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From Our Mail Box

Dear Comrades:

The postwar conditions here have not been conducive to the acceptance of socialist ideas by Australian workers, most of whom have been led down the garden path by the pseudo leaders.

The various political parties have completely befuddled the workers by the continuous somersaulting and policy switching that has taken place. The Labor Party is as effete as ever with its two-faced front—one, Catholic Action, the other, so-called progressive. Each Labor premier (in the States where Labour is in office) has a different policy and attunes his utterances according to whichever section (C.A. or anti-C.A.) dominates the party branches in his State. In the Federal sphere, the Labor leader, Dr. Evatt, long ago committed to an anti-C.A. policy (although with others he supported and accepted the support of the Catholic Action brain child—the Industrial Groupers) is seeking a compromise that will enhance his much blighted chances of becoming prime minister.

Each section of the party studiously cultivates the strong trade unions which play a big part in the control of the Labor party organization and the duck-shoving and backstabbing that goes on is symptomatic of the treachery which has hallmarked the Labor Party since its inception.

Its political opponents and the press wallow in the mire and exploit every opportunity to have a dig at both moribund sections.

The so-called Communist Party is, as it always was, a two-timing counterpart of its Russian progenitor. It has followed all the tortuous twists of its sire: With its hero-worship it has lauded Stalin; with his death it echoed the political diplomatic C.C.C. verdict—Stalin was a B.... butcher-ing B...., etc.; now, with Khrushchev, it diplomatically discovers he was not such a bad old B.... after all; and so, like a dog, it goes back to its political vomit and sordidly tries to stuff their filthy disgorgement down the throats of the workers.

Each time that Khrushchev touches his political toes, they try to go one better and fall flatface in the attempt. And K treats

them with contempt just as he does his capitalist counterparts in the Western World.

Like Uncle Sam and Johnnie Bull, he uses the threat of the alphabetical bombs to entrench himself. So Hungary is raped and Egypt outraged while the United Nations stand bewildered like a eunuch in the political brothel of international relations.

With the presidential elections over, America changes its voice. In Britain, Eden conveniently steps aside and Macmillan takes over to provide a new political face to woo the British people. In Australia, our Mr. Menzies who unsuccessfully tried to manipulate a "settlement" with Nasser, commiserates with Eden but hangs on to his own plums of office. The only sane estimate of the position came from the kindred Socialist Parties in the countries where they exist.

The Socialists have a difficult task to convince the workers that all the surface play is merely camouflage to distract attention from the fact that all these happenings are but the inevitable outcome of the profit system and the international conflicts it breeds between the sectional capitalist interests.

But our parties are doing a good job—although not spectacular. The present position here does not simplify our work. The fact is that somebody is carrying on Socialist propaganda. In Melbourne, things are comparatively quiet. In Sydney, two S.P.G.B. comrades are rejuvenating the Branch. Meetings are being held regularly on the Sydney Domain (public forum) and lectures are being given on Sunday evenings. Plenty of literature is being sold and chief of all—new faces, including young people, are taking an interest in the proceedings.

The message of Socialism still goes forth and when enough workers take it up, our task and yours, will be much easier.

Greetings to all and congrats. to the American comrades for the magnificent job they are doing with limited numbers.

Yours for Socialism

"Antipodes," S. P. Australia

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NO PLACE TO GO

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Man throughout all of history and pre-history has been a traveler. From earliest times he has moved up and down and across the face of the globe, using every means of transportation from shanksmare to high powered aircraft. The chief motivating force behind this constant movement from one habitat to another has been the struggle for existence—whether the fleeing from danger and tyranny or the quest for a better living or both. Particularly in the early days of capitalism have large masses of people—the dispossessed working people—been forced to migrate from the lands of their birth to different countries where the development of industry made possible employment and a higher degree of freedom than what they had previously enjoyed. And so there were great emigrations of workers from Eastern Europe to Western Europe and particularly England followed by a vast exodus of workers from all over the world to the United States.

One would imagine that the highly developed world of our times—the much vaunted world of capitalism—would have seen the end of such travel, that world travel today could be motivated only by the understandable desire of man to visit strange and different climes on leisurely jaunts. Alas, this privilege is still reserved only for the rich. Outside of the extensive travel indulged in by

those workers who must take care of the needs of the wealthy tourists; ply the world's seaways and highways in the distribution of commodities; or fight their masters' battles and otherwise guard their interests all over the globe; the main motivation of working-class travel today is still the need to flee from danger or tyranny or seek a better living, or both.

In his excellent Report from Vienna¹ our Austrian comrade R. F. tells of the recent deluge of Hungarian workers who poured into Austria, to be redistributed wherever possible to other parts of the world and of the "thousands of Austrians, in their turn" who are "looking for chances to leave their country... their Welfare State for oversea countries." How "thousands of Germans, and not only refugees from the eastern provinces, find conditions in their 'fatherland' hard and avail themselves of any chance to quit..." In the world's press, including the journal of our comrades of the Socialist Party of Great Britain², we are told of the multitude of British workingmen and women who are lined up at the immigration offices maintained by some of the British Dominions, particularly Canada, seeking a chance to escape from the rigors of their

¹ The Western Socialist—Jan.-Feb., 1957.

² The Socialist Standard—Feb. 1957