round pe-

ny are demanding universal disarmament and the scrapping of the atomic bomb, and are fearlessly exposing moves to a Third World War.

They are not TALKING about a better deal for the people, they are actively going to WIN IT, AND THEIR EFFORTS ARE BRINGING RESULTS.

What is more, they are fighting for CAPITALISM, which would mean socialisation of all national resources and national planning to control rising prices and other burning issues in the interests of the people.

Those who attack the Communists are those who place private interests first of the people last.

They want to retain the old social order which in the last 30 years has brought the people 10 years of depression, 10 years of war and 10 years of anxious anxiety.

THEIR ATTACKS, THEREFORE, ARE NOT ONLY ATTACKS ON THE COMMUNISTS BUT ON THE WHOLE PEOPLE.

FIGHTS FOR PEOPLE

They want to remove the Communist Party which is the fighting leadership of the people, in order to carry through a policy which will ruin the people.

Their plan is the same as Hitler's—suppress the Communists first, and suppress any other organisation which could even slightly serve the interests of the people against big business.

THE WHOLE PEOPLE SHOULD BEFORE RALLY AGAINST THE SEVERE ATTACKS AND OFFICIAL PROSECUTION OF THE COMMUNISTS.

Progressive people should not only expose Communist aims and policy, they should provide funds to answer attacks on the Party, they should further and JOIN ITS RANKS.

They should march on May Day bearing the slogans which the Communist Party will carry in its part of the procession—

United and Fight for a Better Life Today.

United and Fight for our Future—Socialism.

United We are Ten Times Stronger." Capitalism has No Future—and Threatens Our Future."

Only Socialism Can Bring Peace, Security and Happiness."

ON MAY DAY A FIGHTING ANSWER TO THE ATTACKS OF THE OPOLETS AND THEIR PRESS THE COMMUNIST PARTY AND PEOPLE.

With every daily newspaper screaming against the Communists, there is evidence of a growing Government and police move to gag the Communist Party.

The Communist Party calls for united action to defeat this move, which is a threat to free speech and to the success of the workers' struggle for better living standards.

Police have taken action against Communist street meetings in Carnegie, Camberwell, Oakleigh and other Melbourne suburbs recently.

Hawthorn City Council has denied the use of the Hawthorn Town Hall for a Communist public meeting.

Since the carefully staged "incident" in the Sydney Domain,

The attack on free speech calls for all democrats to take their place in Melbourne's May Day march on Sunday, May 4, and make this march a all-time record.

when waterside workers were denied free speech while a Liberal politician with police protection publicly called for scabs to work ships, NSW police have received special orders to interfere with Communist meetings.

RELAXED WAGE PEGS BIG WIN FOR STRIKERS

Already the metal trades strikers have won a major victory for the working class by forcing the lifting of wage pegging regulations.

Until the Amalgamated Engineers' Union extended its strike the Chifley Government had refused all demands even from the ACTU and the NSW Labor Party executive, for lifting these regulations.

The immediate result of the strike extension has thus been more than justified by results, and exposes the motives of the Right-Wing, which opposed extension.

Forced to lift the regulations, Mr. Chifley still attempts to replace the restrictions on wage rises by making all agreements on wages between employers and unions subject to endorsement by the Arbitration Court. Recent history has shown that this Court is most reluctant to endorse fully such agreements when these benefit the workers.

Mr. Chifley's restriction therefore has the double motive of restoring the prestige and power of the Arbitration Court, and of using the Court to prevent big wage increases.

Powers of the chief judge have been increased. As the Age states, "The chief judge of the Arbitration Court is now made the custodian of the national interest in relation to general wage claims WHICH INDUSTRIAL AUTHORITIES MAY CONCEDE." He has over-riding powers on any decisions or awards made by any Federal or State wage tribunal.

The strikers' claims are now before the Conciliation Commissioner (Mr. Mooney), and the strike will be further extended if satisfactory increases in marginal rates are not granted.

The lifting of the wage pegging regulations gives the Court powers to raise the demands of the striking workers and removes the last excuse to refuse these demands which even the capitalist press admits to be just.

TIME TO SAVE SPANISH YOUTH

MADRID.—The big gloomy fortress of Alcala de Henares in Madrid holds seven boys charged with activities against the Franco government. They are kept in isolation. There are 13 other people between 15 and 18 under arrest, and one, a girl, Isabella Torralba, aged 16, has gone insane under the torture of the Falangists. (See Story Page 8)

Town Hall Refused

Hawthorn City Council last week rejected a petition from 80 Hawthorn citizens and ratepayers asking the Council to grant local Communist use of the Hawthorn Town Hall for a public meeting.

A month ago the Hawthorn branch of the Communist Party sought to rent the hall for a public meeting on international affairs.

The council rejected the application and refused to give any reason for its action.

Liberal Control

Hawthorn Council is completely controlled by "Liberals" and Liberal Party supporters. There is not a labor man on the council.

ELECTION SPEAKER SILENCED

Mr. W. McDougall, campaign director for ACP General Secretary (Mr. J. B. Miles) in the NSW State elections, was silenced by police at a factory meeting last week.

An earlier meeting had been held at the factory where the incident occurred—Holbrooks Ltd., Waterloo, Sydney. At the first meeting, Mr. McDougall was using a loud speaker. He was told by police that he could not use it. They then took his name and address. Some days later Mr. McDougall spoke again at the factory—without a loud speaker.

Two police arrived by car and said to Mr. McDougall "We thought we told you that you were not to come back."

"You did nothing of the sort," replied Mr. McDougall. "You only said I could not use a loud-speaker."

One of the police then said "Don't let me catch you speaking here at all."

"If you follow me round you'll catch me speaking in lots of places" retorted Mr. McDougall.

The police answer to this was "All right, then. We'll run you in."

10-1 Against USA "Red" Ban

NEW YORK.—Mr. Truman's Secretary of Labor, Mr. Lewis B. Schwelensbach, admitted that since he had publicly proposed to ban the Communist Party, letters received by him from the public had been about 10 to 1 against him.

He further admitted that none of the letters favoring the ban had come from any trade union leader.

STOP THIS MEAT RACKET, MR. CAIN

After weeks of meat famine the Melbourne public is threatened with having to pay up to 9d. and 1/- a pound more than fixed retail prices.

Butchers will not be able to sell for less if the graziers are allowed to go on raising the prices of livestock to record levels.

Today graziers, at the Newmarket saleyards, are selling livestock at prices 5d. to 8d. a pound ABOVE the fixed wholesale price for carcass meat—and Mr. Cain is helping them to do it. The public must insist on immediate drastic action by the State Government to enforce the Federal "weight and grade" plan under which meat would not be auctioned, but killed in the abattoirs and sold direct to the trade at fixed prices according to its weight and grade.

If the graziers then refuse to sell, Mr. Cain should close the Newmarket saleyards and requisition livestock, as is done in Britain. Small scale action by Prices Branch officials against individual retailers for profiteering will not do.

They must insist that they will check on the Government's supply unless they are allowed livestock prices so high that blackmarketing must follow in the retail sections of the trade.

PROFIT GRABBING

As The Guardian pointed out nearly two years ago the basis of the meat blackmarket is uncontrolled livestock prices, and the profit grabbing tactics of big grazing interests in the saleyards.

The Federal weight and grade plan provides that meat be sold FOR THE FIRST TIME after it has been killed and dressed in the abattoirs. Livestock sales, and consequently, saleyards, are unnecessary under this plan.

It also eliminates fatstock auctioneers and the annual £1 million commission take-off they now exact from the meat industry.

Mr. Cain, while giving lip service to the weight and grade plan, did nothing whatever to help it succeed during the crucial weeks when graziers were boycotting abattoirs to kill the scheme.

At that time Mr. Cain actually helped the graziers by appealing to wholesale butchers to abandon their appraisal scheme and restore "free competition" in the saleyards. (UNDER THE APPRAISAL SCHEME wholesalers refused to pay more than the equivalent of the fixed prices for livestock they did what Mr. Cain had declared "impossible"—fixed a fair price for meat on the hoof.)

