

# the battler

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

103 January 24, 1981 20 cents

27 JAN 1981



WILL THEY AXE  
THE UNDER 18  
DOLE? — p.3

PUBLIC SERVANT  
STABBED — p.12

Indexation's had it ...

# NOW FOR A WAGES PUSH!

## WAGE indexation is dead.

But bosses, politicians and our own union officials are all trying to revive the corpse.

We say: good riddance! We've been ripped off for five years by plateau indexation, delayed hearings, rigged consumer price measurements, and six-monthly adjustments. A third to a half of pay rises have been eaten up in tax.

All-in-all we've lost around thirty dollars a week in real wages. It's obvious why the government and the employers want to revive the fraud. But why are the unions helping out?

Rightwing union bureaucrats loved

**The paper  
that fights  
for workers'  
power**

indexation, because they could sit back and do nothing, and still some pittance came through for their members. "Left" officials moaned that they could do nothing without the help of the right.

By Tom  
O'Lincoln

The rightwing officials would like to continue their course of mastery inaction. The "left" will no doubt trot out the same excuses for any new scheme.

But the excuses have already been exploded. Indexation has been destroyed because workers took action.

Loy Yang power station workers in the Victorian Latrobe Valley won a big wage rise and were paid for the strike period. And previous victories, big and small, including the settlement at Hammersley Iron in 1979.

Now there is talk about a new economic boom. Of course it will not be as big or as long-lived as the bosses hope. And we will not get anything out of it without a fight. But while it is on, we will be in a stronger bargaining position.

If profits are rising, bosses cannot pretend they "can't afford to pay". And they won't want to risk long strikes while they're expanding production.

So now is no time for polite hearings in the Arbitration Commission, aimed at patching up some pathetic wage deal. Now is the time to take off the gloves on the wages front. The powerful strikes by individual workplaces like Loy Yang and Hammersley, which broke the back of indexation, are an inspiring example. Every shop which knows it can win gains should act now.

But individual actions are by no means enough. It is important that weaker sections of the working class

do not get left behind.

After all, one way indexation was foisted on us was by playing off the weaker workers against the stronger.

What is needed is a general wage offensive. We need a serious national wage campaign. And after years of inaction, it is high time we had a no-nonsense award campaign in the metal trades.

## crucial

And finally and perhaps most important, it is crucial that Cliff Dolan, Ian Spicer and Justice Moore do not have the final say.

Instead of polite little conferences between union officials and employers, we need rank and file conferences — mass meetings of shop stewards and job delegates to map out action for 1981.

Indexation is dead. Let's organise, now, to keep it in the ground.

Tales of  
Arbitration  
number 12700435



ALSO IN  
YOUR  
BATTLER

Struggle  
in el  
Salvador  
— p.4.



Hunger  
strike ...  
who won?  
— p.5.



Shearers'  
strike ...  
90 years on  
— p.6/7



# WHY THE LEFT FIGHTS OFF THE SOVIET BARNERS!

By Alison and Tim Anderson, Brisbane.

THERE'S A TV commercial running in Queensland at the moment for the State Government Insurance Office, that features Ray Barrett done up in a Yankee uniform repelling the 'damn southernners' with what looks like a pirate's cutlass.

Biggs-Petersen regularly mouths off about the paranoic southern states who live off the honest hardworking Queenslanders and regularly he spouts propaganda into practice.

So now the government of Free Enterprise, a major shareholder in a very much private company, Shock! Horror! Ha! Job Baiting has become a fan of nationalisation! Has government interference become the new Gospel for free enterprise Queensland?

And the mining companies will depend on the government to gain long term, low cost loans and to pass useful legislation to keep up their profits, and stamp on organized workers.

Queenslanders are used to hearing rubbish about how they are different from the rest of Australia. The media airwaves resound with slogans like 'you can count on a Queensland' and 'what do you love about Queensland' (it turns out to be the freedom).

A firm of damn southerners, CIVIC Industries, took a television ad, on the Queensland engineering works, Evans Drakins, following pressure from the Liberal party, the state government announced that, in order to

win 'Queensland jobs', it would buy shares in the company to prevent the takeover.

As one worker, Graham Kirkpatrick said, 'One slogan of 'Put Queensland First to have a leading local company has been taken over.'

## Brisbane Council out for 35

EIGHT THOUSAND Brisbane City Council workers have joined the fight for a 35 hour week.

Last year, a mass stop-work meeting voted for overtime ban and work to rule. In the Council Administration did not grant a 35 hour week by 1 January, 1981.

linked to productivity deals which have never stood up for workers and are now junk.

Where workers are fighting to protect their jobs or to improve their pay packets.

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## Anzac Day Arrests

Three women arrested for marching on Anzac Day last year had their appeals upheld by the Supreme Court.

Justice Connors upheld the appeals on 14 September.

## FRENCH C.P. IN RACIST GUTTER

FOR ABOUT 300 French immigrant workers from West Africa, Christmas Day was for nothing as the rains of their new home.

Although representing a fairly small group, the black workers of the mining municipality of Saint-Marcel and they cherished 'other measures' to stop them moving into Vary.

Party is acrossing the National Alliance and the right wing of the Liberal Party. In France, too, immigrants do the dirty low-paid jobs that native workers are no longer prepared to take on.

Under the new Australian Federal Police Act (1978) as in 1979, the penalty was \$1000 or imprisonment for one year or both.

# Indexation: a five year



## INDEXATION — the five year farce that was played out at the expense of the working class — is about to fold.

After granting us a piddling 3.7% increase in early January, the Arbitration Commission has decided to drop the six-monthly national wage cases.

Working because it isn't working anyway — for the bosses. More and more militant workers have been refusing to abide by the guidelines, and have won wage rises outside the indexation system.

The system worked for a long time. In the first two years, we got full cost-of-living increases, or more. But even then there was a hidden pit.

There was a lag between the time prices rose and the indexation rates came through. Only awards were reduced, and not overawards.

# FRASER THREATENS TO SLASH YOUTH DOLE

ONE of their more blatant acts of hypocrisy, Fraser government is threatening to cut out dole for those under 18.

It hasn't changed in nine years. It's not so much to maintain youth on men when living in secure accommodation such as with relatives. But it's below starvation level when you're a homeless kid or someone whose family has broken up.

The 'Commitment to Youth' also includes increasing hand-outs to employers to employ those under 25. Previous such 'Special Youth Employment Training Programs' have done almost nothing to increase the number of jobs for unemployed workers.

The State Electricity Commission asked for the 'hardship allowance' to be slashed, and both cuts rose, yet our rate for unemployment has risen because of Fraser's off pricing policy. They cancelled one per cent off our rate.

## Unemployed workers show their support for the 35 hour week struggle with a banner and placards at the council workers' mass meeting.

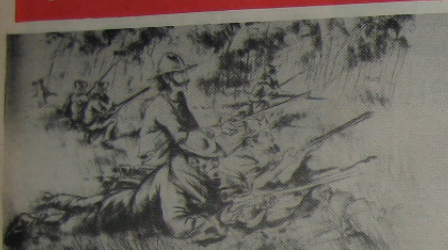
By Judy McKay

# Bernadette McAliskey — Revolutionary

Bernadette McAliskey, also shot in the cowardly assassination attempt, is still in a serious condition. She looked up the support of the struggle of Irish Republican Socialist Party in the mid-seventies and then government. She was fighting to build a workers' party that could unite Ireland on a socialist basis by smashing the sectarian Northern market and the nationalist right in the South.



# "THEY" WAS FAIRBURN'S "THEY"...



THE WORKER, the union newspaper reported on March 21, 1891, "The boys are picking up military evolutions rapidly, and march now like real soldiers."

**NINETY YEARS** ago, Australian shearers rose in a six month strike that almost took on the dimensions of an insurrection.

By Chris Rose

The Queensland Shearers' Strike of 1891 was the culmination of two years of intense class struggle throughout Australia.

But it was led by woolly thinkers to a crushing defeat which condemned workers for many years to the endless trials of extortion by and for the bosses.

The strikes of 1889-90 were headed around the fight for the closed shop. Early in 1890 the Australian Labour Federation in Queensland gave notice to the Pastoralists' Association that wool not shorn under union conditions would be declared black, and asked for a conference to reach an agreement leading on to the whole industry.

The bosses turned down a

meeting and when non-union shorn wool from Jondaryan stations (160,000 sheep) arrived at the waterfront, the wariest wouldn't touch it. The Pastoralists' Association was forced to accept a conference and agree to the union terms, which included a clause assuring that only union shearers would be employed.

The resulting Darling Downs agreement triumph for the shearers was to last only a year. The bosses had taken a beating and were out for revenge.

They were also out for a

radical, published in 1888 as an embodiment of his ideas.

Shearers dreamed of utopia in the scabland of sheep, Flora Shaw (later of the aristocracy) writing of their eating conditions said: "It was a hagger-magger of food on dirty boards, just one step removed from the well filled troughs of swath and potatoes round which I have seen pigs crowd at home... They are readers of George and Hyndman, Bellamy's 'Looking Backward' is to be found in every shed."

"Men hardly count upon getting more than four or five months employment in the year... the roughness of the existence in the intervals of work is probably unknown and unimagined by anyone who has not endured it... ninety percent of the wandering population is unmarried, and they may die hungry, thirsty, and homeless in the bush without hardly affecting any other human life."

"You learn in this country what doing like sheep may really mean, and more do entered upon any dutier regular."

The nationwide Maritime Strike of 1890 was precipitated by the bosses locking out ship officers who wanted to affiliate with the Trades Hall Council. At the same time notices had been posted on the wharves calling for "free labour" to load non-union-shorn wool.

Within a few days seamen, wharves and coal lumpers were out in all the eastern ports in support of the marine officers or against the loading of black wool.

As the strike grew up to the proportions of a straight out struggle between the whole trade union movement, more unions came out. Coal miners struck in support of the transport unions, and a month later more than 20,000 shearers were called out.

Then the Broken Hill mines were shut down, the difficulty in getting materials to and from the mines owing to the stoppage of the intercolonial trade, though the miners knew it was disastrous to them, they contributing to prevent the maritime and shearers unions in the west.

Because the bosses in silver and lead continued, the

bosses decided they wanted to re-open the mine after a fortnight. The workers refused unless their working hours were cut from 48 to 46 hours. The bosses caved in.

Scabs were brought into the collieries and miners' wives were arrested for attempting to tar and feather them.

For the first (but not the last) time the military was used against strikers and to protect scabs. In Melbourne and other strike centres unionists stormed shops worked by scabs; there were fights, and in many cases, the out-numbered "free labourers had to make a speedy exit."

## scab

However, both the maritime strike and the Shearers Strike the following year were defeated by a superabundance of scab labour. By 1891 less than twenty per cent of male workers were unionised.

The scarcity of strike relief for the 30,000 workers involved, was another major factor in the strike's collapse. Wage cuts

the "push" unions downed the scabs.

Non union labour was recruited in Melbourne, where unemployment outlived arms within the camps in May—they were described as "armed camps" by the sabre rattling press.

In March, Tommy Martin, speaking at Baldcaine, spoke against engaging in combat with the police, or army but to wait till July, when if the strike wasn't settled, all Australia would be involved in a revolution. Great cheers greeted his speech.

There developed, albeit distorted by nationalism and racism, a working class consciousness.

The government was increasingly seen as being in collaboration with the squatters. Apart from the military and police they provided special constables which were hired by the Pastoralists Association and sent to the strike areas, with the bosses' instructions to a police magistrate as to how to handle them.

At Baldcaine, the police magistrate offered free rations and protection for anyone prepared to work. Industry paraded the towns and mounted men of the countryside.

All trains were preceded

drivers urged that full scale military deployment.

Even if they weren't, and the Strike Committee outlawed arms within the camps in May—they were described as "armed camps" by the sabre rattling press.

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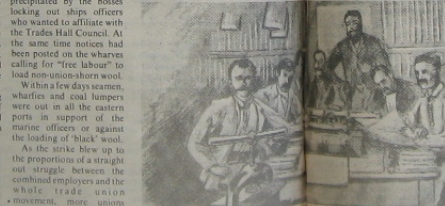
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BLACK LEGS with their military escort march on Clermont while the strikers pray, "May the Lord above send down a dove, with wings as sharp as razors — to cut the throats of bloody scabs — who cut down poor men's wages."



could not be a pilot officer to test the efficacy of the truck and all members of the Baldcaine strike committee, among them the president of the Queensland Shearers Union, were arrested.

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THIS 1888 cartoon depicts the Chinese invading Australia through an open window marked South Australia — the only colony that hadn't enforced Chinese restriction acts.



# Contractors' out

**THE WAVERLEY garbage workers' dispute is over. But that doesn't mean that the workers have returned to work — because their defeat meant that they lost their jobs.**

The strike began when Waverley council decided to hand over the job of garbage collection to Berkeley, a contract cleaning company. Contract garbage collection invariably means fewer jobs — so Waverley's garbage workers tried to defeat them.

They picked up their tools and for four months managed to stop all garbage collection. But in early January the pockets came down the strike ended, and negotiations on a redundancy pay began.

By David Lockwood  
Local working 444

Waverley council had an intention of putting up a proposal for the meeting which would have led to the strike. Berkeley's group wanted about the strike was broken down by the council with a group of 100. The Municipal Employees Union (MEU) called an immediate meeting at 10.30 am on December 10, which was a success for the workers. It was clear, though, that the MEU officials had an intention of putting up a proposal for the meeting which would have led to the strike.

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Even worse, there were no proposals at all from the MEU. The MEU officials had an intention of putting up a proposal for the meeting which would have led to the strike. Berkeley's group wanted about the strike was broken down by the council with a group of 100. The Municipal Employees Union (MEU) called an immediate meeting at 10.30 am on December 10, which was a success for the workers.

There was a lot of talk at the meeting about stopping Berkeley operations. But very little came out of it. The worker from Collingwood pointed out that the MEU officials had an intention of putting up a proposal for the meeting which would have led to the strike.

# Trammies stop work to stop the cuts

**IN ONE of the first industrial actions against the Victorian State government's public transport cuts, tram workers from the South Melbourne depot stopped work on January 12.**

Melbourne's Tramways Board had been trying to save money by making emergency crews work on more than one depot. Little more than 1000 tram workers from the South Melbourne depot stopped work on January 12.

But in the mad rush to save important things — like the Olympic Games, for example — the Board decided that the crews would cover other depots as well.

In South Melbourne, emergency crews were instructed to cover Epsomton, Traralgon Union action Secretary, Jim Harper told the *Battlers*.

"If we allowed them to get away with this, the Board could be using the same system elsewhere, anywhere."

When the Board started sending down workers to other depots, the workers refused to cover other depots, a stop-work meeting was called. The workers reaffirmed the policy that emergency crews would only cover their own depot.

Or perhaps even worse. The Union is aware that the Board has "discussed" Federal Government and New Work Act Director. By legislation, they are not to be thinking of doing anything to their workers in a brown confederation in Melbourne's public transport system.

At the same time John Lennon did some work on the back of his head. The Board did maintenance work on the back of his head. The Board did maintenance work on the back of his head.

Workers at Greenops Hospital in Brisbane have placed overtime bans on the kitchen to protest staff shortages.

The problem of staff shortages is general throughout the hospital. Hospital assistants have been required to do overtime every night just to make sure that patients get their meals.

They were merely "invited" to attend and it was "not paid". The union heaves also went around in the morning telling people not to go and they turned members who they knew but who didn't have their union cards away from a Festival.

A hundred or so members did attend, and they were in a militant mood. They voted to ask the executive to call a strike if Marcus was not reinstated in five days. After the five days were over an executive vote was taken and another note saying they had agreed to do anything decided.

There was simply not enough organisation of members to carry the executive this time.

by an ATPU member, Melbourne

# Write to the Battlers: P.O. Box 46 Flemington, Vic 3031

## Dear Battlers,

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has an i.s. centre for only \$1.00 or send an extra \$2.00 to the postal address above. Includes 12 original cartoons.

# USA LUXEMBURG



Available from your local I.S. branch for \$4.65 or send \$5.65 to cover postage to Jimbuck, P.O. Box 184, Newtown South 2042.

# TONY CLIFF

On the bosses don't care if we live or die. We live, the bosses stand still and we die.

# How to contact the International Socialists

- BATTLER EDITORIAL, P.O. Box 46, Flemington, Vic 3031 376 3307 (Newspaper and message machine)
- I.S. NATIONAL OFFICE, P.O. Box 46, Flemington, 3031 61 2056
- MELBOURNE, GPO Box 1473 Melbourne, 3001 61 2056
- STONEY, 11 Melbourne Rd, Newtown 2042 51 3665
- ADELAIDE, P.O. Box 41, Cowandilla, SA 5033 49 7939
- CANBERRA, P.O. Box 1165, Canberra City, ACT 2601
- BRISBANE, P.O. Box 329, Woolloongabba 381 5880
- IPSWICH, P.O. Box 186, Roval Rd 381 6113

My first reaction to the news that John Lennon had been shot was that it should have spent some of the 500 dollars that he had given to the New York Police Force. By a bullet meant to kill him.

John Lennon was a man who lived on the Hill. He was the rich and John Lennon was one of them. He did not own a car. He did not own a house. He did not own a car.

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# Dockers' thanks

Dear Battlers, I would like to thank the International Socialists for their contribution for the amount of \$45.00 to assist the members of this organisation who were recently on strike at the Naval Dockyard, Williamstown, for a period of seven weeks. I am happy to state that the money has now been received in the complete satisfaction of this Union and its members.

Without the financial support of organisations such as yours, a would not have been possible to gain victory over the oppressive action initiated by the Navy Department and I am assured that the support has been fully appreciated by the members of this Union.

Once again many thanks from the Executive and members.

J. Nichols, Secretary, Ship Painters & Dockers

# Spy saga

Dear Battlers, The outrage of again release of the US hostages in Iran must be hot burning issue to dominate the media in years. All that fuss over a few CIA agents and their assets. The International Socialists were being shipped up to feel for the hostages.

An appeal appears to be the only hope of changing this awful moral case of justice but the legal case is absolutely astronomical and frightening. It was disgusting to see five elderly men—the judge, two barristers and two solicitors laughing and

Patrick Alan Melbourne

# International Socialists

Will Minto ever be the same again? The fully-grown International Socialist Party is now a reality. It is now a reality. It is now a reality.

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# Workers' Control

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# AUSTRALIA POST SACKS SHOP STEWARD

A couple of weeks after promising a permanent job to ATPU steward Marcus Banks, the bosses sacked him on the grounds of "lateness" and being absent for five minutes while he checked his car.

to break down roster and penalty shift arrangements now previously.

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John Boyd digs up the truth about the ACTU's uranium stand and finds that ...

# BODY SNATCHING BREAKS THE BANS!

**BODY SNATCHING**, back offs and sell outs by trade union officials have allowed uranium mining companies to begin exporting yellowcake from new mines in the Northern Territory.

Queensland Mines has processed and airlifted tonnes of yellowcake to Darwin where Transport Workers Union (TWU) members lead it on a barge for Singapore. The ore will then go to Canada for treatment and finally to Japan for use in nuclear reactors.

A Sydney based hardware retailer from the ACTU has been granted approval by the Federal Government to import and operate a new Short (ARU) bus on Mary Kathleen yellowcake. It is to be used to transport ore to three tonnes of yellowcake a trip.

The drums are packed into containers and loaded on to the barge by TWU members. The first container of ore is shipped on board a new barge operated by P.B. & Co. and Company.

Four years ago Victoria was the first state to declare a challenge by the Waterside Workers Federation that was allowed them to sue TWU members on the waterfront.

The whole set-up is a deal between Perkins and the TWU leadership and revolves around the practice of 'body snatching' the cause of many lost employment rights.

In return for passing access to coverage of new areas - and membership expanding membership the TWU has abandoned its own declared policy to lead the policy of the ACTU and agreed to

handle yellowcake from new mines. A decision of the Federal Government to support and operate a new Short (ARU) bus on Mary Kathleen yellowcake was altered by the State Government. Committee to conference early this year to allow their policy to be applied. But TWU officials have prevented any decision by reaching agreement with Perkins.

**wharries**  
It is a situation that has led to Darwin wharries secretly covering their decision not to fund demonstrators to sue TWU members on the waterfront.

But the Waterside Workers Federation deal is from Henderson and is refusing to do anything that might 'rock the boat' so they are negotiating to win control of members of other unions and expand their own membership. The barge being used by Perkins was built by Singapore and is worked by Seaman Union and Merchant Services Guild members. The ACTU building committee had previously called for a ban on Singapore bus barge as part of a

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**POLES STRIKE ON — p 5**

**P.S. JOBS THREAT p 11**

**SOVIET TROTSKY WYL KAWKOL**

No. 104 February 14, 1981 20 cents  
Pine Gap ... Omega ... B52's ... Cockburn Sound ... North-west Cape ...

# LET'S KICK THEIR



**THE AMERICAN spy base at Pine Gap in Central Australia is to be upgraded, with the agreement of the Fraser government.**

by Roddy Connolly

It will include more sophisticated electronics and communications, and more US "experts".

The changes will boost the US ability to launch nuclear strikes on Russia. It is part of the new American strategy giving priority to attacks on Russian missile sites in a first strike.

New computer facilities will improve Russian targets on sea and land. The base also gives logistical aid and fighting orders to nuclear armed submarines.

Pine Gap will be a prime target in nuclear war.

For the real work of the spy base, the Wall Street Journal reported last year that Pine Gap will be the world's biggest high speed CIA base.

For the Fraser government, it's part of a plan to boost the US military presence in Australia. The agreement is still negotiating to the American B-52 bombers out of Darwin, and nuclear submarines out of Cockburn Sound in Western Australia.

Negotiations over the B-52s have been held up by American insistence that there be no Australian control of all over, or even knowledge of B-52 flights.

The Omega base (see story page 3) in England is the only one whose construction was delayed by a union formation dispute, as another key base in the US nuclear arsenal is being built up in Australia.

The US build-up in Australia is part of a world wide expansion of American military muscle. Over the last two years, the US has been trying to return to its pre-Vietnam policy as a world policeman for the world.

It is likely to accelerate this build-up, which was begun by Jimmy Carter. He places even greater emphasis on meeting the "Russian threat", and on military intervention to give Ken Brown adequate compensation.

# WAR BASES OUT!

**NOW, WE CAN'T TELL YOU WHAT WE'RE DOING ON OUR BASE EXACTLY... BUT JUST LET ME SAY THIS:**

**IF WE DO START ANOTHER WAR SOMEWHERE... YOU WILL BE THE FIRST TO KNOW...**

**(ONE WAY OR ANOTHER...)**

**The paper that fights for workers' power**

**DEMONSTRATORS welcome Cliff Dolan to the rostrum at last October's uranium mobilisation in Melbourne. Pity guest appearances and messages of concern won't stop uranium mining.**

nationalist move to protect Australian jobs. Both unions rejected the offer on the grounds that it would not be effective and also agreed to carry the message. Unprincipled body-snatching has been the cause of many lost employment rights. The barge being used by Perkins was built by Singapore and is worked by Seaman Union and Merchant Services Guild members. The ACTU building committee had previously called for a ban on Singapore bus barge as part of a

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## action

If Dolan was to be discredited, he would be required to cut all supplies to Northern Territory mines and refuse for action from all unions. That's the best public campaign he could launch. If Halfpenny was wrong he would have seen it that no real work contracted any equipment for Northern Territory mines - not just the hardware comments about uranium exports to France.

## postponed

The ARU is all proposing has, but a lot of implementation to be done. Queensland ARU members have to be aware of Mary Kathleen yellowcake which would give enormous influence to a revival of trade union opposition.

But it's almost certain that the decision will be reversed if support from other unions is not forthcoming.

The anti-uranium movement has to respond to new computer facilities will improve Russian targets on sea and land. The base also gives logistical aid and fighting orders to nuclear armed submarines.

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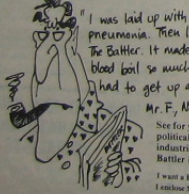
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## BATTLER TESTIMONIAL



**It was laid up with pneumonia. Then I read the Battler. It made my blood boil so much I just had to get up again.**  
Mr. F. Hergen, Vic

See for yourself the biting political commentary and industrial news that the Battler is famous for:

I want a Battler Subscription. I enclose \$7 for 12 issues, made payable to the Battler.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City and post to PO Box 81, Perth, Western Australia.

## Public Servants demand protection

**KEN BROWN is lucky to be alive. He's not so lucky that he works for the Federal government.**

In 1978 he was stabbed while working on the enquiry counter in the Sydney Tax office.

Ken applied for compensation and backed by his union, the ACTU, he took his case to the NSW Supreme court. Ken sued for negligence on three counts: 1) Failure of the employer to provide safe conditions of work. 2) Failure to warn employees regarding foreseeable dangers associated with tax payer enquiries. 3) Failure to institute a system of work whereby employees could be protected from agitated members of the public and

still carry out their duties effectively. The judge, C.J. Coram, in his wisdom decided that the government could not have foreseen the event, as could any reasonable person, and thus has no responsibility. The judge stopped just short of saying it was Ken's fault.

**bored**  
Mr. Coram was obviously bored by the whole thing, even going as far as to say in his summing up "As I see this piece of litigation it has been an unfortunate case, it has achieved nothing."

ACTU members in the tax office would disagree. There is a public contact unit of the management, so-called, that is meant to give Ken Brown adequate compensation.

# ISSUE IMPERIALISM

## NOURISH YOUR TIMES

DESPITE the squeals of outrage echoing through the hallowed halls of Britain's tweedier clubs, Margaret Thatcher is delighted that *The Times* newspapers may be sold to Rupert Murdoch.

What could be more pleasing to her and her Tory government than to have Britain's most respected newspaper taken over by the man whose rabid right-wing politics have left him a long list of satisfied customers among long-term conservative politicians in Britain, Australia and America?

As it is, it is a bit rubbish, but to have the government... After November 11, 1975, Sydney came out on strike against the Murdoch paper. They were joined by parliamentarian... See then, Rupert has gone on to hug and better... *The Times* here... *The Times* here... *The Times* here... *The Times* here...

Just in case this produces any... *The Times* newspapers... *The Times* newspapers... *The Times* newspapers... *The Times* newspapers...

So no wonder Thatcher is... *The Times* newspapers... *The Times* newspapers... *The Times* newspapers... *The Times* newspapers...

Apparently, this was... *The Times* newspapers... *The Times* newspapers... *The Times* newspapers... *The Times* newspapers...

Apparently, this was... *The Times* newspapers... *The Times* newspapers... *The Times* newspapers... *The Times* newspapers...

But getting chimney with... *The Times* newspapers... *The Times* newspapers... *The Times* newspapers... *The Times* newspapers...

Not enough? Well how... *The Times* newspapers... *The Times* newspapers... *The Times* newspapers... *The Times* newspapers...

For the moment, negotia... *The Times* newspapers... *The Times* newspapers... *The Times* newspapers... *The Times* newspapers...

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Workers' Power... *The Times* newspapers... *The Times* newspapers... *The Times* newspapers... *The Times* newspapers...

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## Wran's got us in a powerful mess

EVILWREAN and his ALP government have got their backs badly burned in their latest excursion into big business — an aluminium smelter in the Hunter Valley.

Last year Wran won an electricity price cutting war with the Victorian Government and made a deal with BHP and an overseas company, almost the entire output of these stations will go for the smelters.

There are signs that BHP Alunox are using the latest contract changes as bargaining points to extract from Wran undertakings to curb unionists and environmentalists in the area.

Wran justifies the huge subsidies and environmental damage by saying that the projects will provide jobs.

This is the same Wran government that is viciously cutting thousands of jobs in hospitals, schools, public transport — in fact in all the areas it controls.

The Alunox deal makes it clearer than ever — Wran's the boss man.

by David Main

## IT'S CURTAINS FOR YOUTH JOB CENTRES

LAST BATTLE, I reported on the cynical propaganda campaign... *It's curtains for youth job centres*... *It's curtains for youth job centres*... *It's curtains for youth job centres*...

I know... I'll get a competitive edge... I'll get some training!

YOUTH JOB CENTRES

### ISSUES

In fact, neither this, nor the fact that most of Murdoch's newspapers are in public, personal tragedy and... Murdoch has no... Murdoch has no... Murdoch has no... Murdoch has no...

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## International Socialist

Journal of the International Socialist  
ISSUE NUMBER 11 (Autumn 1981) OUT SOON!

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Andrew Milner on Trotsky, Mandel and Hallas  
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Carole Ferrer on Lotta Continua and the Italian Left  
Tim Anderson on Bob Hawke  
Tredley Bowden on Einar's Alternative in Eastern Europe  
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## Unite for the Right to Work

THE BRISBANE UNEMPLOYED WORKERS' UNION has launched a Right to Work Campaign to fight for jobs.

Unemployment can only be fought by the employed and unemployed fighting together against job losses.

That's why we support the 35 hour week and workers' struggle against industrial action which cost our jobs.

It's our right to work!

Our first activity was against the 35 hour week... *Unite for the Right to Work*... *Unite for the Right to Work*... *Unite for the Right to Work*...

### Rank and File Organisation

Workers need to... *Rank and File Organisation*... *Rank and File Organisation*... *Rank and File Organisation*...

### Revolutionary Party

To smash the... *Revolutionary Party*... *Revolutionary Party*... *Revolutionary Party*...

### Full Equality and Liberation

For women... *Full Equality and Liberation*... *Full Equality and Liberation*... *Full Equality and Liberation*...

### Revolution

Workers... *Revolution*... *Revolution*... *Revolution*...



# It's a long watch.

FOR SEVERAL years, workers in the coastal surveillance centre which organises sea search and rescue and coast watching, have worked a 40 hour week for the same pay as other public servants working 36 1/2 hours.

A series of requests to the Public Service Board for hours equal to that of other workers have been flatly rejected.

The Board recently had the gall to say that it opposed the request because of the government's general opposition to the idea of shorter working hours, even though workers are doing the equivalent of three weeks extra work each year for no extra pay.

Because coastal surveillance workers are shift workers, their lives have already disrupted and if anything their hours should be less than that of day workers.

Indistinct workers, members of the ACOA (Civil Officers Association), have at last decided to take real action and have taken over management of their own hours of duty.

From 5 February, they will be working 36 1/2 hours each week and to show that they mean business they've placed overtime bans and bans on less important functions to reduce workloads.

To ensure their wages aren't docked for working shorter hours, the surveillance workers are relying on help from fellow unions in their pay office.

## SO SAFE ...

... you forget what day it is? ... So says the insect in my packet of Carriere Super tissues. But two women at present in hospital in Melbourne and Lancaster will never forget the day.

They are Australia's first victims of toxic shock syndrome. They were first infected in USA. For more than 40 of them died. The symptoms include fever, dizziness, vomiting and a rash. In severe cases the lesions outlast.

Later shock syndrome has been linked to use of tampons, particularly the brand which is not sold in Australia. But it is not actually caused by the tampon because it has happened to women who do not use them, who use them and who do not use tampons. Researchers claim 1991, they made \$2.2 million profit on 366

## NO FUNDING FOR RESEARCH ON MENSTRUATION, MORNING SICKNESS OR MENOPAUSE



"BUT WE CAN GET A HUGE 10% FUND FOR RESEARCH ON THE SEX LIFE OF THE HUMMING BIRD!"

# TEACHERS' EMPLOYMENT OVERGROUNDED CLASSES COMMUNITY ACTION

## UNEMPLOYED TEACHERS PROTEST CLASS SIZES

THE FORGOTTEN section of Victoria's education system — the unemployed teachers — met in Melbourne on 1 February.

The meeting, called by the three teacher unions — the VTL, the VSTA and the TTV — was to protest against the fact that large numbers of unemployed teachers exist, while class sizes in Victorian schools are still too large.

De la morning of the meeting, the education minister had stated that another clause would be added to a "National" to progressive

## Bloody Sunday remembered

IRA SUPPORTERS commemorating Bloody Sunday defied Birkel-Petersen's police by taking to the streets.

The demonstrators led the football pitch police and protesters on a march to the city. The demonstrators led the football pitch police and protesters on a march to the city. The demonstrators led the football pitch police and protesters on a march to the city.

## Speculation grows daily about the British Labour Party. The reason: rising influence of former peer Tony Benn and the Left.

Last year's Labour Party conference adopted the most radical program in memory. And it decided to change the way the leader is elected.

And just three weeks later the Left's proposal to regularize procedures was adopted by the unions.

Despite the enthusiasm of some sections of the left, Labour has not adopted a socialist program. The economic message of the left remains not a single word.

They propose extensive, immediate nationalisation.

## The Left Gains and the Right Takes Flight

By Phil Griffiths  
... withdrawal from the EEC, nuclear disarmament, import controls and strikes.

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## BRITISH WORKERS' STRIKE SPLIT?

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## Nothing can stop these Polish strikes

ONE STRIKE follows another with dizzy speed in today's Poland. No sooner was the Solidarity trade union officially recognized, than began fighting for the right not to work Saturdays — as promised by the government last year.

The unions proved they could bring Polish industry to a halt every Saturday, and the government was forced to the conference table.

A deal was struck. Solidarity would work one Saturday in four — but an eight-hour day rather than six. But the deal didn't end industrial unrest. Since then there have been two huge regional blow-ups.

Beleza Biala province's nine-day general strike forced the provincial government and three of his deputies to resign.

The authorities in Warsaw refused to accept the negotiations. It was a mistake. For the wave of protest became so intense that it became impossible to end it without even greater government concessions.

When the dispute was finally ended on February 5, not only had Warsaw agreed to consider sacking a number of officials, but the workers would have pay for the time spent on strike.

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# F REAGAN'S ALL ABOUT WHAT'S LEFT?

**AMERICAN NAZIS** called it a "victory for white people". The brutal juntas in El Salvador and Guatemala hope for more U.S. support. Big business, religious bigots and anti-feminists are all enraptured.

Ronald Reagan's landslide election victory was a watershed in American history. How could it happen, and what does it mean?

Reagan Nearly half simply (defeat) vote. And the voter turnout fell off more heavily among workers and blacks causing a stronger right wing trend in the voting than exists in the population as a whole. Still the shift to the right is real. Reagan was elected by a new coalition.

It consisted of sections of big business, white suburbanites frustrated by declining American power and rising taxes, and the so-called Moral Majority, who want to inflict their "bigoted christian principles" on the whole population.

There will be strains in this coalition. The big companies will get the lion's share of any tax cuts and incentives, and the economic consequences will be inflationary. The middle class will not benefit as much as it thinks. Big capitalists are not enthusiastic about the Moral Majority's attempts to turn back the clock. Nor do they like the political pretensions of these right wing bigots.

The bigots are claiming credit for the Reagan victory, and for the defeat of liberal Senators like George McGovern. A closer examination suggests that they are wrong. McGovern and the others ran well ahead of Carter. With a better presidential candidate, they would probably have survived.

To foreign policy there will be an ongoing struggle between supporters of Henry Kissinger, and the cold warriors of the "Committee on Present Danger". The Committee is led by Richard Allen, who has a history of corruption and ties to Portuguese interests in southern Africa. But precisely because the

guards in industry will come under attack, threatening a grim future for smogbound cities. The attacks on pollution safeguards go hand in hand with a threat to health and safety conditions on the job. And these in turn are only part of a general employers' offensive.

The bosses will cut to force wages down, worsen organizing. They will fight to keep the new industries in the south non-union. And union-busting which is a highly sophisticated industry of its own in America, will become more vicious than ever.

**WHAT CAN be done?** Liberal and radical circles are gripped with alarm, not to say fear. At the same time, however, there are indications of a left revival. Engels commented that the left sometimes needs the "lash of counter-revolution" to galvanize it into action. In that sense, the Reagan victory could be something of a blessing in disguise.

Women were worried, and angry as hell, at the attacks on abortion that had already begun under Carter. The withdrawal of Federal funding for abortion was a major blow to the rights of working class women. Now the Republicans are talking about banning abortion altogether.

A Reproductive Rights National Network has been formed, and is gaining support. When its San Francisco affiliate put ads in city buses, they got calls from 500 women asking how they could fight back. The calls have continued at the rate of 20 per day.

Blacks, too, are full of fight. In November, 1300 delegates from 27 States met in Philadelphia to form a "National Black Independent Political Party". The new party declared itself opposed to racism, sexism, capitalism and imperialism. Most of the

which created mass reform movements in union like auto workers and miners who obeyed. Only the banner for a Democratic union remains a force. But the experiences have not been wasted. There are countless local rank and file groups, often led by militants with ten or fifteen years' experience.

And they understand the importance of building solidarity across union and industry lines. In San Francisco there is a broad Rank and File Coalition, uniting such diverse groups as Teamsters (truck drivers), teachers, carpenters and clerks. While the Coalition there is an axis between related industries.

**support** There was a rank and file group among hotel workers, and they came to the Rank and File Coalition to get a spirited occupational support. So first the Coalition organized a couple

picture and redoubled the second demonstration. Things really began to move. A participant described it this way: "There must have been five thousand people and we marched around past all the picket lines, the streets absolutely teeming. Rank and file groups from all over the city, and community and labour people. The streets were so packed the buses couldn't get by to let off hotel guests."

At this management took fright. But they had a few cards left to play. Negotiations were shifted to Los Angeles. The hotel workers' rank and file group couldn't get down there to keep the pressure on, and in the end the strike was sold out.

Even so, the difference that rank and file organization can make was demonstrated for all to see. And even in the current depressed state of the union

Interms and residents finally decided they'd had enough. In the face of vicious intimidation from an administration for the year, they struck.

In addition to calling for 200 more staff, they were fighting for such reasonable demands as working ECG machines on each floor. So it's no wonder the local community rallied around them. The San Francisco Labor Council endorsed the strike. Other hospital workers who were legally unable to strike wore blue armbands, and City bus drivers handed out leaflets. Local health centres, the Coalition for the Legal Rights of Women, and the Cree Panthers (militant pensioners) joined a big support rally.

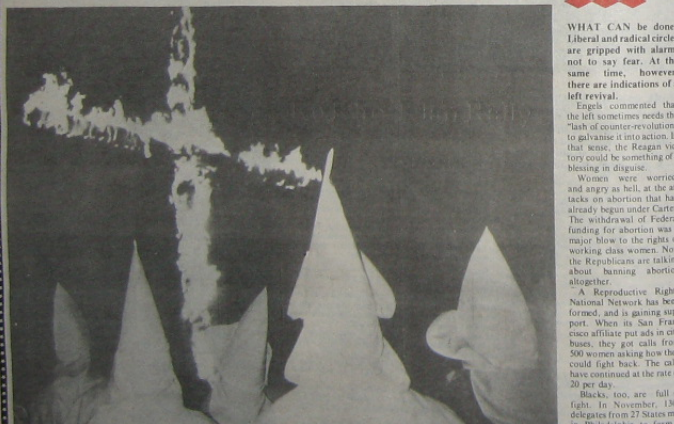
When seven days they had won several demands, including 700 more staff. And contrary to administration warnings that the strike would "destroy public confidence in the hospital," all indications that patients have far more confidence in their doctors than ever before.

HUNDREDS of members of the Hotel and Restaurant Employees Union at a San Francisco rally in support of their fight to catch up with inflation and improve conditions.



SOME of the delegates at the formation of the National Black Independent Party last November.

land reactionaries, racists and bigots rub their hands. Every day somewhere in the United States, workers and oppressed people begin some new struggle. And in some new struggle, that the American masses who marched in their millions against Johnson, and who were so towering in their wrath against Nixon, may yet prove more than a match for Reagan and his ilk.



ACCORDING to their Imperial Grand Wizard, the strategy of Ku Klux Klan recruitment is to convince whites that blacks are on the verge of launching a national race war similar to the Florida uprisings, which neither the police nor the National Guard will be able to handle. At this point, the Klan will step in to save America. And they have a guerrilla training camp to prove it.

**TOM LINCOLN, just back from America, look the effects of Reagan's presidency and the tendency of the New Right. Will these changes wreck or revive the American Left?**

One key factor was the lack of picket lines, and of militant noise in front of the hotels. "Management finally got an injunction and a number of people were arrested, including teachers... and there were middle aged women hotel workers yelling at the police and trying to protect the people the police were arresting. They were wonderful to see."

After the injunction the "Civilization called" a demonstration. They didn't expect many people, but they were surprised to find hundreds who marched in a tremendous show of solidarity. They called for another demonstration the following week. The Transportation Workers' Union also ties in Chicago and Santa Cruz. Santa

movement, there are any number of cases where militants has paid off. Like hospitals. Across the country there are moves to cut back health services and close public hospitals. The experience so far.

Where health workers aren't organized, like Cook County Hospital in Chicago, or the day shop. Where there is a fighting union with community support, the case has all the attacks. Lincoln Hospital in New York is one case where fighting back proved successful. Another this year, was San Francisco General's.

General services New some of the left officials finally came into the



# LIGHTNING STRIKES SEGBE

**WORKERS at the South East Queensland Electricity Board have begun a campaign of lightning strikes. Employees in the underground mains department decided on this action to counter attacks on their jobs.**

SEQR has advertised for tenders from contractors to carry out work normally done by this department. Because they don't have to keep safe a pocket. Meanwhile, management is trying to cut back and eventually do away with underground mains.

Over the last three years this department has been whittled down from 110 to 90 by replacing those who leave.

SEGBE says it wants the contractors to clear a backlog, but the workers say this is rubbish.

At a recent mass meeting, those were called for the strike. They were told to be ready to go on strike on 11th January.

Another worker told the meeting with a shocked expression. "They're waiting to see what strength we've got. Now's the time to show them what bloody well strength we've got."

by Mark Gillespie, ETU

strength



A SCENE from last year's SEGBE occupation. Now it's lightning strikes.

## GAINS IN CSR FIGHT

**THEIR FIRST strike in 49 years!** And it brought results for workers at Brisbane's CSR sugar refinery.

After one 11-week strike we realised the importance of solidarity.

There was an increase in annual leave loading, an extra day betwixt leave, increased long service leave, and a payout of accrued sick leave on termination of employment (to be phased in over three years).

The CSR workers struck for two weeks in December, but they returned to work without gains. Many were concerned about the amount of money they would be taking home.

In January they started a campaign of lightning strikes. No date payments were received and some employees not stood down with pay.

Union officials recommended maintaining the ban. They aimed to force widespread non-strikes from the amount of money they would be taking home.

By the end of the month, workers here now, and they'll be hearing from us again.

by Shirley Moran and John Boyd

**ON TUESDAY**, 1981, January, storemen packers, NSW half-day stoppage Government Office delays in workers compensation payments.

An SPU spokesman said that the stores had been on strike for 10 days previously, and that the stores had been on strike for 10 days previously, and that the stores had been on strike for 10 days previously.

Stores had been on strike for 10 days previously, and that the stores had been on strike for 10 days previously, and that the stores had been on strike for 10 days previously.

by Greg Van Dan, SPU Shop Union

# Write to The Battler: P.O. Box 46 Flemington, Vic 3031

## Reduce the Commonwealth Employees (CEPR) Act was pushed through parliament.

**CEPR Act gives the government wide public services.**

Administrative and Clerical Officers Association, which covers Federal Government employees, in 1979 CEPR Act was passed.

Unfortunally our union officials used the anger and militancy of public service workers to get the CEPR Act passed.

**SEAFOORD-ARMY CARRIES THE CAN**

The President, Secretary and four other officers of a union branch are blatantly untrue to their members.

SEAFOORD-ARMY CARRIES THE CAN

**TWOOMBA SPARKS FLY**

QUEENSLAND firefighters have forced the re-instatement of a Twooomba fireman sacked over a sick-off.

**ACTU executive on rampage**

ACTU executive on rampage

**International Socialists**

International Socialists

**How to contact the International Socialists**

How to contact the International Socialists

**Those Studios Comrades!**

Those Studios Comrades!

**THE NEW YEAR has got off to a good start in Sydney**

THE NEW YEAR has got off to a good start in Sydney

**Sydney Dates**

Sydney Dates

**SUNDAY, 8 MARCH**

SUNDAY, 8 MARCH

**BRUCE ROBERTSON**

BRUCE ROBERTSON

that sent the government to use the CEPR Act. The government announced that the CEPR Act would be used to bring back the CEPR Act.

The government and the CEPR Act. The government and the CEPR Act.

fighting victimisation. Just ask Helen Garner or Helen Rawicki, but they're afraid of a fight of sorts on their behalf. This time a far from about but been without a shot fired, and without any concession towards the membership.

**MORGUE MECHANICS KICK UP A STINK**

MORGUE MECHANICS KICK UP A STINK

**British seamen get it rough**

British seamen get it rough

**TALKING TO BRITISH SEAMEN IN SYDNEY, you get a glimpse of what it's like in Thatcherland.**

TALKING TO BRITISH SEAMEN IN SYDNEY, you get a glimpse of what it's like in Thatcherland.

**REFRIGERATION MECHANICS IN THE QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT SERVICE**

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reactions of ACQA members. One of the national meetings on Friday 13 FEBRUARY is looking for positions about the pressure put on the arbitration commission. Another is strike action people have lost jobs.

**UNDERCUT**

UNDERCUT

**ULSTER QUEEN BELFAST**

ULSTER QUEEN BELFAST

**NATIONAL UNION of Seamen members load a food parcel last week for crew members sitting-in on board the Ulster Queen in Liverpool.**

NATIONAL UNION of Seamen members load a food parcel last week for crew members sitting-in on board the Ulster Queen in Liverpool.

**BRITISH SEAMEN GET IT ROUGH**

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## Healthworkers in the Wars

**FIFTEEN kitchen orderlies at Greenslopes Hospital in Brisbane have struck for four days over a sick-off.**

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**LIFE WASN'T TO SUFF**

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**NO FEDERAL MANDATE FOR DRUGS HEALTH CUTS**

NO FEDERAL MANDATE FOR DRUGS HEALTH CUTS

**CUTBACKS and staff callings causing industrial unrest in hospitals across Australia.**

CUTBACKS and staff callings causing industrial unrest in hospitals across Australia.

**HOSPITAL WORKERS in Victoria are increasingly prepared to take industrial action.**

HOSPITAL WORKERS in Victoria are increasingly prepared to take industrial action.

**At Western General, almost the entire non-medical staff walked off the job, including nursing aides, orderlies and catering staff.**

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**Let's year there was a successful strike at Alfred Hospital. Workers at the Fairfield Hospital succeeded in preventing retrenchments when they went to take industrial action.**

Let's year there was a successful strike at Alfred Hospital. Workers at the Fairfield Hospital succeeded in preventing retrenchments when they went to take industrial action.

**by Janet Stone, HEF**

by Janet Stone, HEF

**I WANT TO JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS!**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Phone no. \_\_\_\_\_

Track Union \_\_\_\_\_

Clip and post to: I.S. National Secretary, P.O. Box 46, Flemington Vic 3031.

# TEACHERS GO

**UNDERHAND?** Wran and Landa beat Chappel hands down.  
NSW Teachers have taken strike action twice in the first two weeks of term, with probably more to come.

More than half of the membership of the NSW Teachers' Federation attended mass meetings determined to win salary justice and staffing improvements.


Although these were the largest since meeting over half a Sydney as Harvey Law, English Major at Kullarbin Heights High pointed out the excessive "seniorisation" and undermanned teaching staffs in calling for a 44 hour week. Harvey Law caused to decide further action.

## Indefinite

Harvey moved for an indefinite stoppage until significant gains were made. However, there are many angry, disgruntled teachers. Much anger has been caused by the Murray district by Justice Day's changes in our work week which he described as a "superior and add-on".  
Yet the judgement he handed down on December 19 of 2.5% raises our salary in the worst possible manner.

HARVEY ROSE

THE QUESTION OF THE HOUR IS: WILL THIS MAN LAUNCH US ALL INTO WORLD WAR 3? IF HE DOES YOU'LL REALLY NEED A SUBSCRIPTION TO 'THE BATTLER' !!



I want a Battler Subscription. I'm sure \$7.00 for 28 issues, made payable to The Battler.

See for yourself the biting political commentaries and industrial news that The Battler is famous for.

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# the battler

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

## BACK FIGHTING



A section of one of the largest teachers meetings ever held in Sydney.

From officials bogged through on 1949, threatening work action over time the Public Service Board on the Education Commission delayed our pay case but backing down at the last moment to allow "meaningful negotiations".

Teachers were blackmailed into dropping action on calling in 1980 to avoid the salaries case to proceed a trial.

Closure of five major city schools, forced transfers, lack of adequate trained staff forcing teachers to teach outside their subject area and the low priority given to public education by the Wran Labor government.

Yet the money is available to overcome these problems if it is directed away from private schools back to the public sector.

By the maximum Federal government assistance as well as State government by money from St. Joseph's College, Mount Saint Angelo College and Brigidine College. St. Ben. Hardy impoverished or disadvantaged 325,000 was provided for the establishment of the parent controlled Christian school to be built at Manar.

win

In 1981 it is the rank and file teachers who are showing their determination to win wage increases and a high priority for public sector education funding.

"The executive failed to grasp the opportunity to lead teachers into an indefinite strike," said Harvey Rose, "and to our pay pickets and our working conditions that will suffer."

## Move for 35 hr week against ALP council

BRISBANE council workers are now leading the fight for a shorter working week in Queensland.

At a mass meeting at Lang Park on 28 January, BCC workers still working 40 hours set in motion the first stage of an industrial campaign to support their demand. 5½ thousand workers are involved.

The meeting overwhelmingly decided to ban overtime and to consider the Council's response, that was no specific mention of the 35 hour working week in any of the meetings held.

FEIDA, despite lack of a rank and file committee to replace the week shorter working week with "35 hour week".

His amendment was tabled out of order by the officials at the meeting. Jack told the Battler, "We could be a 35 hour week or thirty hour."

He also said Labor controlled council should give a better offer. If they do they can't even support the 35 hour week."

The Premier government is threatening to take over more of the areas administered by the Brisbane council, especially recreation.

In the face of the council's refusal to back up the workers' appeal to the workers' about council.

But Jack Carter has an answer to that. He moved a motion for the industrial action of the government, assuming any sectional action of the council would be passed unanimously.

So the Labor council has the full support of workers.

They should support and give their money when their mouths are open.

They are the bastards who are in the hour week. Less and they are!

by an APTU member

VICTORIAN unionists must have thought they'd put an end to attacks on workers' compensation with last year's victory over Dick Hamer.

But now Australia Post has taken up the cudgel on behalf of the employers. They are using a loophole in the Compensation Act to try and turn the whole compensation system into a shambles.

Here's what they're up to. After fiasco after a Melbourne police in 1978 for mental problems, to avoid paying compensation, Australia Post last year accepted responsibility for his long term heart condition.

But they also claimed he was capable of doing a clerical job, and should therefore only get a partial compensation. This is pretty dubious in itself. But the real taster is that Australia Post has never actually offered any such job.

So the police in question has ended up with "partial comp" - a miserable \$5 a week, the difference between his former salary and the clerical assistant's job that he never received.

The union executive has replied with the only language that Australia Post understands - an overtime ban which is already leading to a bank-up of mail.

Unfortunately the union executive has been slack in giving the detailed facts to the membership.  
And as our top steward commented, "I feel like a bloody fool leading people to put on an overtime ban when I can't give them answers to their questions."

They have called for further mass meetings to consider the Council's response, that was no specific mention of the 35 hour working week in any of the meetings held.

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by an APTU member

Stop Press: The Victorian Branch was directed by the Federal Executive on February 9 to fit the bans. So top level talks could take place.

# P.S. PICKETERS ARRESTED!



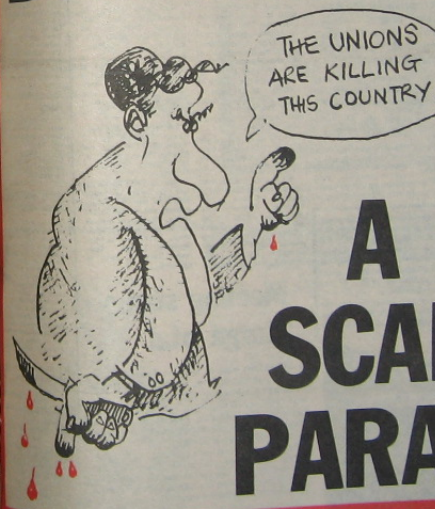
"Public Service pickets have in the past been pretty quiet — only a few of us have been prepared to confront scabs. But we're learning. The arrests show the role of the cops against workers generally — it's OK to strike, but just don't do it effectively!"

TAKE LIBERTY  
16 MAR 1981  
OF VIC POLICE

Dianne Fildes Arrested ACOA picketer.

For full details — p.12

# FRASER'S DREAM...



Without the right to picket, the right to strike meaningless. Our rights are under serious attack at Qantas, over the Sydney Public Service pickets and the Melbourne MELU pickets.  
Now, more than ever, it is vital that scabs are driven from our workplaces and that those unionists in the front line are defended by all of us.

# the battler

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

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No. 105 February 14, 1981 20 cents

**SUDDENLY union-bashing and scab-herding is all the rage in Australia.**

Not that our rulers ever lost their taste for it. But look what's happened in the past few weeks.

Still smarting over their defeat at Loy Yang, the Liberal Party broke BLF picket lines at the Omega power station. They then threatened deregulation.

No sooner had Peacock tried of blistering at the BLF than the Fraser government began organising scabbing in the airline industry.

As we go to press it looks as if Qantas and Fraser are going to get away with it. Dorian has agreed to a miserable "settlement" that will allow the airline to use "staff" during disputes.

If the Qantas struggle ends in defeat it will only encourage the government and the employers in what looks like a concerted assault on basic trade union principles. In Sydney, public servants have been greeted on a picket line. And in Melbourne, two garbans are on trial and facing serious charges for the heinous crime of defending another picket line.

This campaign is not accidental.

In 1979 and 1980, the unions began to bounce back from the bad times which followed Fraser's rise to power. There were a lot more strikers.

Now the economy may be moving into a mild business recovery. Fraser is afraid that Australian workers, having been made to pay the cost of the recession, may try to get their share of this economic "boom".

And since he doesn't have to face the electorate for another three years, he is prepared to use any sort of tactics to stop it. Where is the ACTU leadership while all this is going on? The press has made much of the narrow vote to stay on strike on March 3. They call it a "moral defeat" for Dorian.

And in a sense it is true. It is Dorian's continual foot-dragging and compromising that disheartened many of the strikers.

His peace plan amounted to setting up a dupes pocket that would take control of disputes away from the rank and file.

And he wants to make industrial action ineffective by limiting it to grounding only one plane at a time.

And his pretensions to militancy were exploded when he gave his blessing to Fraser's use of RAAF planes to scab on the strike.

With Fraser on the whip-lash, and scabbing blood after his successes in the Qantas dispute, the last thing we need is a conciliatory approach by our unions.

We have beaten union-bashing and scabbery before. Barbara Riggs, Frank Kane and Noel Latham all got their just deserts.

Without the right to picket, the right to strike meaningless. Our rights are under serious attack at Qantas, over the Sydney Public Service pickets and the Melbourne MELU pickets.

Now, more than ever, it is vital that scabs are driven from our workplaces and that those unionists in the front line are defended by all of us.

By Steven Rabbitt

"When women are on the move..." — p.6/7



## The Naval Dockyards Crisis:

# Nationalism is no way out!

A CRISIS looms at Williamstown Naval Dockyards in Melbourne.

The Dockyard has a militant history, a strong shop committee, and 1500 well organised workers. For all these reasons, the government wants to attack it.

It has appointed a committee of review, hedged on giving the yard any contracts, and the word issued is that the yard is out to tear the place apart.

shop steward's statement. They are aware that this situation of vital concern to all Australians, transcending all political boundaries. But Australia is fundamentally divided between workers and bosses. There are NO ISSUES which should unite workers and bosses.

The defence forces are and always have been controlled by the employers. In 1945 we won a Labor government which was to break a no strike threat to use troops in the Largs Bay strike and in the radar technicians' dispute.

By Phil Griffiths

In order to avoid this disaster here is a statement excerpted from the workers' union. The committee is given a commitment to building ships "economically and on time" and to make sure that they are out to tear the place apart.

The ship steward's statement is a good one. It is a statement of vital concern to all Australians, transcending all political boundaries. But Australia is fundamentally divided between workers and bosses. There are NO ISSUES which should unite workers and bosses.

The defence forces are and always have been controlled by the employers. In 1945 we won a Labor government which was to break a no strike threat to use troops in the Largs Bay strike and in the radar technicians' dispute.

The committee is given a commitment to building ships "economically and on time" and to make sure that they are out to tear the place apart.



WILLIAMSTOWN Naval Dockyards workers on the march. It's this sort of action, rather than appeals to right wing parliament, that can save jobs.

# Sheeties Have An Underarm Problem

WORKERS IN THE sheetmetal section at the Naval Dockyards in Melbourne have an underarm problem. The bosses refuse to play around on breathing fume action, with their glass floating all around. They don't think twice about using asbestos in the open.

The workers feel that the overall situation might seem fair, but it is a matter of workers determining their own safety conditions.

But management has declared that job and brace strike overalls do not give enough protection, and handed them over to the top management in this last year's problem.

Workers at the dockyard to the bosses are not ready to concede that they are not actually being any more than can be blamed on job and brace. And most iron-

mentarily, while the bosses try to stonewall, they force all serious safety problems in the yard.

The hot glass can be up to 60° in the hull of a ship. The bosses don't care about breathing fume action, with their glass floating all around. They don't think twice about using asbestos in the open.

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## Excerpts from the Statement

THIS MASS meeting of WND workers declared the situation has arisen of our establishment which is vital concern to every Australian, transcending all political inclinations.

The Minister's decision will have an enormous consequence for every citizen in our country. It will determine one of the central questions of Defence Policy for many years. That is, "Should Australia maintain in her hands, her own independent defence capability? Or should we entrust our defence to a foreign power?"

The order to plant overseas is not a defence of the shipbuilding industry. It is a defence of the shipbuilding industry. It is a defence of the shipbuilding industry. It is a defence of the shipbuilding industry.

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# Francisco's Ghost

## When a Delap of Civil Guards returned to Spain, it conjured up memories of the Spanish Civil War.

By Tom O'Lincoln

THE COUP rebelled against democracy, in the name of law and order. And after a long struggle, the coup failed. The coup failed. The coup failed. The coup failed.

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Carillo face to face with armed soldiers. A BBC reporter said that the scene connected that of the MFR, presumably including Carillo and his supporters, were "obviously terrified".

The fact, almost all the senior ranks of the Civil Guard, the Judiciary, the Intelligence Service, and the General Francisco Franco.

Carillo contends that the repressive machinery of the Franco regime is "democratic" and that revolution is no longer necessary to achieve what he would demand something like a good look at this repressive machine.

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SPANISH Prime Minister Calvo-Sotelo and, behind him, Franco's ghost.

# Papal Bull on the Asian Circuit

# MARCO'S GETS GO

THE POPE ended up his farcical tour of the Philippines with a sermon to representatives of the three main Moslem tribes in the southern Philippines. He was extolling the virtues of making their peace with the Marcos dictatorship.

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divisions

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By Chris Rose

**THE PUBLIC was shocked when Zelda Aprano chained herself across the doors of the Melbourne Commonwealth Building in September 1969.**

Zelda was sickened by the arbitration commission's recent decision which gave equal pay to less than 10% of women. She felt that 50 years of "corset channels" was enough, and decided on direct action.

When a radio interviewer asked Zelda how she felt being the only woman protesting in this manner, she said to him:

"This is only the beginning — tomorrow there will be two, then four women, and then it will grow, because women are discriminated and when women are on the move, no force will be able to stop them."

**To mark International Women's Day, 1981, JANEY STONE reviews the movement's recent history.**

movement developed. Activity around women's issues was of course not new. The first wave was in the period before the first world war. The second wave of the 70s was prefigured in many ways during the 60s.

Betty Friedan, in her book *The Feminine Mystique*, articulated the discontent of the urban middle class housewife. Surrounded by labour saving devices and other marks of affluence, she was denied the possibility of direct action and changing its course as a person.

The women's liberation movement was aimed above all at exposing the oppressive nature of this role, and changing it once and for all. Although there was strong emphasis on consciousness raising, this was a means to an end, not as an end in itself. The women of the first wave had always hung on to some idea of women's true role. The women's liberationists of the second wave were ideologically more radical.

Women felt it was no longer enough to fight for "equality", but wanted "liberation". This concept was vague but definitely implied the need for a basic change in society.

The serious involvement of large numbers of socialist women contributed to this. Their organizational knowledge and experience was also very useful. By 1971 there were

conferences, and included a picket of the ACTU. Abortion and child care were also seen as critical knowledge and experience was also very useful. One of the first public demonstrations of the

there was a sense of dynamism and activism. The movement was political and outward looking. We had to argue and convince men (land unions, in our workplaces and neighbourhoods).

The years between 1973 and 1975 were years of growth for the movement. The Women's Electoral Lobby was formed in 1972 and the movement, in the early 70s women's liberationists saw themselves as clearly more radical than WEL.

The movement was on abortion in November, 1971 in Melbourne. 500 women took part. In the early days of the women's liberation movement had a sense of excitement. The mood was radical and militant and

**books**

The literature that was coming from overseas was very influential. The books

WOMEN are in the vanguard of the 1970s Australian Labor Party. Edna

Feminists are sometimes militant demonstrations. Their politics limit their effectiveness. For instance, an objection with being a woman identified makes it impossible to look at political questions broadly.

So we see women who may be sincerely concerned about eye-lining no better objective than pornography. They then cry the delusion that advice against women will be ended by more police.

It is logical, consistent that today some groups provide child care for female children only. Radical feminism had a permanent impact on the women's liberation movement. One of the worst offshoots was an irrational eagerness to give socialist women a hearing.

At a national conference, supposedly to be of socialist women in 1974, the audience repeatedly booed when the word "worker" was mentioned. They had already forgotten the message given to the movement by working women's struggles and socialist women.

Nonetheless, there was a certain amount of activity around working class women. In Melbourne there were demonstrations and other activities over equal pay, equal minimum wages, women shop assistants and insurance clerks, and women tram conductors. Sydney women were becoming 'builders' labourers with the aid of the union, and in Wollongong they tried to get jobs in the steel industry.

At this stage there grew up a tendency which in some ways had a more effect than radical feminism. Many women who were committed political activists got caught up in the welfare trap.

The Leichhardt women's health centre in Sydney started in 1973. This was the first of many projects to make use of the government's health centre in Sydney started in 1973. This was the first of many projects to make use of the government's health centre in Sydney started in 1973.

Women's refuges, rape crisis centres, abortion referral clinics and health centres appeared all over Australia.

**service**

The rationale behind these projects was self-help. Providing a service of use to ordinary women, it was argued, would be the best way to bring new women into the movement. Also many women felt that the problems were urgent and couldn't "wait until a revolution".

The movement had widened the electoral and explicitly middle class trap and was only to fall for another old trap. The hundred methods of "good work" and charity are time honoured ways of diverting women's energies.

1975. The self help approach reached its climax when suddenly large amounts of money became available through International Women's Year. It was a year of astounding rhetoric

particularly at the Women and Politics Conference in Canberra.

But 1975 was important in another way. The dispute of women metal workers at Everhot in Bayswater (Melbourne) was probably the last time when the major part of the WLM threw itself into a working class struggle (see insert).

1975 was the high point of women's liberation movement. Despite internal disagreements, there had been a sense of unity and growth, a sense of belonging to a mass movement. But then came the fall of the Labor government, with consequent cuts in welfare type money, and decline in mass working class struggle for a time. The economic recession began to bite.

Kerr's coup forced many women to realise that sisterhood was not all powerful and that unity among all women was not possible. The women's liberation movement was irrelevant to the extent of massive concern to everyone. And in the sudden polarization of Australian society they could see clearly that women were on both sides.

**socialist**

Some women retreated even further into lifestyle politics, and personal solutions. But others realised that a women's movement on its own could only make limited gains. An explicitly socialist current was developing from this point.

In addition some realised the need to join a left-wing organization.

The movement was still very large. At the Women and Labour conference in Sydney in 1977, 8000 women registered. There were other large conferences and demonstrations, and many different projects, publications and activities.

Nonetheless, decline had set in. Gradually the name changed to the "women's

movement", with the symbolic but significant change. There was serious conferences produced by the strike but little activity.

The process proved plenty of activity, but often mid-level feminist government departments for instance. The groups became fragmented and were often in conflict with each other.

**legacy**

No amount of talking about the need for unity and the power of women has been able to stop the decline. The radical women's liberation movement is represented today by a few fragmented single issue groups and a lot of neofeminists.

Nonetheless, the women's liberation movement had left an important legacy. The rights of women are accepted throughout society in a way that has never existed before. Many topics such as abortion and contraception are freely debated when they were hardly ever mentioned.

Probably the most important legacy of the movement was its part in encouraging women workers to a new self confidence in the legitimacy of struggle by women. Certainly in the 70s we have seen mass actions of women who were traditionally regarded as conservative — teachers, nurses, public servants, air hostesses, and so on. Their struggles are growing daily.

With further government cuts in spending, and the worsening problems caused by new technology we can expect an intensification of activity among women workers.

For those who are prepared to see it, the experience of the women's liberation movement shows clearly the need for a class based and political movement.



EDITH TURNEWICH from Everhot tells the International Women's Day crowd, 1975, of the experience of women in struggle.

**A SHOT FIRED IN THE CLASS WAR**

IN 1975, Draffin Everhot in Bayswater, Victoria sacked all its 17 women employees, including militant shop steward Edith Turnewich.

The women picketed, and male workers from a nearby factory struck for a ball day to join them. 15 of the men eventually came out in support, and transport workers black banned the factory.

Women's liberation and socialist weeks, mainly due to support from groups responded immediately. As one of the women picketers said: "Jobs will always be at stake and employment insecure when the employer plays one section of the workers against another section."

But this was just what had happened. Most of the men carried over to work, encouraged by the remaining steward.

The women held out for over six weeks, mainly due to support from groups responded immediately. As one of the women picketers said: "Jobs will always be at stake and employment insecure when the employer plays one section of the workers against another section."

But this was just what had happened. Most of the men carried over to work, encouraged by the remaining steward.

The women who worked in the refuges and health centres now acknowledge that very few of the women they serviced were radicalised, and that what they were able to do was only a drop in the bucket. The legislative reforms such as anti-discrimination laws, and equal pay have

had only a limited impact on women have bypassed the lives of most women. remnants of the old Liberal politics has led liberation movement. As quite simply to things like the soft ball and women's dances — fun and useful as an adjunct to a movement, but attacks on women by worse than Tories as a employers, government and substitute for the movement's own struggle.

With the increasing adjunct to a movement, but attacks on women by worse than Tories as a employers, government and substitute for the movement's own struggle.

The mass struggles of back.





# Going Straight's a regular chortle



**OUT**  
A COUPLE of years and many repeat offerings later, the ABC has finally begun to show *Going Straight*. *Parade* was the story of Norman Stanley Flecher (also known as Ronnie Barker) five years after his arrest for Her Majesty at Slade Prison. It was also one of the most consistently funny shows to grace the small screen. *Going Straight*, as the title implies, takes up the story when Flecher is discharged. Now 43 years old, he has decided to be a good boy. Since he has spent a good year in the nick, he is

announced interviews with some newspaper. It is no joke really to be a prisoner, or an ex-prisoner, trying to stay on the right side of the law. Some may say it's his bad lucks to have a situation comedy around such essentially harrowing situations. And it's true that life in Slade Prison is nothing at all like life in a real prison. Movies like *Ice* and *Midnight* are much closer to the mark. But at least the Barker show does not take themselves too seriously, unlike (for example) *Prisoner*. The prison situation is merely a vehicle for Ronnie Barker's considerable comic talent. A few laughs, but therein lies the odd bit of social comment on the life of Flecher's main character, a cynic. He accepts that the system can always beat the individual, but he has not accepted the consequences of his action, rebellion or non-rebellion or changing the system, he just wants a quiet life. But he has an illusion about who's on

top and who gets the raw deal. He only concerns really with making life as comfortable as possible without losing or compromising a certain degree of self-respect. He survives, technique for jail was "Make your time, keep your room clean and don't let the bastards

describe as lunatic-prisoners." He was from the working class and had a fair amount of class consciousness. But his criminal activities put him outside the class struggle. Flecher will be going back into the working class (or more likely, as he concedes, the dock courts). It will be interesting to see if his attitudes have changed. But whether he turns out to be a working class hero or to be a working class loser, *Going Straight*, if early episodes are any indication, will even hit as funny as *Parade*.

By Tess Lee Aick



# A LEAF THROUGH OUR AUTUMN JOURNAL

THE ELEVENTH issue of *International Socialist Journal* will be out this month. Recent issues have included a major article on the Communist Party by Tom O'Donnell, important new research on the Australian Verity Burgin, a two part series on the political health care by Janet Stone, and an exposé of public service military by Alan Kahn, on the industrial struggle since 1975.

Alto was industrial reporter, then editor of *Battler*, for a total of five years. Tom O'Donnell has supplemented his massive personal experience with the work of Battler reporters across Australia. John Minns, a Queensland activist, writes the struggle there since 1976. He argues, unlike some left commentators, that John's abolition was beaten by mass action in the streets, not by butting up Liberal politicians. Andrew Minns writes a major review article, two books about Trotsky. Part of it is an article retelling the theory of permanent revolution. This is a challenge to the traditional view of the International Socialists, and it's sure to stir controversy. Add in the reviews and 'Feedback' section, the new I.S.J. journal definitely looks like a winner.

# HOPSCOTCH: A.C.I.A. CHASER



WALTER MATTHAU, in disguise to avoid detection as the author, holds the carniçaise of the Hopscotch plot—an exposé of international espionage secrets. Glenda Jackson plays a former C.I.A. agent.

THERE USED to be a time when going to the pictures was a fairly simple affair. You just walked in, paid your money and sat down on an old leather seat on which you hoped that no-one had been practising their finger painting with the remains of a double chocolate cone.

These days, things have changed. The seats still make you feel as though you've done ten rounds with a rotary ball, but first you've got to run the gauntlet.

And what insidious methods they now go to to terrorize the innocent theatre-goer—swarms of invaders from seven different galaxies being valiantly fought off by hundreds of unemployed teenagers whose glazed eyes look as though they've been chewed up by a couple of lamprake glow worms, huge twelve panel video machines bombarding you with 3-D Day of our Lives, four dozen seven year old Darth Vaderas on a school excursion—It's almost enough to make you want to blow the lid on the nearest Jack Thompson Memorial Rafteroom.

By Mike Grewcock

Walter Matthau, whose putty-face resembles a CIAA cross between a cockerspaniel and Chips Rafferty, is the CIA's leading western European operative. Angered by his transfer to the filing section, he decides to blow the lid on the Agency's activities and proceeds on a round the world tour with the CIA, the KGB and the FBI hot on his heels. Posting chapters of his book to the leading international security agencies and finally securing a publisher, Matthau works them into a frenzy before faking his disappearance in England. The obvious comment to make about the film is that the CIA is hardly a laughing matter. And I'm sure that Philip Agee would have had a much more nerve racking time than Matthau.

Nevertheless, it's still good to see the skilful Matthau thumping his nose so effectively at the establishment—even if Allen Jones' down by movie has been two hours before.

topic

A lot of the technology that gives us all these machines to blow our hole cheeks on, was perfected during the Vietnam War, an event which involved the CIA, which brings me to the topic of this review—Hopscotch.

By the time the film started, I was ready to put the remote set button on the first kid who so much as rattled a jiffy packet, but all my ill feeling was dissolved by what turned out to be a very funny film.

# The disabled . . . cogs in the capitalist wheel

THE SCENE was set for a gala opening to West Coast activities for International Year of Disabled Persons, Federal President Carstens was there. So was Labour Minister Ehrenberg. Ministers were on hand, as were lots of

But the gaitly was stilled when the festivities were ended by the disabled themselves.

But by this time the handicapped people, who their supporters revolutionaries, was organized and occupied the streets. Disabled people and families together, and other people who had been a refuge in his book. The Year was a button left shows, he found him and killed her.

The revolution went back to the right. The capitalist class was consolidated. Napoleon, who had had damned his army, was on the march on special orders. He did not see the 'gigachick', nor did he see to power.

There has been a lot of talk about the problems of the disabled in Australia. The Federal Government has been asked to make a special report on the problems of the disabled. There has been a lot of talk about the problems of the disabled in Australia. The Federal Government has been asked to make a special report on the problems of the disabled.

conspiracy

It's all part of the capitalist system. Good way. The proletariat and private bureaucrats become a conspiracy between them. The private structure is controlled by rich people for their own reasons.

in the

capitalist wheel

And what of the much-touted aim of 'integrating' the disabled into society? It takes more than a few ads to do it.

It means a lot of things, for example integration into education, and normal accommodation. Before you can have any more income security, so you can choose your own home for example.

But now you've got a system where government subsidies go to institutions, not individuals, and it's hard the money out on a very regular basis.

They don't want to divert the necessary money out of profits to pay for the education of these people.

The disabled face both class and sex oppression, and so get help, because it's hard to find people who would live in their situation without exploiting the work of making money. For disabled people a choice is not a real choice.

What can be done? We're trying to build a welfare movement. It's not for regional and local organizations. It's not for disabled people to get to the top.

It's a real choice. We have an international organization. It's not for disabled people. It's not for disabled people. It's not for disabled people.

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It's a real choice. We have an international organization. It's not for disabled people. It's not for disabled people. It's not for disabled people.

By Richard Emerson

# ART FROM AN AGE OF REVOLUTION



THIS SUMMER we've had an exhibition of French paintings from the "revolutionary period", 1760-1830, on tour in Sydney and Melbourne.

As exhibitions go it was well worth seeing, but measured against its claim to show the "tragedies and despair of a revolutionary age" it was a disappointment.

Not only did political works predominate, but many of the greatest revolutionary paintings were missing, including some famous ones by David and Delacroix.

political

But at least we got the chance to reprint some of the more political work for our readers.

The Great French Revolution of 1789 was a huge popular upheaval. The bourgeoisie tried to keep it limited to reform that would suit the rich capitalists. They even wanted to keep the monarchy.

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# FIGHT THE FIGHT

Council Fight

BRISBANE City Council (BCC) workers have missed a golden opportunity to show the boss they mean business.

At a mass meeting on March 2 a militant resolution from job delegates was watered down by anecdotal evidence of deciding to strike in water treatment plants if they get no satisfaction on the shorter working week, they just voted to give the council more time to consider it.

The BCC workers have been working a nine day fortnight on a staggered basis organised by a rank and file committee but have not met with any response from City Hall.

The council did, however, make use of a "work no pay" rule when one shop steward refused to do black banded work.

Workers at the Harris Road depot that walked out for 24 hours, the following day Newcastle depot workers also went on strike. As usual, the media carried the council workers' account, when three water pipes couldn't be repaired. But they had an important message.

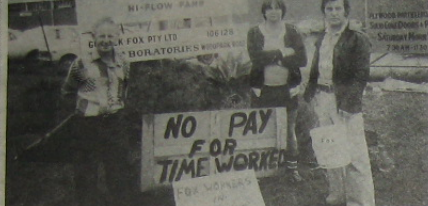
High Hamilton (Secretary of the BWW and President of the Communist Party in Queensland) stated that the BCC workers were fighting the wrong way, by incorporating the public.

If High is really serious about the 35 hour week, he should by the blame with the City Council for not granting the shorter hours, and support action by all workers as the only way we'll win.

By Gary Cox

**Battle of the Bans**  
WORKERS in the NSW suburban Mail Sorting Offices have been acting too much like unionists lately so the Commission decided to discipline them. Their crime? Following union tips in the bud.

They buzzed on compulsory overtime for selected shifts. Stoppages were held and bans placed on all overtime that wasn't on the agreed basis.



ON THE PICKET LINE at Fox Engineering in Smithfield (Sydney), workers are fighting for the 35 week despite over 160 stand-downs.

Fox workers are also demanding repeal of sections 18 and 25E of the metal trades award, and calling on the Metal Trades Federation to call a national 24 hour stoppage.

Engineers' delegate Rudi Paul explained the background.

"It dates back to October when Fox workers began working a nine day fortnight as part of the thirty five hour week campaign. A number of bans were also placed on contract work.

"Before xmas, the bans were lifted, but we look off December 8 for the nine day fortnight.

"That meant if our anniversary date fell after December 8, we lost all our holiday pay.

"During the leave period, we decided to 'rock' a no/litigating stoppages in different sections/ rather than take the day off every fortnight.

"Then the firm put on a freeze 18 - if we took off any time during the day, we'd lose the whole day's pay so we put on seven more hours.

"On February 8, the company stood down a crane driver who refused to load black material. There have been over one hundred and sixty stand downs since then.

"The company won't negotiate a yes. But there have already been some breakthroughs in hours in the mining equipment industry. This makes us even more determined.

**shops**  
This was hardly likely to bring the buses to their knees, particularly in a time of high unemployment. Its very organised shops the campaign barely got off the ground while at various shops like Unions Caravan, auto strike action was needed to gain even partial success.

**MELOURNE** sellouts, Sydney sabotage...  
**Rank & File Teachers are Fed Up!**

**MARY-JANE DIETHELM**, a member of the Teacher Action group, speaking at the Sydney meeting on 17 February.

rank and file grouping, Fracture Solidarity is taking up the issues of a lot of claims. In past back issues of the ground we have been on recent years on wages and conditions, strategy to fight victimisation, involving action in the public movement, and demagoguing the union so that members like Seaford-Carrum can't happen again.

# FIGHT THE FIGHT

THE FIGHT is on again for 35 hours. That's what metal workers decided at meetings last month.

Employers in the engineering and fabrication sector voted to work no more than a 35 hour week over to eight hours a week.

Rank and file metal workers are clearly dissatisfied with the campaign for a 35 hour week. In Brisbane, militants said that the resumption of the campaign was the result of pressure from a shop steward's and delegates' meeting.

Last year the unions waged their campaign by working a 35 hour week over per month, and demanding 40 hours pay.

And in Brisbane, the metal workers' union is on a strategy of "rocking" the boss. It is also likely to be a very difficult whether it is a case of national scale.

At the end of dinner, a screen door leading to another room opened.

Rank and file teachers should establish to win better conditions by Tuesday 17 February. They called off all direct action in favour of

# Write to The Battle: P.O. Box 46 Flemington, Vic 3031

## Dear Battlers,

### Dear Battlers, we just RA supporters!

**Dear Battlers,**  
This is a typical example of explanation of Filipino workers by tourists. The men are arranged through Filipino travel agents.

**Lesley Singh, Brisbane Troops Out Committee.**

**Flesh trade**  
**Dear Battlers,**  
On May 24, 1970, 18 Japanese tourists checked into the Ramada Hotel in Brisbane.

**SMASH RACISM**  
END ALL IMMIGRATION CONTROLS

**NATIONAL ALLIANCE ARE NAZIS**  
INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS  
ROYAL MELBOURNE VIC 318665

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**BRISBANE**  
P.O. Box 329, Woolloongabba 3915966  
**SPRINGBURN**  
P.O. Box 186, Booval, Old 2816113

international climate which is present. The letters of imperialism from interregnum in Ireland.

**Dear Battlers,**  
We are also opposed to the amount of this flag by Fascist groups such as the National Alliance and support your action on the National Alliance in your poster.

**Loe Maccob, Melbourne**

**Divisive leaflet**  
**Dear Battlers,**  
I'd like to comment on a leaflet I read recently distributed by 'Portland Action'.

**WHAT'S ON**  
Sun, Mar 8, 7.15pm  
Revolutionaries Are Back! 8.30pm  
Sun, Mar 22, 7.15pm  
The Phrasians on different strategies

**Melbourne**  
Tues Mar 10, 8pm  
Mother Jones to the rescue  
Sun, Mar 15, 2.00pm  
Sun, Mar 22, 7.15pm  
The Phrasians on different strategies  
Sun, Mar 29, 7.15pm  
The Phrasians on different strategies

**Eureka spirit**  
**Dear Battlers,**  
Our group which is concerned with human and political rights has used the Eureka flag as a symbol of our aspirations and the aspirations of the Australian people.

**Jon O'Neill, Melbourne**

**Dear Battlers,**  
I'd like to comment on a leaflet I read recently distributed by 'Portland Action'.

**'Gyp' is racist**  
**Dear Battlers,**  
While the wrongy radio's quiet I've been pondering a rather unfortunate turn of phrase used by Sydney Council, Dr. Mann, a worker in the C.E.S.

**WANT TO JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS!**  
Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Postcode \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone no. \_\_\_\_\_  
Trade Union \_\_\_\_\_  
City and post to I.S.I. National Secretary  
P.O. Box 46 Flemington Vic 3031

THE BATTLE 7 MARCH, 1981 PAGE 11

EMAIL  
16 OUT  
IN THE  
COLD.

SEVENTEEN workers at Email at Brisbane have lost their fight against the sack.

Fight of the workers were members of the Transport Workers Union and eight were Stromberg & Beckers.

Although part of a deal negotiated by their union officials was a four week 80 000 redundancy pay. For more than two weeks they refused to stop the company's actions.

They went on strike immediately after being given two weeks notice. They mounted pickets outside the warehouse at Salisbury and the head office in South Brisbane. Leafleting and job meetings at transport depots around Brisbane which handled Email products were quickly organised.

All TWU members in Brisbane banned the handling of Email products. Workers at the head office, members of the Electricians Union and the SPW took their first ever strike action and walked out in support.

Email which made a record profit of \$11 million last year sacked the 18 workers because they were wanted to bring in contamination direct to retail outlets and bypass the militant work force at their Salisbury warehouse.

The workers were expelled on their picket line by members of the International Socialists and the Right-to-Work campaign of the Unemployed Workers Union.

"Our strike would have been broken in the first few days if it hadn't been for that support," explained one worker. But the officials moved quickly to accept redundancy pay rather than fight on to win back the job.

They told the workers that if they continued to fight and not accept the Email severance pay offer they would get nothing at all.

ALL OUT

# STRIKE

ON TUESDAY 24th February, the federal public service came to a halt.

Right around the country — public service clerks went on strike for 24 hours and picketed their offices in protest against the threat to their jobs.

The CEIR Act, which opens the way for mass sackings, has now been proclaimed. The Lynch Razor Gang has begun making recommendations for cutbacks.

The Government has served redundancy

## DROP THE CHARGES!



Steve Bolt



Dianne Fieldes



Dave Main

THE ARREST of four picketers in Sydney during the national strike shows how far the government is prepared to go to smash public service militancy.

The arrest came because the combined picket outside the Australian Government Centre was proving too successful.

The cops told picketers to move and clear a path for people to enter one of the doors without being approached or spoken to. The picketers didn't move. Steve Bolt, a social security clerk from Camperdown was the first arrested. He was charged with obstruction and resisting arrest.

Then Dianne Fieldes, a security clerk at Bondi Junction, was charged with resisting arrest and assisting Steve Bolt to resist arrest.

The police then grabbed John Mims, charging him with using menacing arms, and assisting Dave Main to resist arrest. Dianne Fieldes was arrested next, charged with resisting arrest and assisting Dave Main to do likewise and also with the more serious charge of assisting a police officer.

Dianne explained the significance of the arrests. "I think the fact that they used federal cops to try to break up the picket shows how serious the government is about getting up the CEIR Act established."

ACOFA Federally has undertaken to cover legal costs arising from the arrests but a campaign has also been launched by the union to have the charges dropped.

Message of support and donations for the defence fund for Grey Collar, P.O. Box 118, Westgate 2048.

Prepared by the International Socialists national Public Service fraction.

notices on 117 public servants. These people might face the sack in six months. And they could be just the tip of the iceberg.

The news was called by the ACOA and APSA, the two unions which cover most clerical workers in the federal public service.

Combined mass meetings of the two unions held two weeks earlier had voted overwhelmingly for the strike and picketing.

In Melbourne, a motion calling for a two day strike and stop work on the third day had been carried against official opposition.

In Melbourne, the Victorian officials (some of whom are from the Reform Group) called the two day strike and held the stopwork last Thursday.

In Sydney, three public servants and an unemployed activist were arrested by Federal police on one picket line.

APSA and ACOA officials have gone into the campaign half-hearted.

In their circulars they've almost buried the issue of job security amongst secondary questions —



### NSW

ON THE DAY of the strike, Power's Federal cops attacked one of our picket lines and arrested four people.

The picket outside the Government Centre in Sydney had been organised by the rank and file group, Grey Collar.

Our photo shows the 70 clerical workers waiting for a motion calling on the officials to organise better strike action and meetings against the CEIR Act.

There were also pickets organised by Section Committee outside government offices all over Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong.

When we gathered for the combined picket outside the Public Service Board's offices in Sydney, the union officials were nowhere to be seen.

They had taken buses to Canberra to shout at Parliament House.

This was no coincidence. When the first redundancies were announced the officials refused to fight them.

Instead they started blaming about the 'sumpire' because the government decided to overrule the Arbitration Commission over the sackings would be processed.

The government has now done this anyway, so we're back to square one, after two years of suffering while playing expensive discretionary games in court.

by Dianne Fieldes (cont)

the battler  
PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

# IT'S ONE STRUGGLE

No. 106  
March 28,  
1981 20 cents

the battler  
PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS



## El Salvador

FRIGHTENED by the revolution in Nicaragua, hell-bent on showing up American imperialism's eroding power by any means necessary, Ronald Reagan is stepping up support for El Salvador's brutal junta.

But the great mass of the Salvadoran people are just as determined to fight for freedom. Braving torture, death squads, and Vietnam-style destruction of entire villages, the liberation forces have so far given a good account of themselves.

But the Vietnam war was not won without world-wide solidarity. And now Australian workers have a responsibility to take up the struggle to defeat the reactionary government in El Salvador, and with it U.S. imperialism... the leading representative of world capitalism.

## FROM THE PICKET LINES ...



### QLD BRISBANE

public servants picket the Australian Government Centre during the national 24 hour ACOA APSA strike.

## Poland

MEANWHILE in Poland, the myth of Eastern European 'socialism' has been dealt a death blow. The excruciating Polish workers, who are now the best organised in the world.

The issues are familiar ones. An economy in crisis. A government which has tried to push the cost of the crisis onto the working class, and which resorts to repression if economic measures are not enough.

Agreement — and social system — that is basically no different than our own. And behind this capitalism of the East stands the other main imperialist power, Russia.

Capitalism is a world system. Polish workers, and the people of El Salvador, are in the forefront of the fight against it. Their fight is our fight. The fight for liberation. The fight for socialism.



# WORKERS OF THE WORLD UNITE!

Printed by GPO Melbourne and Boundaries  
No. 106  
March 28, 1981  
20 cents

THE QUESTION OF THE HOUR IS:

WILL THIS MAN LAUNCH US ALL INTO WORLD WAR 3? IF HE DOES YOU'LL REALLY NEED A SUBSCRIPTION TO 'THE BATTLER'!!



I want a Battler Subscription. Lenclose \$7.00 for 20 issues, made payable to The Battler.

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City and post to: PO Box 41, Flemington, Vic 3021

PRISONERS FREE

# The bosses on the Jamison Hospital Inquiry recommend:

# WE FOOT THE BILL

NOBODY seems to be happy with it. The Jamison Inquiry into hospitals has been just one more chapter in the long argument about health services in Australia. And since the report has been out, the wrangling has intensified.

Members are cabinet members are arguing over how best to shift the burden back to the states. The AMA and the health funds want to cut subsidies for those who don't take out private health insurance.

And, amazingly, the Australian Hospitals Association wants to bring back a Medibank style-levy.

**people**

The first thing to get clear is that the dispute is not over how to provide better treatment and improve the health of people. It is over how to pay for existing health costs.

Take the members of the Jamison committee. Their decision is a Sydney



"Medibank patients — he tends to keep them waiting a bit longer..."

and public health services. (Though, given that they are supposed to be non-profit, it's hard to see why everyone is so concerned for the welfare of the uninsured companies.)

**cuts**

The AMA just wants to protect the income and power of doctors, and some propose they all be over-served while others lack proper health facilities. It is also true that what

# A Plum Settlement

WORKERS at Plumrose in Moorabbin (Vic) have thumbed their noses at the bosses and the Arbitration Commission — and won!

The settlement that company was ordered to reinstate Loney. They refused. After about a year and a half, Loney was ordered to go back to work. The Plumrose workers are credited with another hearing in the Arbitration Commission.

Plumrose thought they could sue Ken Loney at the Federal Court and get away with it because it was a seasonal labourer. But when they went against a union picket line, Loney was reinstated to his job at the Moorabbin plant.

They have suddenly taken up the fight for the Federal plant — and they expect to change the decision because Plumrose refuse to accept it.

back to work like days that 'not laid forever' but first — this summed up the reaction of the workers.

They refused to accept the offer of another hearing, and decided to stay out.

### company

The Court ruled that there could be another hearing if the union satisfied all the terms and conditions of the award. Loney had never got another job there — and why should he? — but the decision became Plumrose refuse to accept it.

As one of the women said to the Butler, "Why do you want another hearing — if a court will change the decision because Plumrose refuse to accept it?"

They want us to think

needed more emphasis on prevention.

But neither the government nor the AMA and other pressure groups are interested in dealing seriously with our atrocious health system. They raise their voices to protest the income and power of doctors, and some propose they all be over-served while others lack proper health facilities. It is also true that what

where late Sydney hospital, turning away accident victims.

One of Melbourne's biggest psychiatric hospitals is having to turn away 300 to 400 patients a year because of a shortage of beds and staff.

The large public hospitals are important in another way. Many people go to casualty departments instead of a G.P. Community health centres are also being built, but they are also being overcrowded to the point

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# U.S. BASES OUT! . . . U.S. BASES OUT! . . . U.S. BASES OUT! . . .

# WHAT WE THINK

The Middle East crisis without the Labor government being led.

Hayden was clearly worried by what he saw. Unlike the other bases, he did not issue an immediate statement of approval.

Lionel Bowen said, "If signals are going through there without anybody's knowledge and they are turned into pre-emptive attack, that proposition is not in accordance with the arrangement that was negotiated successfully by Labor Defence Minister Barnard in 1974."

But the most astonishing comments came after his trip to Pine Gap. After the visit, his first, he had provided the press conference by the side of the road. He said "Australians are able to monitor all the information here and to establish its nature and how it is likely to be used."

"On the basis of detailed information we

# U.S. BASES OUT! . . . U.S. BASES OUT! . . . U.S. BASES OUT! . . .

# LIBERAL ATTACKS

# BLACK GINGS

by Alison Anderson

The condition of Blacks in Queensland is such that it could lead to a boycott by the national of the Commonwealth Games, to be held in Brisbane next year.

Businessmen have sunk a lot of money in preparing the city for the games, and they can't return now proposes to avoid a boycott, by imposing conditions for Blacks and by repatriating the infamous Aboriginal Act to treat them as fifth class citizens.

His may seem a progressive move, since Blacks have been calling for their repeal for many years. But Burke-Petersen has no intention of relieving their other demand, a marginal centre of Aboriginal land.

He has stated that he will not have "Black residential" in Queensland, and Blacks might need to hand the land over to a mining company.

In other words, thousands of Queensland Blacks will simply be shifted from one land to another.

It has only been pushed around by the heads of the Department of Aboriginal and Island Affairs, rural Blacks will now become voters with no other prospect than moving to any state.

The Queensland government in sports is best left to the Aborigines. The sporting minister in Queensland to find out about the conditions of Blacks there.

An government spokesman, was he asked on a phone call about the Blacks, he said he was going to speak to one Aborigine, since they are the only comments out of town at a local level.

Blackie Blacks eventually managed to get a message to the presence of officials from the Division of Aboriginal Affairs.

Whether or not Orde approves the racist Queensland Blacks will organise and fight the first of a series of protests.

Blackie Blacks have announced that "Blood will be on the streets" and that he aimed to lead a demonstration in Brisbane on March 21.

At this stage will not be intervene in the Commonwealth World Conference for the Peoples, due to be held in Canberra.

Blackie Blacks will insist on being heard, and will have an international publicity

# HAMER'S GAMBLE FAILING

THE CRISIS in Victoria's Hamer government deepened further last night.

The government engaged in a public consultation exercise in the form of a caucus (three agencies) and a public hearing (four agencies) to support a cabinet and government. It was a failure.

Their conservative wing, led by Hamer, was forced to back down.

This was followed by a "debate" by the new minister for Communities and Housing, which announced that Hamer would not be a member of the cabinet.

But Smith was not one of the architects of the government's "New Directions" program, aimed at boosting the state's flagging economy.

He then found a new "Director" to run the program.

But Smith was nominated after a widely publicised struggle. A Liberal cabinet member, late.

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# Origins of the rise of EL SALVADOR. REAGAN'S ON VIETNAM?

**THE Northern Irish state is sectarian and artificial.**  
The partition of Ireland could not have occurred 60 years ago but for the ability of Northern Ireland's industrialists and landowners to mobilise behind them key sections of workers in the Belfast area.

That mobilisation depended on traditions and institutions that had long provided Protestant workers with advantages over Catholics.

The new state was based on this divide between workers and set out to deepen it.

For decades this state allowed British interests to buy the disintegration of the empire in the 60s, the seed for a final British presence.

Inland dispersed. However, the state they had created would not simply go away.

When Catholics began campaigning for civil rights in 1968 and 1969, the state responded with drastic repression. The British wanted a more sophisticated response, and sought to reform the Orange state. But they could not go too far for fear of fracturing the remaining British interests in the North.

As it became clear that reform could only scratch the surface of their oppression, Protestant extremists are trying to tear with them off. Their privileges are marginal privileges and by means people distributed within the Protestant population. There has always been a large number of Protestant working class and quite considerable numbers of Protestant intellectuals.

The Protestant extremists are. The wage rate for Protestant workers in Belfast may have been higher than in Dublin or in most British cities in 1961, today they are considerably lower.

Given the grip of the loyalists on the Protestant communities, it is a fact that any real talk of promoting class-based struggle will have to come from outside. But this does not excuse socialism who may be forced themselves to operate from within the Catholic ghettoes from explaining to Protestant workers what needs to be done, how to confront the problems which the crisis

## SUCCESSES

Yet the oppressed are a minority within the state, and their successes simply prompt the Protestant majority to harden its stance. This dilemma can only be resolved either by breaking the hold of Loyalism over Protestant workers, or by spreading the struggle to all of Ireland.

Protestant workers, but it is wrong to tear with them off. Their privileges are marginal privileges and by means people distributed within the Protestant population. There has always been a large number of Protestant working class and quite considerable numbers of Protestant intellectuals.

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BELFAST children at play. Their games reflect the realities of everyday conflict.

But in the South there has been a shift in consciousness over the last ten years bringing all classes away from active concern with the Northern question. During the last, waterflood strike only a handful of workers in Dublin and Wexford responded to the call for strikes action.

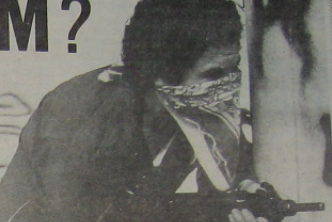
And therefore has been unable to smash the cadre of the republican movement, but neither have the divisions been able to marshal the forces needed to smash finally the old Orangeism

and throw out the British forces. The war has not had anything like the impact on British society that the Vietnam war had in America. But with the greatest depth of the economic crisis at least a

gives the Southern people more greater masses for ensuring the war in the North. But not exposing the state but showing governments was change imposed has declined a large measure in the

has been trying to replace who between them the Hague government Dublin to use them the spokesman for them the spokesman for them the spokesman for them

Protest against the imperialist in Ireland. Picket with the British Army. Protest against the imperialist in Ireland. Picket with the British Army. Protest against the imperialist in Ireland. Picket with the British Army.



Polish workers on strike in a public square.

Poland moving toward another crisis. POLAND is again at crisis point. A massive national strike called off the backing of trade union activists, militant shop floor activists rejecting calls for moderation from Lech Walesa, and finally walked threats of a state of emergency from the hard-lineers of the Polish government. Warsaw Pact manoeuvres nearby.

That is the picture as we go to press. Such a government commission from Warsaw and a group of union leaders, backed by Dygocinski in the east of the country, by whom some way out of the conflict, but there was little basis for compromise.

There are few among the Polish working class who believe the government's story about the bargaining. Everyone is convinced it was premeditated brutality, and they want the officials who were responsible to be sacked.

The government for its part refuses to give an inch on this demand.

**Poland moving toward another crisis**

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## Water, water everywhere?

...and there is no money for maintenance and the system breaks down. Another example is Bangladesh, where UNICEF is helping to install nearly 50,000 tubewells a year. But when a UN team investigated the health effects they found that they were nearly as good as the water which the water which is safe when collected from the wells at all safe when collected from the wells at all safe when collected from the wells at all

**SO PROVIDING water in rural areas is necessary from the director-general of WHO. In India the population can have water supply without a very big investment in the world's to the ends of complex socio-economic development. So we have various "popups" arguing that it is possible to provide everyone with clean water in a program.**

**This is an only "hard" water supply program that uses local natural resources to provide clean water. It is a technological advance that would benefit the whole world, like the rest of the world's water supply program that uses**

**THE JUNTA'S henchmen — outnumbered, but their hardware's the best.**

## By Tom O'Lincoln

As a Salvadoran army officer admitted to

**people**

**marches**

**unites**

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# The 1980's resources bubble ...

# THE RESOURCES BUBBLE

**RICK KUHN**  
looks at what  
the latest  
economic  
lurch will  
mean for  
workers.

## Left nationalism — home-grown bosses are OK?

**PEOPLE on the left know**, of course, that property is not returning. We know that the sector is in a fundamental crisis. But the nature of the crisis, and what is to be done about it, is a subject of intense debate.

One popular point of view, held for example by the Communist Party and the Labor left, is that multinational corporations are "desnationalising" Australia and turning it into a "quarry". Many of these people call for import controls as a way of stopping the process.

These left nationalists are trying to deal with real problems. Most importantly, unemployment and redundancies. Unemployment is now at its highest level since the depression, and in the long term it is likely to get worse. And employers are trying to "rationalise" their operations. Some businesses are closing down altogether.

But their view that the country is being "desnationalised" does not hold water. They point to the declining share of manufacturing employment, investment and output in the Australian economy as a whole. But in absolute terms only the number employed in manufacturing has actually fallen. The real value of manufacturing investment and output has not fallen, in fact it has increased.

Manufacturing's declining share in Australia is typical of developed, western capitalist countries. It occurs because the service and government (and in Australia's case, mining) sectors are growing more rapidly than manufacturing.

In fact because of energy, pollution and transport problems, Japan is desnationalising its aluminium industry — to Australia's advantage.

According to the left nationalists the "deliberate" shift out of manufacturing, mining and minerals processing is being perpetuated by the multinational corporations and the Fraser government, which is identified with this. This is far from the case.

Not only is new investment going on in manufacturing, but some of it is being undertaken by multinationals, and even some Australian mining corporations are interested in getting into manufacturing.

For example the Broken Hill North company has tried to buy out Denlog Olympic, Ford, GMH and Mitsubishi have no interest in automobile manufacturing, closing down.

Minerals processing is manufacturing, just as the iron and steel industry and food processing are. (When you get down to it,

all manufacturing involves resource processing.) The minerals processing industry is attracting a lot of local and multinational interest.

Not is the Government adopting policies to pick off manufacturing. The world is a more competitive political arena for the Liberal Party, whose core is Victorian manufacturing.

The levels of effective protection for Australia's largest, weak manufacturing industries has increased under Fraser. These industries are clothing, footwear, textiles and cars.

Export offset schemes (where exporters win an Australian firm the right to import some goods without duties) are a new form of protection the Government is using, to help car and parts manufacturers become more internationally competitive.

The left nationalists see a deliberate plot by the government and multinationals to desnationalise Australia.

They regard all Australians who aren't directly linked to multinational as potential allies — including "small and medium businesses".

But the problem is not just an Australian one, it is international. Unemployment and attacks on workers' living standards occur right around the world, from America to Russia and from Paris to Peking.

To solve the problem of unemployment and redundancies many left nationalists advocate import controls (tariffs and quotas). They hope to isolate Australia from the problems of the world economy.

But protectionism — import controls — does not protect jobs, it protects capital. It is a way of allowing otherwise uncompetitive firms to survive at the expense of workers and other firms.

Protectionism does not stop the processes of technological change or competition inside Australia and these are the main job killers. Further a prokes protectionist retaliation from other countries, and this takes the Australian economy back to square one.

For Australia there is isolate steel to any great degree from the world economy there would be a general reduction in Australian living standards and a fall in the Australian economic growth — such as Mainit China economic growth — experienced during the 1960s.

Protectionism actually identifies the interests of Australian workers with those of their bosses. The problem is seen in imported goods from "cheap labour countries" which are identified with this.

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import controls are to ensure that Australian firms don't go to the wall. But the same arguments can be and are used to justify wage cuts.

In fact Australian workers have more in common with the workers of South Korea, Malaysia or the U.S.A. than we do with our bosses. We are all faced with employers whose hands are a balance sheet whose profits come before our jobs and wages.

Rather than propping up our own bosses, we should be supporting the struggles of workers in the "low wage countries" to force their wages up.

It is easy to find examples of how left nationalism and identification with the boss weaken workers' struggles for their wages, conditions and jobs. The Clothing Trades Union lobbies for higher tariffs and lower quotas on clothes, while its members suffer among the worst conditions in Australian industry.

Car industry unions can't work on a united strategy for defending their members in the context of export offset and nationalisation. The union officials from the Vehicle Builders' Union in Victoria (whose members mainly put together cars) favour offset. The AMWU and NSW VBU oppose it, because most of their members work in components manufacturing. Neither union made any real effort to save workers' jobs when GMH's Pagewood plant was closed down.

Import controls are not a way to save jobs. Australian manufacturers and other small and medium businesses are not potential allies. Their interests lie in keeping the wage bill down — through low wages and a small workforce.

Mick Condon was right: workers are exploited in the workplace. And that's where the fightback on wages and jobs has to start. Not in discussions with bosses and Government about tariffs.

Militancy and effective organisation on the job and a willingness to adopt new tactics, such as factory occupations, are the key to fighting redundancies. The success of this approach was shown at AMI, Pilsbrough and AMI, both in the Victorian car industry.

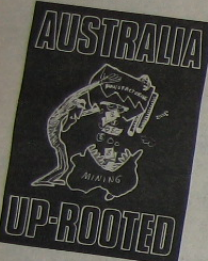
Import controls can't protect our jobs against technological change and rationalisation. Saving shop floor jobs is a way of allowing otherwise uncompetitive firms to survive at the expense of workers and other firms.

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**DURING LOCKOUT AT BROKEN HILL 1959**  
AUSTRALIAN capitalists have always treated workers the same — as bosses have treated their wage slaves the world over. The masks were against good old Aussie victimization.



EXAMPLES OF left nationalism — an AMWU booklet devoted to the cause (left) and a cartoon from its sequel portraying Australian workers in competition with Asian workers. Of course, competition's the name of their game and it's one workers everywhere lose.



These kids throw stones at home... Do I hear overseas fire from Hong Kong?

### THE MEDIA, and politicians from Malcolm Fraser to Bob Wran have proclaimed a new prosperity for the 1980's.

For the past couple of years the Federal Government has been telling Australia is on the verge of a massive resources boom. Bjelke-Peterson, the Opposition leader and even the OECD (the rich nations club) have also pointed to development as a cure for the country's ills.

They all argue that Australia is very rich in minerals, especially energy sources — coal, natural gas, uranium. In a world short of resources and energy, they say, Australia is extremely well placed to ride out the current difficulties in the global economy.

In fact the 1980's will be a period of prosperity for Australia, they proclaim, because developments in the minerals sector will flow on to the rest of the economy.

1. They all argue that Australia is very rich in minerals, especially energy sources — coal, natural gas, uranium. In a world short of resources and energy, they say, Australia is extremely well placed to ride out the current difficulties in the global economy.
2. There will be limited effects on other industries. The firms which import for the boom, doing generally capital intensive jobs. Many are located overseas and their effects are included, as we created.
3. The length of the boom in the world markets for raw steel and other materials. There is no guarantee bottom won't fall out of some of those markets. They are unpredictable.

Booms also create its own end. They are overinvested, as companies slice of the action. When ill-effects come on stream, more than the market can absorb it drops, some projects close.

In the coal industry, some miners are speeding up the process of their own end. They are overinvested, as companies slice of the action. When ill-effects come on stream, more than the market can absorb it drops, some projects close.

Minerals processing projects for silicon metal, copper, tin, zinc, pure carbon, uranium and oil from coal are also under consideration. These projects are apart from purely extractive developments in coal, uranium, copper and natural gas.

So it seems a minerals boom is on. But there have been mineral booms before, and the coming one will not be the biggest by any means. In fact CSRB's chief economist has suggested that as a proportion of gross domestic product, resource based investment would be less significant than it was in 1971-72.

**reasons**

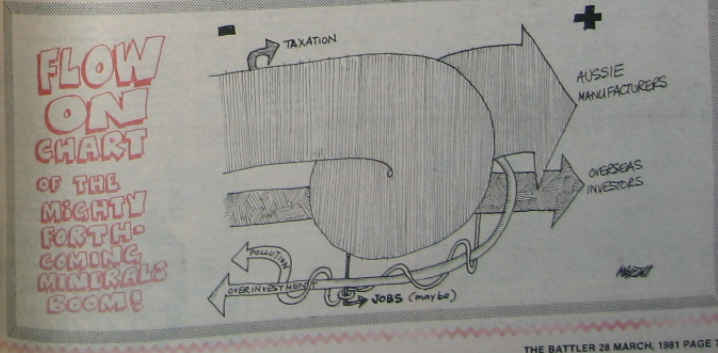
In any case, how much good will the mineral boom do most workers? Probably very little. There are several reasons.

1. Very few long term jobs will be created. Most jobs are very short term, during the construction stage.

2. Mining projects and increasingly new manufacturing projects are very capital intensive — using large-scale and expensive machinery that requires very few



THE KWANANA (Western Australia) blast furnace — nucleus of an integrated iron and steel industry.





# Workers stay out for 35!

## WE'RE NOT going back until they negotiate the shorter hours. It's the attitude of 160 workers stood down by Fox Engineering in Sydney.

In the campaign for the 35 hour week, Fox workers lost a day's pay under Clause 18 of the Metal Trades Award for each day when the full eight hours was not worked.

Three months later, keeping their annual leave payments withheld under clause 28, to blackmail the firm into returning to each individual worker hoping to generate a return to work.

They believe only a handful of militants and organisers are handling the campaign and that the others don't know who's going on. But the Company is using to stop using the penalty clauses, not will they negotiate to reduce the hours work.

The dispute is stagnating in the Federal Court Commission but the workers are continuing to picket 24 hours a day at the Smithfield factory.

Workers strike the Footprint at Acheris Ridge in Queensland have been activated. They will not hand in their gear whatsoever until a deal comes from the Sydney plant, even though threatened by stand-downs.

They have gained the 35 hour work campaign by forcing the new deal forthright and are also offering financial support. Donations and message of support can be sent to the I.E.O. Dispute Commission, 20 Hunter St. Parramatta NSW.

By Jenny O'Leary

# DEFEND THE FEDERAL PICKET ... EFFECTIVELY

## "UNION REPS arrested — let them go" was the chant raised after Federal cops attacked the picket line outside Sydney's Federal Govt. building on February 24 and arrested 4 picketers.

The picket was in support of a 24 hour national strike called by ACOA and APSA over the CERB Act with its threatened mass sackings of public servants.

This shows just how serious the Federal government is about fining organisations that refuse to let their picketers go. It also shows how serious they are about attacking the union organisation of their own employees.

It might be all right to have taken pickets. But when they start to look militant and seriously challenge scabs going into work — as the picket did on February 24 — then they are attacked and anyone playing a leading role is arrested.

The one thing the cops did not manage to do with the arrests was break up the picket line.

We pulled together and stayed there for another hour and a half, chatting and informing the crowd that had gathered of the arrests.

**By Di Minnis Branch Councillor**

myself were summoned respectively 1 week and 2 weeks after the picket and 2 days after the arrest and David Main to resist arrest?



SEVENTY picketers outside the Government Centre in Sydney voting for a motion calling on the officials to organise further strike action and meetings against the CERB Act. Shortly after, David Main was arrested after, with then two more activists, Di Minnis (top) and Pam Townsend, have been since summoned.

# THE STRIKE committee at Fox Engineering meets regularly and the picket at the plant is constant. Those prepared to wage the struggle for the 35 hour week need the support of the C.E.S.

**Let's strike to staff the C.E.S.**

The CES staffing campaign is moving into retreat. The most important factor by imposed last September to gain more staff have been lifted.

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## Shunters debarred but determined

AFTER STRIKING for four days over a \$30 wage claim, 1400 rail shunters in NSW went back to work with virtually nothing to show for it. The ARU Executive had refused to support continued action over the claim.

## Struggle defused

OFFICIALS HAVE insisted on a 10 week old strike for the princely offer of ... an inquiry into living conditions!

Maintenance workers employed at Gladstone power station went to work to return to work.

The case is being heard at St. James Court of Petty Sessions at 10 am.

The officials backpedaled and finally agreed to call members to a demonstration party to be held at a top-level meeting at the State Rail Authority standing down with no pay and no strike benefits.

The ARU Executive had refused to support continued action over the claim.

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The ARU Executive had refused to support continued action over the claim.

# Write to the Battler: P.O. Box 46 Flemington, Vic 3031

## Dear Battlers,

# The Nazis & that flag

Dear Battlers,

My opinion is that you are right to support the I.R.A. I am sure you will keep up the good work and will keep up the good work and will keep up the good work.

Thank you for the copy of the report on the I.R.A. I am sure you will keep up the good work and will keep up the good work.

## Official line

Dear Battlers,

It's sad we see these things happening to our workers. I am sure you will keep up the good work and will keep up the good work.

Thank you for the copy of the report on the I.R.A. I am sure you will keep up the good work and will keep up the good work.

## International Socialists

Dear Battlers,

The International Socialists are a group of people who are interested in the interests of the working class. We are a group of people who are interested in the interests of the working class.

Our main aim is to bring about a socialist society. We are a group of people who are interested in the interests of the working class.

## Irish reply

Dear Battlers,

The Irish reply to the article in the I.R.A. is a reply to the article in the I.R.A. It is a reply to the article in the I.R.A.

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## Amazing Scenes

Dear Battlers,

Amazing scenes were reported from the I.R.A. I am sure you will keep up the good work and will keep up the good work.

Thank you for the copy of the report on the I.R.A. I am sure you will keep up the good work and will keep up the good work.

## International Socialists

### Fueling the fight

SYDNEY  
Sat, Mar. 26, 8.00 p.m.

Tues, Mar. 31, 6.30 p.m.

MELBOURNE  
Wed. April 1, 7.30 p.m.

## WHAT'S ON

SUN. APRIL 5, 7.00 p.m.

Fri. APRIL 14, 2.00 p.m.

Tues. APRIL 17, 7.30 p.m.

## How to contact the International Socialists

**BATTLER EDITORIAL**  
P.O. Box 46, Flemington, Vic 3031 376 3307

**MELBOURNE**  
P.O. Box 1165, Melbourne, 3001 61 2056

**SYDNEY**  
111 Emond Rd. Newtown 2042 51 3665

## SOCIALISM AND HOMOSEXUALITY CONFERENCE

All socialists who support gay liberation are welcome to attend our conference on April 24. Registration is \$7 for food and \$4 for the conference. Write to P.O. Box 19, Carlton South, 3053 by April 15.

**RALLY** in support of the struggle in **EL SAVADOR** Melbourne City Centre, 3rd April, 4-6 p.m.

**WOMEN AND TRADE UNIONS** Collective meeting Sunday 12 April, 10.30 a.m., Women's House, 135 Romain St., West Melbourne

**Victorian Labour College SEMINAR ON AFGHANISTAN**

Trades Hall Council, Sunday, 5 April, 9am - 5pm, 475 St. Marks St.

## I WANT TO JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone no: \_\_\_\_\_







# Quiet Women Fight Back

**TATYANA MAMONOVA** is one of the group of women who last year produced the first ever opposition document about women in the Soviet Union. She has since been forced to leave the Soviet Union, but she is still an active feminist and socialist.

**MAGGIE McANDREW** interviewed her in Britain.

I came to the dissent movement through my work as an artist. I had some work accepted by Soviet Official publications. Then I developed in new directions and they refused to publish my work. So I joined a group of non-conformist artists — mainly men. I soon realised that although they may be non-conformist in their art, they were totally conformist in their attitude towards women. My feminist feelings were strengthened in 1975 with the birth of my son in the appalling conditions of a Soviet Maternity ward.

In spite of the fact that the Soviet State gives such prestige to motherhood, conditions for pregnant women and women in labour in maternity wards are inhuman and degrading.

When my son was born I was in hospital for 20 days with no possibility of taking a shower or a bath. There were 10 women in the delivery room and you could hear everyone else screaming and weeping.

There was no anaesthetic offered. I begged for one. But they refused saying they had to make cuts. (There is underinvestment in certain parts of the economy in order to pay for military investments.)

I offered to pay, but they said no, that the supply was limited. This experience is very important in my

we are told we have a classless society. In fact, words have been given by dissent meetings. The bourgeoisie has been replaced by a privileged class — a 'Party-secrey'.

Supporters are concerned with maintaining a status quo that will keep their own privileges intact.

Initially, the dissent movement called in 'emotional' because we discussed our feelings, and 'immoral' because we discussed abortion, sexually and childbirth. However, when the *Almanach* was translated and published in Paris last year, as feminists we got a lot of publicity in the west.

This made the dissidents more



**TWO faces of Soviet women. Top left, a woman at market in Kazan. Bottom right, a marriage ceremony. Mamonova paints a grim picture of what may await the young bride if she has children.**

personal development as a feminist. It was then I decided that a women's journal, a forum for all women, was important. It is difficult for me to say how many women were involved in forming the views put forward, because of the need for us to be secretive and compartmental. Because we published illegally, in samizdat, it is impossible to know the circulation of our publication.

I see myself as being very socialist. The other group of Soviet feminists are not exactly right wing, but are connected with the resurgence of interest in the Orthodox Church. Religion is very fashionable now. It is an easy way of displaying opposition to the regime.

There is a generation gap in the Soviet Union. Because of Stalinism we have lost a lot of our own history, especially as women. Feminism seems to have a new meaning in the USSR. But in fact it is not.

Before the revolution there were two strands of feminism — bourgeois feminist and proletarian feminist. There were many interesting discussions and experiments in the 1920s.

I would have been a revolutionary had I been in that era. But now I consider myself not a Marxist but a socialist. In pre-revolutionary society people spoke of a class struggle. Today

not to publish a secret edition but we did. After that I was forced to leave the country.

The support of western feminists has been very important to us. It is an enormous support. I think it is very important for us to bring more working class women into the dissent feminist movement.

Working women have the dual burden of a hard day's work in the factory and the total responsibility for tired to tired of politics or discuss their position. We must find ways of changing working women's consciousness.

**WITH AVOIDANCE** of the word 'Solidarity' in the title of their new book, the authors of *Poland's Workers Need a Political Perspective* are not publishing a secret edition but we did. After that I was forced to leave the country.

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# Poland's Workers Need a Political Perspective

## Solidarity's no longer enough



**LECH WALSA** leads steelworkers during the four-hour national strike. But the indefinite national strike planned for the next week never happened — and once again Wales led the retreat.

**LOOKED AS though the final** had come. Both the Polish government and Solidarity refused to back down: an indefinite national strike seemed inevitable.

Lech Walesa, Solidarity's leader, (whose leadership had been widely shaken) did what everyone expected him to do: pushed through a compromise, a call for the strike. No invasion. No occupation. An immediate hold-down was postponed.

Walesa had already done this before, the regime's effect is to make the opposition feel that the strike would be a waste of time. On March 27, a four-day strike was called, but it was not a general strike. It was a warning strike, and it set up 'committees' into Rural Solidarity and class Solidarity primers.

Even Walesa had to admit that he was only 70 percent satisfied with that. In return, Solidarity agreed to halt actions which 'could cause tension'.

What is desperately needed in Poland is a national political party, using the most militant and conscientious workers. And it must be a party armed with a revolutionary perspective, aiming at the seizure of state power.

**WAS REAGAN REALLY SHOT?**

NONE of the video footage actually shows Ronald Reagan being hit by that bullet. Some press reports say he didn't know he'd been shot when he got to hospital. And his recovery was remarkably quick for a man of seventy.

Is it possible that Reagan was never really shot at all? That when he was being whisked away, he decided to fake an injury and cash in on some easy martyrdom?

Of course, it would mean getting to the doctors and the nurses. And perhaps they did. Reagan's daughter proudly proclaimed he was a good Republican. The doctors were 'good Republicans'.

No, we're not going pushing that forward as a serious theory. What is sorts of reactionary forces will try to extract from the incident.

Already, Washington has become an armed camp. Every police force and security agency will be putting in special orders for a bigger budget. And submissions for a huge Reagan's anyone who dares to oppose Reagan's get howled down.

And the liberal establishment is also identifying its target. They think they've just been handed a golden opportunity to do something about the proliferation of handguns. Ronald Reagan, number one opponent of gun control, shot by a crack.

It may be come as a surprise to the Americans, but despite the right wing militancy roaming the United States and the rightwing politics of this would-be assassin, the American revolutionary movement is not dead.

If they doubt it regulations would be enforced effectively in society at large, but they are sure that they would be used against any left wing or labour organisation which felt the need to do this.

For the record, we want to take this opportunity to make it clear that much as we despise Reagan we don't think individual assassination is the way to

**Not an Afghan rebels are reactionary**

The information has come to light about left wing elements among the Afghan rebels.

Reports in the New York based *International Press Review* that there are major elements among the rebel groups operating in Afghanistan, Pakistan, and those based in Iran.

These elements are said to be operating in the resistance by western powers is being channelled to these groups, and some people who want to see the monarchy, and some who are said to be provided.

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# Evolution

There are gaps in the fossil record and "missing links" continue to be missing. But there is an enormous body of scientific evidence supporting the continuing evolution. Such gaps don't disprove it, they merely pose questions as to how, not whether, evolution occurred.

But in any case, Darwin's theory wasn't developed primarily to explain the fossil record, or the origin of life. It is not about the scientific differences between species and their similarities.

The vast number of different animals and plants on the earth show relationships which allow their classification into natural groupings. For instance, every body knows that tuxedo has six legs. But they also have a number of other characteristics in common so that if you discovered a new insect, I could predict all sorts of things about it.

Darwin suggested that these relationships between a wide variety of organisms are the result of a common ancestor.

# Monkey Trials Again!

Creatonism, addressed recently exclusively to the differences, but not to the similarities, between species and their similarities.

The trial which was recently staged in California was the first of its kind since the 1920s. Darwin's theory of evolution was condemned when it leads to conclusions that are especially hated out in the world.

For instance, I can't prove that the sun will come tomorrow, but we all live as though it will. Those who go on mountain peaks to work the end of the world are invariably proved wrong.

Creatonism does not lead to any conclusions, but it does lead to a practice. It is merely a theological explanation.



# Maybe Next Time

"FRAN is single and turning 30 . . . she is torn between her need for security and her desire for independence."

So says the advertising blurb for a new Australian film, "Maybe This Time."

But if the makers believe this is what the film portrays, they're sadly mistaken. Nothing of the torment and self-searching I expected to see came across. Instead, I saw the story of a woman looking for a man to provide security, a hedge-against a world of unbridled economic uncertainty, a lot of trans-conversations on leading numbers, and a few throw-away references to the most turbulent period of recent Australian political history — the Kerr-coup of 1975.

### Job

Fran, played adequately by Judy Morris, is a research assistant to a university. Through you wouldn't know unless she said so. Her job looks much more like that of a secretary, punching holes in a cardboard and photocopying documents for her boss (Mike Preston, making his two and smoothing his ruffled feathers).

Work appears to be something she does between men, irrelevant to her life except as a source of money of which she has plenty. The seeds of a good story are there. The problem faced by women of her age and situation is all traced at her boss's aid.

She suffers slighter in silence, she's lectured and used by one lover but leaves him without leaving any of the underlying issues, she's courted by an old boyfriend (Ken Shortall) who, in her hour, sees Country Party because I live in the country.

### political

Her political disagreement with him means nothing — moments later she agrees to go away with him for a few days.

She meets a travelling salesman (Chris Hayward) in a motel restaurant, and spends a pleasant evening talking to him. When he tries to get her into her room against her will, her lecherous response is, "Why can't we just talk." No mark of satisfied anger does she show.

One after another, golden opportunities to explore the unusual and smouldering relationships she gets entangled in, and the social reasons behind their failures, are missed.

The political aspect is hopelessly inadequate. Why the film is set in 1975 is a mystery. Aside from three short scenes involving a



FRAN with the Minister supposedly ousted by the Kerr coup — confusing age with captulation.

mentions that "they're going to stop supply and I think we'll lose." Later, we see him being interviewed on television on election night, when he's lost the seat he held for 20 years.

No mention is made of the reason for the election, and the only comment from the audience except from Fran's boss, and later her lover.

### personal

He remarks, "Well, that's the end of politics. There'll be no revolution now. It's time to get into our own personal lives."

No suggestion of the anger or dismay of his left or right? Every Swiss child learns about William Tell in the kindergarten. He was the senior founding father of the Swiss Confederation, the George Washington of Switzerland.

He was also, in the terms of the BBC, ITV and Fleet Street, a direct actionist, indeed a terrorist. His most famous exploit was his killing, or "brutal murder" as they say, of the tyrant Gessler, and later of a goodly number of Gessler's hired troopers.

Gessler, reader may recall, was the half-brother of Secretary of State for Northern Switzerland, William Tell, by the Austrian feudal lord Albrecht von Habspurg.

Her descent on a pure one. And just to make sure we're not left with the impression that she's showing a glimmer of independence, she's advised, her "strong" Italian with a couple of tourists.

# Tell the terrorist we missed the Marx

There were riots in Zurich, the Swiss Confederation, the George Washington of Switzerland, last

By Duncan Hallas

These rebels, we are told, believe in the idea of direct action which is quite incompatible with democracy as the Swiss (and of course the British) know. It is that right? Every Swiss child learns about William Tell in the kindergarten. He was the senior founding father of the Swiss Confederation, the George Washington of Switzerland.

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### LET'S FACE IT, J.R.'s a bastard.

Our objection to the terrorist method rests on different grounds altogether. We believe as Marxists have always believed from Marx's own time onwards, that one aim of workers' power can only be achieved by the mass action of working people themselves and not through the heroic substitution of individual or small groups using bombs or poisons for the working class.

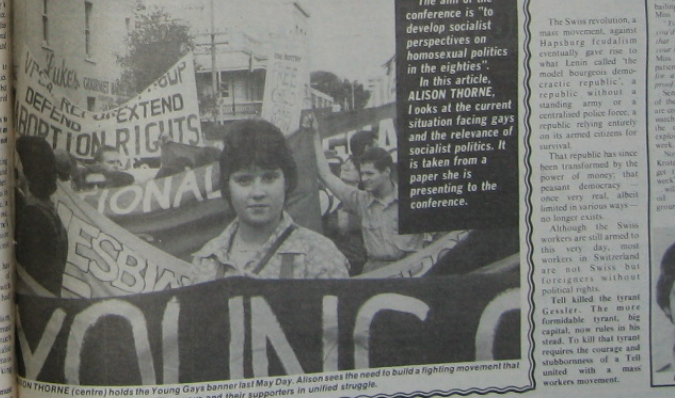
Not the point of this story is to illustrate the absurdity of contrasting "democracy" with "direct action" (whether violent or not). The fact that there never has been and never will be any direct democracy without the direct action of the mass of the people.

# BREAKING OUT OF THE GLEET

OVER the weekend of the 25th-26th April, gays and lesbians from all over Australia will meet in Melbourne for the "Socialism and Homosexuality" Conference.

The aim of the conference is "to develop socialist perspectives on homosexual politics in the eighties".

In this article, ALISON THORNE looks at the current situation facing gays and the relevance of socialist politics. It is taken from a paper she is presenting to the conference.



ALISON THORNE (centre) holds the Young Gays banner last May Day. Alison sees the need to build a fighting movement that mobilises gays and their supporters in unified struggle.

## Frazor gangs hits Immigration

If you want to bring your parents from overseas to live with you in NSW, you've got no chance in the foreseeable future.

If you have applied for Australian citizenship papers to wait eight months.

If you are a new migrant with problems and need social worker, don't bother coming to the Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs.

Seven staff shortages have crippled many of the public services offered to migrants and prospective migrants. The understaffing has also made each day a headache for the few remaining clerks and direct assistance in the department.

### anxious

A large proportion of each worksite is taken up with answering complaints and discussing with them an anxious public.

We are sick of taking the blame for slow processing. It's the government's responsibility and staff shortages which is responsible for all the delays.

One branch of our department, Settlement Services, is down to twenty staff members - and we don't look like getting one from the Department of Immigration clerks have decided not to take the blame for slow processing.

The Department of Immigration clerks have decided not to take the blame for slow processing. The Department of Immigration clerks have decided not to take the blame for slow processing.

From now on all complaining clients will be told about the government's staff cutting policy and directed to complain to members of parliament.

### razor

A press release will be issued to all media and concerned organisations (in ethnic groups) explaining the razor guard attacks and how the VPSA Reform movement is fighting the migrant problem.

All unfiled positions are now clearly demarcated and fenced. All unfiled positions are now clearly demarcated and fenced.

No parliamentary representation will be given. This is only the beginning but the clerks are solid and determined to win the staff necessary to provide a real service to the public and make working conditions tolerable.

WHEN I'M DOING THE WORK OF THREE !!



HEY, WHY CAN'T YOU PUT SOMEBODY ELSE ON THE 'THIS STUFF'?



WHAT... AND USE YOU?

# Delegate rescued at Bondi!

**WORKERS in the Department of Social Services in NSW have secured a small but important victory against the government's current work/union bash in the Public Service.**

Management intimately attempted to victimise the ACOA delegate at Bondi office, but backed down when union members passed motions of support and threatened industrial action.

The rep, David Mann, explained. "I was so starved of victimisation. I've known as an active rep for 10 years. I've never had a chance to defend our interests."

"I only had four weeks of victimisation. I've never had a chance to defend our interests."

# VPSA Reform Group under attack again

**MOVES are again afoot in the Victorian Public Service Association (VPSA) to discipline the militant rank and file group, the VPSA Reform Group.**

The move came out of the latest Reform Group campaign against the public service bashing exercise by the incumbent Economic Development Minister, Ian Cain.

The Reform Group (RG) reported its campaign. We put the VPSA executive to shame. We spent \$20 for 2000 letters. They spent \$5000 on useless newspaper adverts asking for \$1000 to

# STANDING FIRM IN TAX

**When the meeting started at lunch-time O'Sullivan and two other bosses tried to stop the meeting and prevent people from attending.**

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# WOMEN WORKERS STOP THE SEQUEL

**THE SOUTH East Queensland Electricity Board (SEGBE) have had their fingers burnt again. This time the issue is safety.**

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## Write to the Battler: P.O. Box 46 Flemington, Vic 3031

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# INTERNATIONAL

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### What We Stand For

**Workers' Power**

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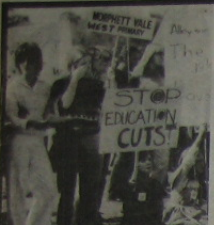
**Workers' Power**

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**Workers' Power**

**Workers' Power**



**SOUTH AUSTRALIAN teachers held their first strike ever on March 27. And another, bigger strike is planned.**

They stopped work to support school assistants, who are under threat of a forced reduction in hours. The reduction would mean a salary cut.

Teachers would also address the number of school vacancies for every five teachers is not sufficient to cover the need.

It is estimated that 300 measure up to the requisitioning of the Karmel report ten years ago, which called for vacancies for every five teachers.

The case would make heavier loads for teachers. This threat comes on top of a whole series of defeats and frustrations for teachers over the past few years.

And if assistants get the same, teachers could be even

ally outside union headquarters.

The strike was held jointly with school assistants in the Public Service Association, who are now conducting a call of their members out for the next strike on April 10.

The Local Trades and Labour Council also offered its support, saying that it is working class children who are most affected by cuts in government schools.

Parent bodies are also supporting the action. The parent representative stated that a day's disruption in schools is nothing compared to the continual disruption caused by the Liberal government.

**By Clare McCarthy SAIT**

# the battler

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

## NO END IN SIGHT TO SCHOOL STRIFE

**MORE strikes, and longer strikes, are on the cards in Victorian schools.**

Despite the threat of repeated stoppages, Education Minister **Hunt** has not budged. As we go to press he is still refusing to drop charges against union members.

And it appears that the top union leadership is becoming dimly aware that rank and file militants were right to call for indefinite strike action at the recent mass meeting.

The dispute began on March 17, when 30 teachers at Keatna High School were charged with 'failing to provide the general welfare of their

## TESS Lee ACK moves the Teacher Solidarity motion at the VSTA mass meeting on April 1.



people transferred, accused the executive of a sell-out.

And unrest among rank and file teachers has led to the formation of the new Teacher Solidarity group, the most effective rank and file opposition to the history of the union.

Teacher Solidarity succeeded in getting a special general meeting called to give some purpose to union campaigns. And when the teachers stand down lock place, the group will lead action.

We won the support of several replies for an indefinite strike. And we put forward a detailed plan for how the strike could be won.

We called for pickets outside schools, and for visits to factories and other throughout Victoria to build support.

Successful for these proposals was an obviously growing. This year the Commission put the Teacher Solidarity motion at the top of its agenda when thousands of teachers gathered to discuss action on April 1.

The sound of the meeting was superb. There was little hesitancy and a lot of serious discussion. There was no wild cheering for any point in view, but every speaker was listened to carefully.

Teachers are not with us that the strike on the right to strike is a threat to the existence of their union.

Lee ACK moved the Teacher Solidarity motion.

majority

But a majority of teachers bought it. The Teacher Solidarity proposal was defeated by a vote of about two to one.

The meeting revealed the strength of the new rank and file group. It has tapped a great wave of unrest among the membership. The rank and file strike tactic has a long and dark history in the VSTA. Its main effect is to defuse militancy and spread demoralization.

**more kick to the brew**

**BRISBANE** workers are leading down the boatmen to help the unions to win over.

A joint stop action between the boatmen and brewery workers, C&F workers, and the long 3000, the most noticeable one to become countrywide.

The 35 hour work week has been enough, but now the 35 hour work week is being introduced to the road for the solidarily with the Brisbane. During the 35 hour work week, Brisbane workers are working under the 35 hour work week.

All that has been done is owned by two or three interests. It's not the workers in Queensland who would support this kind of counterpoint. In fact, it's the same struggle for the 35 hour work week.

After the 1978 strike in the Red Cross, the Labor Council passed a resolution to support the 35 hour work week. It was collected in many in Brisbane.

Two places that are known as the "Red Cross", the Labor Council, the Labor Union (LTLU), and the Labor Union (LTLU).

The workers have been working on a 35 hour work week since the 1978 strike. The workers have been working on a 35 hour work week since the 1978 strike.

The workers have been working on a 35 hour work week since the 1978 strike. The workers have been working on a 35 hour work week since the 1978 strike.

**By Mark Matcoil, VSTA**

**faster than a speeding bullet!**

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PRISONERS F.R.E.

**mountain blacked!**

The Black Mountain tower in Canberra is an impressive building — hundreds of feet of concrete and covered with radar antennas and tracking dishes.

It's even got a revolving restaurant half way up.

But security workers at the tower have been impressed with it and its manager's advice.

They were employed by Group 1 Advancing Services (MSS) offered a \$25,000 contract until April 1. But Metropolitan Services (MSS) offered a \$25,000 contract until April 1.

So the next three years of work will be done. No prizes for guessing who was to get the money — the workers.

There was to be one less worker wages were to be cut \$9 a week, and rotating shifts were to be dropped. They were 'invited' to resign to other positions.

MSS were told where to put their 'and other' jobs. The company has since begun to use the same rank and file labour in the tower. Police are being sent to break picket lines to let the scabs in to work.

On the scab front, forty fifteen cops entered the park to drive into the tower in the MSB garage. The cars were led by the police.

Bruce Shane in his army red 1800 Falcon.

The pickets have been effective though. The unions involved in the tower have blacked out non-unionized elevator workers refused to enter the picket lines here the other day.

It is a great effort by the tower workers and families maintaining a 24 hour picket for three weeks. But the numbers have dropped. They were told they expected victory very soon, as functions was inevitable.

**fox victory shows how ...**

**By John Minns**

The Fox example and exert intolerable pressure' on the Fox workers have won an immediate 37½ hour week a thirty-six hour week by September and a thirty-five hour week by 5 January 1982.

And just to twist the knife, the workers will be going back with a 4½ pay increase.

The Fox management have urged the NSW government signed a 'save no money' in the use of Sections 72C and 18 of the Metal Industry Award.

The 23 sections of the company used to deny services continuity and pay families maintaining a 24 hour picket for any day on which any

# the battler

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

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No. 108 May 2, 1981 20 cents

## Fox victory shows how ...

**the dominoes**

**By Phil Peters**

**THE DOMINOES** are starting to fall. That's what Australian Society of Engineers Rudi Paul, described the magnificent thirty-five hour week victory by workers at Fox Manufacturing at Smithfield, Sydney.

The dominoes are every factory, workshop and office in Australia.

The Fox workers have won despite the combined opposition of their own bosses, the Metal Trades Union, Association, and the Frater government.

Fox's new Industrial Relations Minister, Ian Viner, voiced grave concern but had he would not intervene because the company had 'faced intolerable union pressure'.

We just hope that more workers will be inspired by

## RSL bans right to march

SIXTY-FOUR arrests followed an attempt by 300 women to march in Canberra on Anzac Day in memory of women raped in war.

Anzac Day now "belongs" to those glorifiers of war, the RSL.

The day before the march the ACT traffic ordinance was violated to give the RSL power to tell the police who could or could not take part in the march.

Many people turned out to defend the women's right to march. Unfortunately, the organisers didn't allow

those people to join the march, preferring 'identification party' that included the police. In some cases, the police were used to prevent the march.

The RSL certainly don't like women protesting against the horrors of war and the consequences of the arms race.

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**36 HOURS MEANS MORE TIME FOR REST, MORE TIME FOR RECREATION, MORE TIME TO GLOAT!**

**Bobby Sands, MP**

Will his death cause Ireland to explode?

For background to the hunger strike, see p.5

**continued page 2**

Continued from page 1

# Meta bosses out-FOXed

**THE PRESS** reported the Fox settlement as a compromise, with the workers trading off increased productivity for shorter hours.

Fox tried that the company would like to see absenteeism cut and productivity increased. In the agreement, there is a provision for working parties of management and workers to be set up to increase productivity. But it is practice that will mean very little. The introduction of shorter hours will happen whether or not productivity is increased.

The result is an almost unqualified victory for the Fox workers — and for every union in Australia.

## support

Not only did the Fox workers, with the support of the thousands who contributed to the strike fund, break through on shorter hours. They have also won the right to return to the two-point system of the Metal Trades Industry Award sections 24 and 4.

## Wharfies support Sands

## BRISBANE wharfies

have shown the way forward to win the demands of Irish Republican prisoners in Northern Ireland. At the first job meeting held in a campaign to build working class solidarity for Bobby Sands, a motion was passed calling for a 24 hours stoppage on the wharves before Sands dies.

Meetings with rank and file unionists which are being organised by the Brisbane Branch of the British Trade Union Committee, have voted to support the Irish wharfies by taking action and giving financial contribution.

## campaign

what is really needed is a national campaign. We can achieve this by organising with rank and file unions throughout Australia.

A stoppage on the wharves would be the ultimatum which the wharfies demand, and not pressure on Thatcher to break down. It is the campaign in Ireland and internationally that has the potential to smash that imperialist.

Despite Britain's ailing economy, it is still a major trading nation. Any ban on its trade would undoubtedly have an effect. It is the kind of solidarity action we urgently need to build.

By Neil Boland and Sean Curley



FOX WORKERS picketed the plant 24 hours a day for eleven weeks until the bosses caved in.

# SA TEACHERS DEFEND

SEVEN thousand teachers, parents and school assistants thronged the streets of Adelaide on April 10.

"It's the biggest thing since Vietnam" said one chatty radio station. "And it's the same people" came the smart reply.

Not true. They were primary teachers with next, secondary, teachers of all ages, parents, kids to pushers — a true cross section of

those affected by the threat to reallocate school assistants. The Federal Theatre was packed with people and

hundreds who endorsed the continuation of the right of school assistants and the quality of education, by all means available, including further industrial action.



TEN THOUSAND teachers and parents rally against education cuts in Adelaide's biggest demonstration since Vietnam.

# Stop work against teacher shortage

IN TECHNICAL schools right around Victoria, Education Department policies have caused a massive teacher shortage.

At Bell Park Tech, for instance, they're on for the year in an effort to cope

with the shortage. Physical Education teachers are taking maths. Careers education, migrant education, remedial English and maths are things of the past. There aren't enough teachers. At a ITU stoppage meeting on April 26, motions were passed in support of negotiations over

# Public health services under the knife

ZERO GROWTH policies in health care are causing a dramatic deterioration in public health services around the country. Staff and patients alike at Victoria Hospital near Brisbane have already had to

Last month a special meeting of HEE members was called to discuss increasing staff shortages. Many at the meeting raised various problems in wards and units. These ranged from wards being left unattended to the ageing problem of nursing staff turning off their feet — often with non-nursing duties.

At the meeting a motion for a general stoppage work was carried almost unanimously. However, when the Division of Psychiatric Services in the Health Department got wind of it, they moved to stave off

the next stoppage by drawing up a list of staff, including medical staff, to be exempt from the proposed conditions.

If further action is decided upon, ban on medical stoppage will undoubtedly be a major administrative and political headache.

# Short cuts kill

FOUR DEATHS have occurred after spine heart surgery in Sydney's most famous heart surgery hospital, the Royal Prince Alfred (RPAH).

There are another patients in a dangerous condition known as haemorrhage in the Royal Prince Alfred. They are being treated in intensive care, in the hope that the blood will be pumped into the heart.

The only way to stop this was a ban on the Industrial Court which, in hearing the case would be a "fair employer". But in order to settle the dispute completely, it is essential to represent the interests of the union.

At the opening of the hearing, the Industrial Arbitration Commission criticised with teachers and school assistants holding placards as the three biggest causes their faces dropped at this unexpected action and the offending banners had to be removed from proceedings, could continue.

When people are on strike, we have to keep one campaign with teachers, parents and the general public and plan for more than one. It is possible that school assistants could be "relocated" to other schools. However, we have to be ready.

by Claire McCarty, SAIP

# How do we do it? The liberal drift go?

IT'S NICE to see the Liberal Party tearing itself apart.

It is hard to think of a better pair of bastards to be "killed", "knived in the back" and "strangled" than Malcolm Fraser and Andrew Peacock. After all they have been doing it to us now for over five years.

But behind all the headlines has convulsed a more serious and far more to the point of the negotiation of Peacock and Fraser. They are engaged in a personal rivalry between them and Fraser.

Peacock is more of an improviser, particularly Melbourne based, manufacturing and financial capital than Fraser who has been

# RIGHT TO LIFE rallyers

gathered around their lastest picket (in front of the 'Save the Babies' banner) were uplifted by pro-abortion demonstrators in Melbourne's city square.



RIGHT TO LIFE rallyers gathered around their lastest picket (in front of the 'Save the Babies' banner) were uplifted by pro-abortion demonstrators in Melbourne's city square.

# The Right to Life creeps out

THE WEEKEND before Easter, the streets of Melbourne were polluted once again by the Right to Life.

All the previous week, a priest had fanned the city. On Sunday about 5,000 gathered in the Harry Gardens and later marched through the city. The police were on hand to see that the 1,000 people gathered from the May

# THIS ROUND TO THE VPSA REFORM GROUP

IAN SMITH started a campaign to do it in public servant. This was the VPSA. It was a victory for the VPSA. It was a victory for the VPSA. It was a victory for the VPSA.

take a rough stand (at least verbally) than Peacock on the Industrial Relations portfolio. A sign of the times is the decision by Viner and Fraser to maintain the Industrial Relations Bureau which Peacock had wanted to abolish.

Peacock represented the soft line approach to the unions — more interested in keeping on reasonable terms with the trade union bureaucracy and using Fraser for a tougher stand over questions like the 35 hour week and the threatened derogation of the BFL.

Under the first five years of Fraserism most of the cuts have come from Federal spending which the states have been allowed to go their own merry way.

Fraser and Howard want to force the states to cut back their public sector work force, and axe welfare spending.

# HELP CLOSES GAY AMENDMENTS

ON TUESDAY, April 7, George Peters, a Labor member of the NSW parliament, attempted to move amendments to the Crimes (sexual intercourse) Bill.

The present law provides for 7 years imprisonment for homosexual rape 14 years for intercourse between consenting adult males.

The amendments would have abolished all reference to 'buggery' in the present laws. It would have allowed sexual intercourse between homosexuals over 16 would have been legal.

On the day that the amendments were to be moved, the Festival of Light and a collection of what George Peters describes as "quasi-religious hangers" mounted a "pocket parliament" to oppose the amendment.

But at least 500 supporters of the amendment drowned out the bible burning outside the House of Representatives. The Labor Party Chairman of Committees in parliament with the certain approval of the NSW parliament to do it was not relevant to the bill.

By James Stone

THE GULF between big M and small I Liberalism was even in evidence at the South Pacific Forum in 1978

The new policy has obvious advantages to Fraser. It not only increases the power of the Federal government and affects political opposition in the cuts away from him towards the state governments.

But it's a policy that will be met by howls of outrage from the state premiers. Even that arch foe of enterprise support Bill Peacock will be able to pick up some sort of state rights Fraser wants to make a substantial reduction in both state and Federal government allocations to the states.

Fraser and Howard want to force the states to cut back their public sector work force, and axe welfare spending.

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# LABOUR BEFORE THE GREAT

It was a time of intensified class conflict and deepening class consciousness: it was a time of socialist euphoria, a time when socialists would seriously debate whether socialism would be achieved this year or next year.

## THE THIRTY YEAR period before the First World War was an intriguing and exciting era in the history of Australian socialism.

It was a time of intensified class conflict and deepening class consciousness: it was a time of socialist euphoria, a time when socialists would seriously debate whether socialism would be achieved this year or next year.

Neither the horrors of Stalinism nor the collapse of European social democracy in 1914 had yet occurred to dampen the confidence of Australian socialists in their ability to build a classless society.

But this does not mean they had an easy time of it. The strength of the socialist movement in this period was the result of the hard work of dedicated men and women, who faced harassment and persecution from employers and the State authorities.

A good example of such a person is Bob Winpear, who alerted the worthy citizens of Newcastle in March 1887 by commencing to produce a weekly socialist newspaper called the *Radical*.

This was Australia's first regularly-published socialist paper and it was the work of one man, his wife and father-in-law. The capitalist press was not amused.

In fact, the *Radical* was so effective



The New International

For this May Day, Verity Burgmann looks at the dawn of socialism in Australia

labour movement, the *solidarity of socialism* gathered every Sunday night and that the hall was always "packed to the doors with men and women of all shades of advanced opinion."

From 1891 to 1898, the ASI was active within the Labor Party, maintaining that it would become truly socialist and eventually force a majority in parliament to introduce socialism without a revolution.

Every Sunday night the ASI held debates at their headquarters at 533 George St, Sydney. Billy Hughes, a member of the ASI, was the first 1890s.

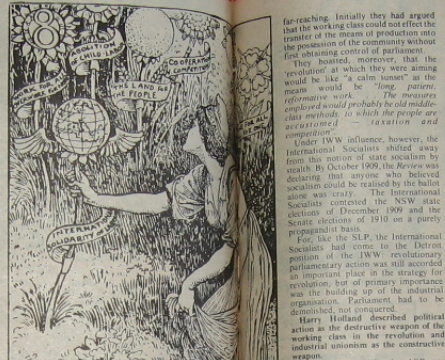
A change of vehicle was not contemplated, for it was only in the United States, was still convinced that the State would legislate socialism into existence.

A change of government would miraculously change the economic structure; workers "would be given collective ownership after they had led their vote wisely as a reward for intelligent behaviour." This emphasis on the power of the vote made the ASI neglect organisation at the workplace level, as they thought all workers need do was vote for the ASI.

In 1907, however, the ASI, now the Socialist Labor Party (SLP), dramatically changed its political line. It announced that the Industrial Workers of the World were right and that it was futile to expect socialism to be accomplished by political means alone.

It now argued that the ballot had to be backed up by the organized economic might of the working class as set forth in the 1903 Preamble of the IWW.

The SLP now rejected the Labor Party's parliamentary strategy outright, it called on the Australian working class to found a Labor Party and as it stood for, and recommended the



the police felt obliged to arrest as others in the Sydney Domain and on Melbourne's Yarra Bank.

One enthusiastic supporter had sold 108 in an hour, which obviously had to be stopped as far as the police were concerned. Anarchists also associated themselves with the ASI, and in September 1893 a Melbourne Anarchist was arrested in Bourke St while selling the *Radical*.

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far-reaching. Initially they had argued that the working class could not effect the means of production into the possession of the community without the aid of a "revolutionary movement" that they boasted would be "long, painful, reformative work." The measures employed would probably be old middle-class methods, to which the people are accustomed: taxation and

Under IWW influence, however, the International Socialist shifted away from the notion of state socialism by 1914. By October 1909, the Review was declaring that anyone who believed socialism could be realised by the ballot alone was crazy.

For like the SLP, the International Socialist, had come to the Detroit position of the IWW: revolutionary parliamentary action was still accorded an important place in the strategy for revolution, but of primary importance was the building up of the industrial organisation. Parliament had to be demolished, not conquered.

Harry Holland described political action as the destructive weapon of the working class in the revolution and industrial unionism as the constructive weapon.

As for the SLP, the ASP was worried about the revisionist trends in the Second International and regarded the IWW as a healthy counter-balance.

For the VSP, except for its first few years under Tom Mann's guidance, was definitely a reformist socialist organisation, not a revolutionary one.

The growth of the VSP was astronomical by Australian socialist standards: it reached a membership of 1,490 on its first anniversary in 1908. The IAWO, being just an organisation, a day of a wife.

Party enterprises included a general grocery store, a bakery and a bank. A Socialist Sunday School provided for the proper education of comrades; children and regular sporting fixtures and numerous social occasions, such as the Pleasant Sunday Afternoons. Key members constantly invited in Party-sympathisers.

The VSP deliberately aimed to make all sorts of conditions of socialism, radicals, and humanists feel welcome in its ranks. Tom Mann intended that a friendly approach to the Labor Party prevented VSP adherence to fundamental principles.

These close to Mann's position left in 1910 forming the Melbourne branch of the ASP, after observing that the VSP had become the IWW of the Labor Party.

ASP reformations. During the

ASP reformations. During the



Fortunately the ASP established a Brisbane branch, which led the struggle in 1913 when street marches were made illegal.

If Rick-Job has his antecedents, so do we.

Warr's stance was undistinguishable from that of the left of the Labor Party. It opposed conscription partly on war-supportive grounds, arguing it would lower efficiency and morale among the troops, and increase class antagonism.

The VSP's reformist "Win the War with Voluntary" approach contrasted with the revolutionary defeatism of the SLP and ASP.

Although these three organisations at the time, there were many other little groups and groupings that sprung up primarily of working-class people.

For example, there was the Barrier Socialist Propaganda Group at Broken Hill, which produced a very lively paper called the *Flower*, whose logo included the *Flower*, whose logo included the *Flower*.

It "reaches the Secret of Manhood" though a lead through *Man and Fire*. That *Men must follow Freedom*. And Brisbane had its Queensland Social Democratic Vanguard from 1904 until about 1910 when it had moved so close to the Labor Party that it disappeared. Its own reason to exist and subsequently collapsed.

'The working man has no country', said the authors of the Communist Manifesto, but the socialists of Europe have been indulging in a lot of revisionism lately.

British Labor Party, 'I'm blast if you're not a bigger



# Philips Workers On Strike

"WE HAVE to fight with what our's here. Yet when some big fat bastard in Parliament retires, he gets something like a quarter of a million dollars pay-out."

"And they tell us they need that because they can't get another job! What's our chances of getting another job if we have to leave here?"

That's Tony Grey, Philshing Trades Union shop steward at Philips Consumer products (Vic) speaking. And it was feeling like that that inspired a one week strike by the Philips workers - which they won.

The strike involved the workers in Philips television factories - who make the cases for TV sets and stereos. The company wanted to transfer 21 workers from cabinets to other areas. The workers rejected the transfers and told the company that if they wanted to move them, they'd have to pay independence money. "Why wouldn't they accept transfers? I'm Grey again. If they go to work in another area they have to go to a different union. It's a different boss. When they started the contract to work in the cabinet factories - no one there. Some of them went to four months - up to \$25 if they accept there. Philips workers have a very clear idea why they won't do as one of them said: "It's like a strong union and a strong promoter. We have been leaving from every one, instead for the picket duty."



150 UNEMPLOYED and their supporters marched on the CES and Philip Lynch's office in Frankston last Friday.

Our photo shows the rally just before the march began. The CES manager was unamused as he filled his office to gaze at the 30 jobs going for 2500 unemployed in the area.

The CES manager was unamused as he filled his office to gaze at the 30 jobs going for 2500 unemployed in the area. Local groups came from as far afield as St. Kilda, breaking down the divisions that have plagued unemployed organizing until now. The mood could have been more militant, however. The CYSS workers who organised the Frankston rally were determined to keep it passive and apolitical. They deliberately told young

unemployed people not to chant militant slogans, such as "Put Fraser on the Dole", and they restricted the march to the foothills. This seems to be a pattern, judging by a similar rally in Glenroy before Easter. After being entertained by jugglers and singers, the crowd had to listen to endless speeches by politicians calling for a vote for the ALP.

Jim Cairns said he never thought he would see the day when there would be 6 percent unemployment and no revolution in Australia. Jim told us it was, but fair, because we were too apathetic. Crueses are fun, but without a militant fightback the unemployed will be the losers again.

# Write to The Battler: P.O. Box 46 Flemington, Vic 3031

# Shuttle Host for Pentagon

EXACTLY 30 years after the first space flight by the Russian, Yuri Gagarin, the first space shuttle took

MIKE SIMMONS reaches the potential and the pitfalls of the first space shuttle.

THE shuttle overtook the atmosphere at 100 miles per hour, and then glided into space. The shuttle is a marvel of modern engineering. It is a powerful jet airplane that can fly at 10,000 miles per hour. It is a rocket that can fly at 10,000 miles per hour. It is a rocket that can fly at 10,000 miles per hour.

The military will gain more from the shuttle over the long run. It is a powerful jet airplane that can fly at 10,000 miles per hour. It is a rocket that can fly at 10,000 miles per hour. It is a rocket that can fly at 10,000 miles per hour.



COLUMBIA'S 6.4 million lbs. of flaming thrust made a mess of its Cape Canaveral launch pad... as well as the space research budget. But who

shuttle is non-military and non-political. It is a powerful jet airplane that can fly at 10,000 miles per hour. It is a rocket that can fly at 10,000 miles per hour. It is a rocket that can fly at 10,000 miles per hour.

By David Rosen, ABC

# QUEENSLAND NURSES IN RANK AND FILE BREAKAWAY

A BREAKAWAY union has been formed to represent Queensland's 20,000 general nurses.

The split follows years of frustration for rank and file nurses by the main stronghold on the Royal Australian Nurses Federation (RANF). The actual split followed dramatic events at the last quarterly general meeting, 300 nurses turned out to one of the largest meetings in recent history.

About half the meeting had come to first out by the Industrial Advocate had been sacked by the right wing Branch Council. The sacking was followed by a vote to increase backdated to May last year.

The unions' faction are conservative lackeys for the State health department and the Private Hospitals Association. These bodies want nurses kept in their place and their organization weak. A division at the start of the meeting was lost by 15 votes. The right wing then invited two lawyers to give an extremely boring speech for over an hour on the then illegal status of the union.

By John Quinn, ex-RANF Branch Councillor

# GARBOS STAND FIRM

WINDY gatherings of the Garbos Stand Firm Committee, Melbourne, conducted off the picket line at the RANF.

Members and supporters of the International Socialist League for three days of discussion and decision-making. At the end of an amazing amount had been accomplished.

How to contact the International Socialists. Members and supporters of the International Socialist League for three days of discussion and decision-making.

Full Equality and Liberation. For women, blacks, gays, and oppressed groups. The International Socialist League for three days of discussion and decision-making.

Revolutionary Party. To smash the capitalist state, we need a revolutionary party, organized and built to win work places. Without a revolutionary party, we are doomed.

Rank and File Work. Organise your own rank and file work. To smash the capitalist state, we need a revolutionary party, organized and built to win work places.

WHAT'S ON. Brisbane Sun, May 10, 6.30 pm. Public Meeting on India. Speaker: Paul Griffiths. 663A Stanley St, Woodroffe.

Melbourne Tues, May 5, 7.30 pm. Public Meeting on India. Speaker: David Lockwood. Speaker: 338 Flinders St, Eastwood.

Sun, May 24, 6.30 pm. Public Meeting on Hungary. 1966. Speaker: Bob Bowden. Address as above.

Wed, May 6. Public Meeting on the Fight for Defence and the Union for Nationality. Ring 381 586 for details.



# Brisbane setback to 35 hour fight

BRISBANE metalworkers have voted 799 to 101 to accept an ACTU recommendation to suspend the 35 hour week campaign if the metal bosses are prepared to talk. For few workers from the metal shops working the one day fortnight, this is a real blow.

It's been longing up to 570 a fortnight since the day of March. One worker told The Battler: "We've shown that we're prepared

to fight by sleeping on complete overtime here at some of the metallurgy. Now we've come along here, only to cap this."

The employers in the metal industry are on the offensive. They have been granted a 40% wage 9 day fortnight and the introduction of part time work for male employees by the Arbitration court.

Over time has instead of the official eight hour limit. The recommendation by the officials, however, does not back up the lead.

The employers in the metal industry are on the offensive. They have been granted a 40% wage 9 day fortnight and the introduction of part time work for male employees by the Arbitration court.

# TEACHERS ... WE AXE POSE

By Tess Lee Ack, VSTA



PETER VAUGHAN,  
VSTA President.

## the battler

### Put Black Mountain under seige

**THE LAST Battler** issue reported on the picketing of Canberra's Black Mountain Tower by ex-security guards. Their new contractor, MSS, gave them the full treatment in interviews. They asked them about their linings and fingerprints them all. Then they offered them a wage cut in return for continuing employment. When the workers picketed the tower, MSS used scab labour with cop protection. As a result there's a TLC black ban on tower maintenance and services. This all happened over a month ago. Today the workers, their families and supporters are still picketing. As one said to 15 members, "We're here till the scabs go and until we win!" They've shown great solidarity in keeping a 24 hour picket up. Now they're

**THE IMMEDIATE threat to the jobs of 29 teachers at Kealba High School (Vic) has been staved off — for a price.**

The teachers were charged by the Teachers Tribunal as a result of a half day strike over conditions.

At a state-wide stopwork meeting on April 1, Victorian Secondary Teachers' Association (VSTA) members voted to take extensive strike action in defence of the Kealba teachers.

A number of branches and regions felt this "burden of four" was too heavy, given that the members' wives had been flagrantly ignored already. Those meetings now appear to be justified. The charges have not been dropped. The Tribunal simply adjourned without considering them, on the basis that there had been a significant improvement in industrial relations.

Specifically, the deal means that the union has made concessions to fight in the form of an undertaking to give 24 hours notice of strike (which implies that the Kealba members were wrong not to do so — even though they were following union policy at the time).

Also, a ban has been put on any school-based strike action until the end of May. This is to be reviewed on conditions and staffing.

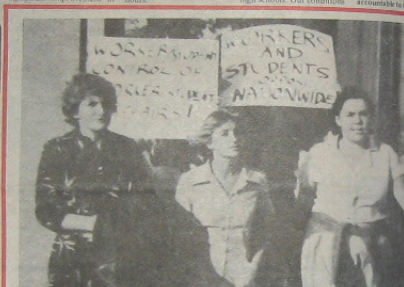
Hunt must be chaffing with this. He had placed strike bans on seven schools, but now he's got the union to put one on all of us. The negotiations will be meaningless, since he has already said there can be no question of reducing teaching hours or class sizes. In fact, he says that we're going to have to face reality and increase our working hours.

Because the charges have only been suspended, he continues to hold them over our heads if the negotiations don't proceed to his liking. In a further attempt to stop teachers taking action, Hunt and the VSTA have established a Grievance Committee to settle local disputes.

The union calls this a victory. They also call 5100 fines imposed on stacks of 18 teachers at Preston Girls High School a victory (after all, they could have been fined \$200).

We're all going to be given (with VSTA's help) an part of a recruitment drive part form — perhaps they should invest some of the money in a dictionary. This "it could have been worse" mistake is not going to win anything for teachers and students in Victorian high schools. Our conditions

are going worse and our school probably won't be in a better state. The union is not taking any action. The union is not taking any action. The union is not taking any action.



UNIVERSITY Cafeteria workers and students march on Nationwide who are catering to their own pockets.

## Serping up bull on campus

MELBOURNE UNI cafeteria workers are standing firm in their fight to defend jobs and conditions.

On April 22 workers and students marched down to the offices of Nationwide, the catering firm which the Uni administration has invited onto campus.

The protest frightened Nationwide into arranging meetings with workers and students. At the meeting with the workers, Nationwide reps promised there would be no change in conditions, no pay cuts or sackings, and all transfers would be voluntary.

Workers and ITU organizer, Dennis Evans, challenged them to put all this in writing. They refused to guarantee that workers transferring out of Nationwide would be no change in conditions, no pay cuts or sackings, and all transfers would be voluntary.

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# CUT — MORE the battler

## FRASER'S RAZOR



PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

Registered at GPO Melbourne and Revenues South VIC for printing as a publication G.O. No. 109 18 May, 1981 20 cents

**FRASER'S RAZOR** Gang Report was only the first round of the cuts. In the next few weeks we will see round two when the State forces start taking the knife to their work places and to health and social welfare spending. — In a few short months we will have round three — the second Razor Gang Report — and that will mean more sackings, more handovers of profitable government enterprises to Fraser's wealthy friends and more savage maulings of vital public services.

from the public sector unions. But by early next year, the international recession will be sending the economy into reverse and the bosses will be demanding more sacrifices from Australian workers. That's why it is important that there is a militant rank and file response to the present cuts. Either we fight the thin edge of Fraser's wedge now or fight on much more unfavourable ground next year.



The first stage of the Razor Gang report has cost us 17,000 jobs, a major increase in health charges and introduction of university fees. Everybody will now be forced into more health funds and have to fork out an extra \$7 a week for the privilege of being sick. There has been widespread anger over the cuts strikes by workers at the Bendigo Ordnance Factory, at the Government Clothing Factory and by Australia Post's mail van drivers. Australia wide mass student demonstrations, and a violent reception for Fraser when he had the gall to turn up at Sydney's Macquarie University to speak to the wealthy Independent Schools Association.

But we need more than anger and outrage to deal with Fraser's cuts and those about to come from the State premiers. We need a militant campaign of co-ordinated strike action.

So far the trade union and ALP leaders have done nothing to build back a campaign. There has been a

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**faster than a speeding bullet!**

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**PRISONERS FREE.**

**French elections**

**Is Mitterrand's win a victory for the left?**

**— see p 5**

**MORE ON THE CUTS**

**p 2-3**

resisting the razor ... resisting the razor ... resisting the razor ... resisting the razor ...

# A KNUFE HITS EDUCATION

**JUST** as it took the Fraser government five steps to get rid of all the gains of Medibank, it seems that a similar step-by-step process is being used to cut back access for further education.

TEAS guidelines are to be tightened up even further. Even now only 8% of students get the full rate (less than the dole). But since the Razor Gang, the fact relationships no longer make you eligible for independent rate, and you're meant to make your parents support you until you're 25.

Finally, as a cynical cover for the pathetic level of even the full TEAS rate, the Razor Gang suggests a loans scheme. Given the level of unemployment, the only people likely to take out one of these loans would be those with guaranteed jobs at the end of their course (ie a handful) or those with security in the form of rich families.

From I.S. students across Australia.

## QUEENSLAND

**IN** Brisbane, a meeting called for a 24 hour strike ...  
... and a city rally on the South-East Queensland Tertiary institutions.

## MELBOURNE

**IN** The biggest demonstration and march in Melbourne for years, 8,000 students and workers rallied in protest at the Razor Gang's attacks.

Organised by the Australian Union of Students ... The march marked the beginning of a \$100,000 campaign by A.U.S. against the attacks of the Razor Gang ...

Students who had gathered in the City Square at 3pm were by a march of students and workers from Melbourne, Uni and RMIT ...

# Students surround Fraser's car, while the man himself ...



Students at Macquarie University in Sydney surround Fraser's car, while the man himself ...

# SYDNEY STUDENTS GIVE FRASER A WARM RECEPTION

**FRASER'S** after-dinner speech to the Independent Schools' Association of Sydney's Macquarie University gave 600 students and public servants the chance to let him know what we think of the cuts.

Students from all the Sydney universities and colleges were there, despite the short notice and the cuts being announced at the beginning of university holidays.

Fraser's car was surrounded by a group of about 50 uniformed and Special Branch cops. He must have been feeling the pressure of public opinion when students jumped on the bonnet of his car, pressing home their point.

resisting the razor ... resisting the razor ... resisting the razor ... resisting the razor ...

JUST PRETEND WERE 5 GREAT CHEFS. YOU OF COURSE, WILL BE THE TURKEY!



George Slater, APTU Federal Secretary

# APTU drivers black government mail

**AUSTRALIA POSTS'** Victorian mail van drivers have announced that they are refusing to accept the cheque from the Razor Gang.

In an impressive display of rank-and-file organisation, Victoria's drivers went on a spontaneous strike within a couple of hours of the news coming through that they were in the front line.

Last Saturday, right-wing federal secretary George Slater of the Australia Postal and Telecommunications Union was officially told that 2,000 mostly male van drivers, job throughout the country could be handed over to private industry.

By linking them up to the industrial region in public service unions we can give Fraser more indignation.

# DOCTORS ARE LAUGHING ALL THE WAY TO THE BANK. SO ARE PRIVATE HOSPITAL PROPRIETORS AND HEALTH INSURANCE FUNDS.

**IT** will be the beneficiaries under the new health scheme — the Fraser government's fifth change in health funding since 1976, when they promised to retain Medibank.

**THE** working class is going to have to pay for the new health scheme, while Fraser's friends rake in the profits.

There are 3.5 million people without health insurance. About 4 million people with it.

Private hospitals have already started advertising campaigns. In Victoria, they are taking a walk out on 37 on 27 on 27 on 27.

But the test of us as a hospital as well as a repeat health hospital — and still afloat.

Within a few days of the announcement of the Federal health cuts, the news that we have shown will not be met in the next year.

THE BATTER 16 MAY 1981 PAGE 3

By Rae Norris and Janey Stone

# clothing workers fight sale plan

**YOU MIGHT** say "So what if Fraser government factories to privatise? Well, it is a blow" which is true but the 1,000 workers at the Government Clothing Factory of Coburg (Vic) know they will be off if their factory is sold.

So they stepped work for the morning on May 5, marched through Coburg and held a meeting with local residents at the football ground.

# organise

Mass meetings to organise this solidarity should be called now, so that other members understand the issues before matters reach crisis point.

# voted

The meeting quickly voted for an official motion that contractors replace any drivers the mail they carry will be declared black.

Melbourne students and campus workers protest against the education cuts.

# The victor ... neonic and reality

WHEN FRANCOIS MITTERRAND became France's new President, it was the first left electoral victory in that country for decades.

Since Charles DeGaulle came to power in a virtual coup d'etat in 1958, the right has invariably managed to scrape back at successive elections.

Now France has a President, who calls himself a socialist, and whose party favours the nationalisation of banks, insurance companies and nine major industrial groups.

What does the election signify mean? Unfortunately, not very much.

Much of the banking and insurance systems was already nationalised by DeGaulle. The big industrial group already have done so to the left.

Mitterrand supports the NATO alliance and France's nuclear arm program. His advisers are drawn from the same National School of Administration as those students have hailed France since the war.

And Mitterrand has already said that if in the parliamentary elections will soon be called, the right wing gets a majority, he will simply form a right wing government.

To depart from a moralist hood, French workers have gained little from the election.

A COUPLE of issues ago, I defended science and Darwinism from the attacks of religious obscurantism. This week I want to show that science is nonetheless political, not a neutral, mystic realm.

In 1815 a lamp was invented in England, which according to the textbooks greatly ameliorated the hardships that coal miners faced. The Davy lamp was "human, the grade of science, the triumph of humanity and the glory of the age in which we live."

But consider a few disconcerting facts. In the 18 years before the introduction of the lamp there were 25 explosions and 47 deaths in the coal

mining districts of Durham and Northumberland. In the 18 years after, there were 42 explosions and 538 deaths. (The number of workers remained about the same.)

The reason was that the lamp was available, mine could be built to an even greater depth than before.

The textbooks can handle this. The standard explanation becomes that the humanitarian scientific

invention was unfortunately exploited wrongly by the mine owners. The invention was good but it was used badly.

But in reality the issue is not one of use versus abuse. It is a question of class politics.

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children's holiday camps and the Communist mayor of Viro-en-Sure led a mob against an immigrant workers' hostel last Christmas Eve.

None of this prevented a vote in the presidential election. For all their attacks on Mitterrand's reform, the CP remains committed to the same parliamentary road that it did not take when Communist supporters drew the logical conclusion and voted Socialist.

A million people rejected Mitterrand and voted for the two candidates to the left of both CP and SP, the revolutionary Alette Laguelier, and Yvonne Boichardon of the far left United Socialist Party.

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## VS - sitting on the log

VICTORIA'S Irish teachers' union met in a General Assembly on claims of oppression.

The meeting was presided over by a petition by the rank and file Teacher Solidarity.

We should be aware of the fact that the rank and file of the union is not a monolithic block.

The union leadership opposed the log of the rank and file.

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# BOBBY SANDS 1954-1981

Bobby Sands was no socialist republican set on a suicidal mission.

He was a man who was not a socialist republican set on a suicidal mission.

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## THE LARK AND THE FREEDOM FIGHTER

from Writings from the H Blocks by Bobby Sands

"My grandfather once said that the imprisonment of the lark is a crime of the greatest cruelty because the lark is one of the greatest symbols of freedom and happiness. He often spoke of the spirit of the lark, relating the story of a man who was overheard and captured the bird of sunlight. He saved it and left it to rot in a dirty cage, but the bird still refused to yield.

The man who had committed the atrocity, as my grandfather called it, demanded that the lark should do as he wished. That was to sing her heart out, to comply with his wishes and change herself to suit his pleasure of benefit.

The lark refused and the man became angry and violent. He began to promise that he would eventually inevitably be received no result. So he took more drastic steps. He covered the cage with black cloth, deprived the bird of sunlight. He saved it and left it to rot in a dirty cage, but the bird still refused to yield.

The man murdered it. ... I asked my grandfather what happened to the man.

"Sod," he said, "one day he caught himself on one of his own traps and no one would assist him to get free. He grew weaker and weaker and finally toppled over dead. The birds came and expressed their revenge by picking the eyes out and the larks sang like they never sang before."

"Grandfather," I said, "could that man's name have been John Bull?"

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# The bulls behind the British bosses' bulges

Britain is in the midst of the biggest crisis since the Depression of the 1930s. Unemployment is skyrocketing, welfare spending is being drastically cut back, Thatcher's offensive against the working class continues apace. But meanwhile, the British ruling class is doing very nicely, thank you. As NIGEL HARRIS shows here, 'Britain Ltd' is still raking in the profits both at home and, increasingly, from abroad.

Over two and a half million men and women in Britain are unemployed today. The April Department of Employment figures show 2,517,958 people out of a job. That's 10.4% of the work force. Nearly one million jobs have disappeared since last April, and some economists say that there will be four million out of work in the late 1980s. The slide in manufacturing output looks like being worse than between 1929 and 1931 — a 14 per cent drop this time, against an 11 per cent fall then. Parts of the country are beginning to look like bomb disaster areas with gutted factories and 'For Sale' signs everywhere. Every one knows there is a crisis. They know that it is a severe crisis for workers. But is there a crisis for capitalists? Yes, you might say. For in 1980 there was a record number of bankruptcies — nearly 7,000 — 50% up on 1979. Business never

stops moaning, they say investment in manufacturing this year will be the lowest for seventeen years. They want their fuel bills cut, to pay no taxes (in fact, most big businesses already pay no taxes), to offload the cost of Social Security on to workers, to cut the rates and so on. They must be in severe pain to squeal so loudly. BUT wait a minute. The stock exchange has not collapsed as it ought to do if business was in deep trouble. Still big companies seem able to announce 'healthy profits'. In the first half of last year, profits increased 11% on 1979 and continued to do so through the year. The Financial Times does an annual survey of the profits of 227 large companies. If you look at the last one, you will see that there were some black spots (from the profit takers point of view). But what about Electronic, radio and TV, at 29% net return on capital

(and 33% in 1979)? Or 'leisure' (sports goods, grounds etc) at 23% (or food retailing at 22% (and 34% in 1979)? Brewers were a bit down at 17%, but newspapers and publishing — despite all the moans of the owners — managed a respectable 30%. And office equipment reached 25%. Then there's insurance. Brokers at 27% (and 42% in 1979). Not to mention the dazzling big trader who made a cool 97% (on top of the 4% they made in 1979). So the picture is rather mixed. In the case of shops and retail trade, their profits have been regularly three times the level of manufacturing all the way through the 1970s. THE retail trade, property, finance, oil and others are not at all on hard times. You can see that in the way the stock exchange puts different prices on things. Forty five property companies, employing fewer people than one



HOW THE other 2% live. These are the ruling class of Britain feeling the pinch of rising prices (they bring standards)



IT'S THE working class that suffers in a crisis. This family of seven lives in the van; in the foreground is their dining room/kitchen.

of the smaller bits of GKN, Kinnear companies was in metal, textiles and tobacco. In 1976, it was valued at \$5.5 billion. And you want to see how they are doing now? Look at the profits of the companies now moving out of manufacturing and into television franchises. One, GKN, in 1975 had 82% of its investment in Britain, in 1978, 61%, in 1979, 50%. On its 1979 profits of \$22 million (90% up on 1978) 44% came from overseas. One, senior GKN manager explained: 'The only thing holding me back from investing more abroad is that I can't sell my factories here'. 2. DUNLOPS has moved over half of its tyre making investment out of Britain. In 1979, 50% of its investment was overseas, and 97% of its operating profits (\$128 million) came from abroad. With shutdowns at Speke, cuts at Ford Dunlop and Inchinnan, the Tory government gave it \$12 million to help it 'modernise' — to sack more workers.

Because profits in some sectors have been flat in Britain for a number of years, many big companies have been expanding abroad as fast as they can. Look at these cases: 1. GKN in 1975 had 82% of its investment in Britain, in 1978, 61%, in 1979, 50%. On its 1979 profits of \$22 million (90% up on 1978) 44% came from overseas. One, senior GKN manager explained: 'The only thing holding me back from investing more abroad is that I can't sell my factories here'. 2. DUNLOPS has moved over half of its tyre making investment out of Britain. In 1979, 50% of its investment was overseas, and 97% of its operating profits (\$128 million) came from abroad. With shutdowns at Speke, cuts at Ford Dunlop and Inchinnan, the Tory government gave it \$12 million to help it 'modernise' — to sack more workers.

3. BARCOCK INTERNATIONAL made 59% of its expenditure in Britain in 1974, 30% in 1979. In 1974, 17% of its profits came from overseas, now the US alone provides 54% of its profits. 4. ICI had 60% of its production in Britain in 1979, but got 80% of its profits abroad. Its current plan is to put half of its production abroad. 5. THOMAS TILTING set up its profits from the quarter of its investment in Britain in 1975, now it is 62%. 7. BEECHAM in 1979 had profits of \$174 million, 62% of them from overseas.

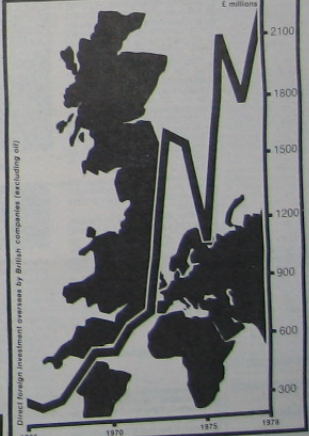
So do you see why the crisis looks a bit different from the boardroom. The growing misery of the unemployed on one side is matched on the other by the rapid scramble to richer profits in property, finance, commodity speculation or just making off to loot workers' stores.

That's why the employers, the CBI, at the same time as boasting about the destruction of British manufacturing also fight hard to keep open the gates. The Bultho

spend \$4,000 million on buying shares in foreign companies. The financial companies here aim to increase the share of their assets held in foreign stock from 20 to 50%. Pension Funds from Britain bought up \$500 million worth of commercial property — from a Boston skyscraper, a Washington hotel, to shopping centres in Florida. They were scrambling to get out of Britain as fast as they could.

Everything should be done to encourage overseas investment because it will give us a valuable source of income for future years against the time when revenue from the North Sea starts to decline. What business is this? Most people only get income from work, and no matter how high profits are, it doesn't affect them one bit unless there are jobs. British capitalists can have a bonanza — while the majority of workers are broke.

Some people will tell you: we must stop capital going after profits and keep it at home. If you can stop capital going after profits, you will not do that by exceeding the racketeers who run the government to control their greedy friends. They will not. The only way to stop capital to see it. You can start here and read with the factory down the road, but will ultimately only win in alliance with workers as ever before to class capital of the planet.



Source: Foreign Investment Overseas by British Companies (excluding oil)

The only way to stop capital is to seize it



# 90 — but not favourably

NINE TO FIVE takes as its starting point the oppression and exploitation of women office workers.

But it quickly slips away from being a film about class struggle in the office to become an amusing and inventive farce comedy.

The three heroines, on taking the beach place, abolish the time clock, abolish flexitime, a day care centre, job sharing, a pay rise and reinstated those sacked.

By Chris Rose

play

meets a personal attack at Frank's J. Hart, than at Jones in general.

Dolly Parton and Lily Tomlin gave high-powered performances while Jane Fonda remained disappointingly dry though the film is a very enjoyable piece of well produced reformism, largely because it's consistently funny, especially the play on words.

What they inappropriately swing is a productivity slogan.

The film shows a clear understanding of the problems women workers in office have to put with work, but it shows no understanding of how to fight back.

Nine to Five is a virtual catalogue of working women's issues - sexual harassment, no job advancement ("I have never got to the top and I have never got to the bottom"), lack of respect ("I can't see you get what I can see you get and I'm not your mistress. I'm your employer and I want to be treated with a little dignity and a little respect"), women's liberation ("Your leaving was the best thing that ever happened to me").

relate

women office workers can relate to the film. The film is a satirical comedy and it depicts how women actually feel doing boring office work and constantly being subjected to various forms of sexism.

It shows clearly that things could be different but it comes about through fantasy and benevolent dictatorship. It's a women's liberationist version of dozens of American dreams with a feminist face.

I thought the other workers became progressively less credible through the film. You get to know that the three you got to know earned the right not to be called 'girl' again but for the rest it was going to be another round of ignorance and submission.

The boss was depicted as a really sexist, hypocritical, hypocritical bigot but it was

smashed

Governments not open to US investment and control are smashed. Thus the CIA helps the foundation for US imperialism and US exploitation. Its arsenal of techniques includes bribery, fear and terror,



OFFICE workers Lily Tomlin, Dolly Parton and Jane Fonda celebrate their victory over their 'sexist, egotistical, hypocritical' boss.

## The selling of the system

ALL KNOW about selling goods to the consumers.

What? Of course you can't sell me a car if I don't need it. But you can't sell me a car if I don't have the money to buy it. And on the other hand, if I don't have the money, you can't sell me a car if I don't have the money to buy it. And on the other hand, if I don't have the money, you can't sell me a car if I don't have the money to buy it.

But it's not only consumers that are being sold to. It's the workers. It's the workers who are being sold to. It's the workers who are being sold to. It's the workers who are being sold to.

### IS IT not almost heart-breaking to see the multitude of social clinics, each at the throat of the other? One wonders where the hell the working class are getting to?

This sad remark appeared in a Sydney socialist newspaper in 1918.

It would probably give the feelings of any people today. It would probably give the feelings of any people today. It would probably give the feelings of any people today.

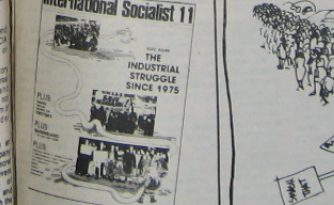
The Russian Revolution was a great event in the history of the world. It was a great event in the history of the world. It was a great event in the history of the world.

### exotic

Helms finally admitted that the CIA had a long list of dirty tricks. Helms finally admitted that the CIA had a long list of dirty tricks. Helms finally admitted that the CIA had a long list of dirty tricks.

They were also responsible for the covers-ups that kept the CIA out of the public eye until the 1975 Congressional investigation. They were also responsible for the covers-ups that kept the CIA out of the public eye until the 1975 Congressional investigation.

## Out Now!



Available for \$2 from I.S. branches. Or write to GPO Box 1473N, Melbourne.

right, this guy says we look and we're doing it for Australia.

Never do any of these public spirited bosses mention the fact that they're making, or how they get them — by exploiting workers.

"Besides the products the advertisers are trying to sell, they're selling the system and the consumer ideology that it promotes. They want to sell you a new car. They're selling you a new car. They're selling you a new car.

But it's not only consumers that are being sold to. It's the workers. It's the workers who are being sold to. It's the workers who are being sold to.

But the underlying message here and in the defense ad in general is that we've got to defend Australia, that is that we've got to be prepared for war. It's a message that's been brought up in the ad spots on TV.

by Rae Norris

## Tom O'Lincoln examines the reasons for the lack of unity of the Left

to build a newspaper which rank and file workers can actually make use of in their struggles. To form a united campaign with these workers of the left we must advance us in that task all.

Nevertheless, it is true that there are many serious people on the left who believe in the need for unity. The left is a revolutionary force, a force for workers' democracy, international socialism.

Even taken all together, the left is small and isolated. How can we break out of that isolation, and win all the militant workers to our side? It is a difficult task. Options differ greatly, even among those of good will. And there is only one way to find out who is right: the test of time.

Each line must be tested. And, unfortunately, we must do so in one group, we would spend all our time arguing over strategy, rather than trying to do it.

There is no reason, of course, why all the left wing groups can't cooperate at times. And we do. The movement against the Vietnam War, the fight against uranium mining last year's anti-fraser demonstrations — in these situations everybody on the left joined in the strikes and mass demonstrations.

## Just Arrived!

Southern Africa After Zimbabwe! by Alex Callinicos. Available for \$15.95 plus postage. Write to: 115 Main Street, New York, NY 10038.

Don't let me see you sitting at a table, political fragment of one! And don't let me see you sitting at a table, political fragment of one!

Perhaps the first step towards left wing unity might be for you to come out of your group and join us. Perhaps just self-imposed isolation and the lack of unity.

THE BATTLER 16 MAY 1981 PAGE 9

## An enjoyable piece of well produced reformism

# THE COMPANY THEY KEEP



EDWARD KORRY, US Ambassador to Chile, 1967 to 1971.

## Rowan McKeon reviews "On Company Business"

character became and assassination, use of the press to influence public opinion, union infiltration and the training of right wing unionists in clandestine techniques in the US under the cover of the American Institute for Free Labour Development.

Zaire's president Mobutu had his rival Patrice Lumumba killed in 1965 after the CIA told him that Lumumba was a threat. Now Mobutu is among the wealthiest people in the world and his government is one of the cruellest and most corrupt.

For the other side, a number past and present directors and apologists for the CIA were interviewed. Like Richard Helms, CIA director from 1966 to 1974, who was shown up by the Congressional investigation committee of 1975 to have covered up a plot to assassinate Castro using a hypodermic containing "black lead".

The film establishes links between every post-war president and Truman to Carter. It is clear that they all knew about and were ultimately responsible for CIA activities.

They were also responsible for the covers-ups that kept the CIA out of the public eye until the 1975 Congressional investigation. The CIA even conducted the investigation committee, and during its hearings were still operating as usual in 1975.

Questions are asked about the film about how the CIA might be controlled or supervised in the future. This is the most unsatisfactory part of the film because the CIA is a multi-national organisation, like it is in the US. The CIA is a multi-national organisation, like it is in the US.

While the US exists as an imperialist power, the CIA will continue to be a powerful organisation designed to protect the interests of the CIA and organisations like the CIA. The CIA will only come to an end if imperialism and the system of imperialism are destroyed.

While the US exists as an imperialist power, the CIA will continue to be a powerful organisation designed to protect the interests of the CIA and organisations like the CIA. The CIA will only come to an end if imperialism and the system of imperialism are destroyed.

# Wridgways can't fire us out

TWU MEMBERS at Asant-Wridgways in Brisbane back at work after 12 days out the gate and a couple Commission hearings.

## By Ian Rintoul

The strike began when an owner-driver was sacked after having his licence for driving under the influence.

Although the company had struck similar deals before, management refused to allow Harry to employ a driver for his own use. He got the licence back, nor would they employ Harry on the spot.

Wridgways would dearly like to get rid of Harry. They want to make room for another contractor.

He is also one of the owners' men who has stuck with other owners in the fight against Wridgways. This has made Wridgways a strong yard.

The drivers maintained a picket around the clock. They also made a flyer to explain the details. Harry also made a flyer for the Tramper workers. Union leaders agreed for them to accept Harry for a month. Harry was employed by Harry for a month. His books were then to be evaluated to decide whether the arrangement would continue.

"I've known what the probable outcome would be," one of the drivers said. "Wridgways would make me Harry. Harry couldn't afford it. We have always stuck to each other here and we're so damn generous of Harry's job."

# Write to The Battler: P.O. Box 64 Flemington, Vic 3031

## Poland ... coming to the party

Dear Battlers,

I'm taking here about using state power.

Unfortunately, the Polish bureaucracy does have a huge reserve of power. Poland is called the Roman army. The Polish labor movement would raise a Russian banner and it would really were 20 million revolutionary workers who are the main force of the Polish revolutionary movement.

It's the split between Wlasiak and KOR over the national general strike must be seen as a function of the absence of any other workers solidarity in the Polish country.

Dear Battlers,

to a great extent to provide some defence to the Polish workers. This means we take years. It's a realistic one or that length of time. KOR are trying to do that. But we don't want to take state, state would ever.

Whoever one thinks of the strategic and tactical decisions made by Wlasiak, KOR, or the Solidary national commission, some of which may be mistaken, we should however one thinks of the probability of KOR's success in maintaining the present "total power" situation for a long time I think it's very unlikely. We should understand that the problem is a subjective and not one of a failure of leadership.

The split between Wlasiak and KOR over the national general strike must be seen as a function of the absence of any other workers solidarity in the Polish country.

Dear Battlers,

the price to find her as an owner of magazines and the "New" movement. The price is to involve the personal "virgidity" of Angel who has already come to terms with the fact that "New" is in a long time of degeneration.

If it is my view that Poland's deteriorating class structure shows that Harry (who is not used for portraits of strong independent opinion) then he would every track of the Korean, Chinese, and Japanese music to be any not says that they are necessarily subordinate, but that their work and heavy care made much suffering and struggle.

Whoever one thinks of the strategic and tactical decisions made by Wlasiak, KOR, or the Solidary national commission, some of which may be mistaken, we should however one thinks of the probability of KOR's success in maintaining the present "total power" situation for a long time I think it's very unlikely. We should understand that the problem is a subjective and not one of a failure of leadership.

The split between Wlasiak and KOR over the national general strike must be seen as a function of the absence of any other workers solidarity in the Polish country.

Dear Battlers,

WIDGWAYS workers on the picket line. They stayed out for 12 days to fight a sacking.

## Militants stop right turn on the buses

QLD action by militants at Light St bus depot in Brisbane recently prevented moves by a coalition of their unions to take the union out of the Trades and Labour Council and the 35 hour week strike.

Some militants at the depot were also collecting signatures on a petition to call a special general meeting of the union to consider these proposals would be put.

## Serfdom is not dead

WE OFTEN hear of companies which employ workers who have recently migrated to Australia, and which take advantage of this fact to avoid payment of award wages, sick pay, overtime, bonuses, etc.

Migrant workers in this situation are often not aware of their rights, and even if they are, are not in a position to enforce them.

Recently their backs home have been made stronger by the fact that the industrial, where they are being in transit, is being to migrate to and work in the West. These developments in Australia, and it arranges their work permits.

The action officials (most of whom speak only English) are not enthusiastic about arguing in the huge number of small clothing plants which set up in target, the backs of shops, and this factories where many of the workers don't speak English.

The AFL's official view is that it is not serious that the employers have made the last mass meeting which has been held for 48 hours.

This means that the public had no warning that the AFL's official view is that it is not serious that the employers have made the last mass meeting which has been held for 48 hours.

The AFL's official view is that it is not serious that the employers have made the last mass meeting which has been held for 48 hours.

The AFL's official view is that it is not serious that the employers have made the last mass meeting which has been held for 48 hours.



Dear Battlers,

David Lockwood's... The members of the... They were out for a pay rise of \$15 a week.

As one worker said, "What company doesn't have a strike?"

The members of the... They were out for a pay rise of \$15 a week.

An offer from Donson's... They were out for a pay rise of \$15 a week.

## TIME FOR ACTION ON 35

"FORGET about 35 hours — we still have to defend the 40 hour week."

The message John Halpenny (AMWSU Vic. State Secretary) brought to a poorly attended metalworkers' mass meeting in Melbourne at the end of April.

The reason for the meeting was the successful application by the metal trades employers in arbitration to have the forty hour week frozen as a minimum for two years; and to enable them to introduce a working day of anything up to ten hours.

This means that the bosses can now grant a nine day fortnight by having workers work longer hours for those nine days — and not paying them overtime.

There's no provision for national campaigns, we have a national scale, the metal workers' movement will have to wait for a change of...

## Sexist cinema

Dear Battlers,

Rae Norris talks of the sexism of the late eighties "Tee" was not by any means a new phenomenon.

## Safety first

Dear Battlers,

I'm impressed by Mace Ferguson's safety procedures at their December Road, Sunshine (Vic) plant.



A TRAM depot in down town Warsaw stands idle during the four hour general strike called by Solidarity on March 27

## Internationalism

A socialist revolution cannot survive in one country if it must guard against the possibility of being crushed by other countries or it will be defeated.

## Full Equality and Liberation

For women, blacks, migrants and other oppressed groups, racism is not just a social evil; it is a system of exploitation and oppression.

## Violent Lifers

To smother the capitalist system, we need a revolutionary party organized and built in the work place. Without a revolutionary party, we are doomed.

## Rank and File Organisation

Workers need their own Rank and File Organisation — a burning issue for all workers.

## International Socialists

THIS year's May Day march was the most victory in the history of the Branch of I.S.

## WHAT'S ON

Brisbane  
Sat. May 24, 6.30 pm  
Educational on Hungary, 1956.  
10.00 am  
865A Stanley St., Woolloongabba.

Sydney  
Sun. June 2, 7.30 pm  
British Troops Out Committee  
Public Meeting, Trades Hall.

Melbourne  
Sat. June 2, 7.30 pm  
Film 'Regulation on Death' on the struggle in Latin America, 1961-70.  
8.30 Flinders St.

Tues. June 9, 7.30 pm  
Public Meeting on the Nationwide struggle at Melbourne Uni.  
Speakers from the university.  
Address as above.

Sydney  
Sun. May 17, 7.30 pm  
11.00 am  
Educational on the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, 1968.  
11.00 am  
8.00 am  
Friends of the I.S. welcome.

SOMETHING HAPPENING WHERE YOU WORK? Write to The Battler

## WANT TO JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Union: \_\_\_\_\_  
Encl. and post to I.S. National Secretary.

# BRITISH TROOPS OUT OF IRELAND

the battle



**MARGARET THATCHER'S** Tory government still refuses to grant political status to Irish Republican prisoners in the H-Blocks of Long Kesh and in Armagh women's prison.

Thatcher refuses to recognise the obvious fact that the Republican freedom fighters are not just common criminals but men and women fighting for a political cause — the end of hundreds of years of British imperialism in Ireland.

Thatcher's murder of Irish Republican prisoners has been endorsed by the British Labour Party and its supposedly left wing leader Michael Foot. Days before Bobby Sands died, Foot sent his Northern Ireland spokesperson, Dan Connaughton to the bedside of a blind and dying man to thank him, by informing him that he had no support in the Parliamentary Labour party. The British Tory and Labour Party can only mean more deaths both in the prison cells and on the streets of Northern Ireland.

The hunger strikers are not about to give in. The deaths of Sands and Frankie Hughes will only

lead the streets from the march to the cemetery and allowed the coffin with its escort of seven masked and camouflaged IRA soldiers.

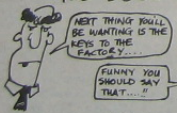
Immediately Bobby Sands and there were strikes at work places like the Royal Victoria Hospital, the De Lorean car plant and the docks. There was a massive shut down of industry for the National Day of Mourning on the day of Sands' funeral.

Defensive barricades have been set up in Belfast to keep the British army out of the Catholic areas but the strategy has been to avoid street fighting.

But fighting and violence will continue as long as British oppression refuses to grant national self-determination to the Irish people.

There is only one road ahead, to break the words which rang out at Bobby Sands' funeral from Owen Carron, Sarah Stothart (pigeon): "Today we pledge ourselves to drive the British out of Ireland for ever."

PUT THE **ARGUE** BACK INTO YOUR ARGUMENTS WITH THE BOSS:



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 City and post to PO Box 46, Hawthorne, VIC 3001.  
**PRISONERS FREE.**

## Liberal lampoon in the Garden State

AS THE Victorian Hamer government faces a crisis the only question is how long can it survive?

What lies behind the resignation of Ian Smith and the charges of incompetence against Hamer is a concerted campaign by big business in Victoria to change the whole direction of the government.

They have not sustained pressure on Hamer over the last year to adopt this course. But despite some window dressing such as Ian Smith's, new directions policy, Hamer has only moved cautiously.

The heads of the giant insurance companies, the AMP Society and the National Mutual, who are linked to other major manufacturers and financial institutions, have made their position clear. They have gone on an investment strike in Victoria, till they get their way.

What they want is the type of free-wheeling government typified by Betke-Pelencz or in an earlier era in Victoria by Henry Bolte. They want a government that smooths the way for big investment, that cracks down on the unions and environmentalists.

So now they are out to get rid of him. Now come the charges of incompetence which they never seemed to worry about too much in the past.

Even sections of the liberal wing of the Victorian establishment, such as the Age newspaper, have now turned against Hamer and this makes his downfall almost certain. His failure to stand up to Fraser and screw more money for Victoria, the way Betke did for

Queensland, and in particular his pinning off overseas at the crucial moment, has left them cold.

What big business in Victoria is out to do, in their usual democratic style, is to change government without actually bothering to hold an election.

For workers it can only mean a reversed effort on their wages and conditions. For even if Hamer survives, it will be only on the condition that he uses a more aggressive line.

The sacking of the Melbourne City Council and the ban on demos and leafletting in the Melbourne Mall (see back page story)

by Roddy Connolly.

# the battler

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

No. 110 30 May, 1981 20 cents

What Fraser really stands for:

# liberal junkets and blinded blacks



## Putting the screws on Qld. repression

**ARRESTS** at demonstrations in Queensland have taken a new turn after police action at the British Troops Out rally last Wednesday.

In what amounts to detention without trial, authorities have used the Queensland Bail Act to refuse bail to the two people arrested at the rally.

Two members of the International Socialists, Carole Ferrier and Ian Rindoul were arrested at a demonstration in Brisbane.

A packet was mounted outside the court, while both Carole and Ian made the point before the magistrate, before they were removed to the cells.

Some arrest charges to be dropped as for the deficit of the bail set.

All the charges which head in June 1980 now and then, as if having the major and parliament and organ union and job oriented demonstration in the bail set and held.

Message of support sent to: P.O. Box 325, Warrongah, Qld. 4107. Phone 91 056.

Carole Ferrier is dragged off by a cop wearing mock hood.

IF YOU ever had any doubts about the rotten stinking hypocrisy of the Fraser government, then just look at the events over last week.

This Liberal government which talks a lot of humbug about cutting costs is forking out \$120,000 to pay for world trips for MPs and their families to lead or deliver invitations to the Commonwealth Prime Ministers conference.

Now that same sum, \$120,000, is exactly the amount that the Aboriginal Health Service in Melbourne is in debt. A debt caused by cuts in Federal

funding which threaten to close it down.

The closure of the health service will mean an increase in the massively high infant mortality rate among blacks. It will mean more blacks going blind from trachoma.

Those are the priorities of Fraser government overseas junkets for Liberal MPs, death and blindness for black children, and blindness for black children.

Students show how to resist the razor — p.3

How Ireland was divided — p.5.

The paper that fights for workers' power

resisting the razor ... resisting the razor ...

resisting the razor ... resisting the razor ...

resisting the razor ... resisting the razor ...

resisting the razor ... resisting the razor ...

# WIVES BLACK HEALTH

**IN A BLATANTLY racist move, Fraser is handing the responsibility for Aboriginal health back to the states.**

This means arch-racists like Bjelke-Petersen, Court and Everingham will be given a free hand to return to the discriminatory policies of the 60s and earlier. And they'll put the blame on Fraser for not providing sufficient funds.

Fraser's making the employment of the 100,000 blacks a condition for the states to take over Aboriginal health. But they're under no obligation to keep the present services going. So of course they won't.

But the amount involved in doing so is minimal. For instance, the health programme, with 100,000 blacks, costs \$100 million, but according to its co-director, Dr. Fred Hollows, "over more than 100,000 Aborigines, I've never seen more than 100,000 people."

He says that the health programme, which is \$100 million a year, is being cut by 25 per cent. He says that the health programme, which is \$100 million a year, is being cut by 25 per cent.

Fraser's doing more than 100,000 blacks a condition for the states to take over Aboriginal health. But they're under no obligation to keep the present services going.

By Vicki Harris

And the infant mortality rate among blacks in Australia is one of the highest in the world.

Fraser's already begun to cut back on Aboriginal health. The Aboriginal Health Service in Brisbane, Melbourne, for instance, has been facing the sack for months.

Fraser's doing more than 100,000 blacks a condition for the states to take over Aboriginal health. But they're under no obligation to keep the present services going.

# REPEAT WORKERS SLAP ON BANKS

**ORDERLIES and hospital patients are being sent to work on the Greenpeace Reparation Hospital. The campaign for extra staff and against the workload.**

The campaign is beginning with the areas of cleaning and portering. The hospital administration used the opening of a major new wing to reorganise work in hospital in ways to their advantage. They thought we'd just cop it.

But we weren't prepared to hear the truth. The cleaners have hunted the washing of beds, pans and machines until a satisfactory workload has been determined.

The ANZ along with bank workers will be the losers. The ANZ along with bank workers will be the losers.

# WE SAY CUT BACK — WE SAY FIGHT BACK

**THEY SAY CUT BACK — WE SAY FIGHT BACK** was the militant cry as thousands of workers and staff stormed the foyer of the Australian Government Centre in Brisbane.

May 20, students and staff from eight South-East Queensland campuses took strike action to protest against the proposed merger of the City of Brisbane Council and the Queensland Government Centre in Brisbane.

Workers from the various public service departments, including the Queensland Police, the Queensland Fire Department, the Queensland Health Service, the Queensland Education Service, the Queensland Transport Service, the Queensland Water Supply, the Queensland Electricity, the Queensland Gas, the Queensland Post and Telegraph, the Queensland Railways, the Queensland Police, the Queensland Fire Department, the Queensland Health Service, the Queensland Education Service, the Queensland Transport Service, the Queensland Water Supply, the Queensland Electricity, the Queensland Gas, the Queensland Post and Telegraph, the Queensland Railways.

When refused access to politicians on the 14th floor, we occupied the foyer for an hour, chanting "One more cut — Fraser's throat" and "No more cuts — Fraser's throat" and "No more cuts — Fraser's throat".

Liberal MP David Jull, was greeted with a deluge of petrol and was then held to answer the accusation.

Fraser's cuts also affect the public service workers in the building (1700 jobs are to be axed by the Razor Gang), to delegation of staff and students were sent to the office upstairs to explain what we were doing and win their support.

Despite this, the military grew and troop pickets were formed to disrupt the few classes still going on.

Meetings of students at seven of eight campuses in South East Queensland had voted overwhelmingly to strike. At Griffith, both faculty and general staff were to go on strike.

response to the house requirements and more difficult to reproduce in a newspaper.

In Townsville 200 students chanting "Not one Fraser's throat" and "Fraser Fraser - Not Unions!" greeted Malcolm Fraser on his arrival in Townsville on Thursday May 21, to address a meeting of the Regional Division of Australia Conference.

Seven courtdes of pickets turned out to break up the 40 picketers at Queensland Uni and one of the most vocal was arrested.

The protest was organised by International Socialists and other left-wing students from ANU. It was called in response to the closure of a amalgamation of tertiary colleges, due to the Razor Gang cuts.

Other issues included the introduction of fees for post-graduate students and further limitations on eligibility for TEAS.

THIS WOMAN has trachoma. Fraser's health cuts will mean she and others like her won't get the treatment they need from racist state Governments.

# Less banks mean less jobs!

**THE DUST has settled on the bank mergers. After a desperate few weeks of frantic offers and counter offers, the Wates and the National Bank have won out. They will swallow the CBA and the CBC respectively.**

The ANZ along with bank workers will be the losers.

By Nicola Gatesby

Four thousand CBA workers, members of the Australian Bank Employees Union (ABEU), met in mass meetings a round Australia to oppose the merger.

All the meetings called on the ABEU to call mass stop work meetings to block an industrial action. They want the union to take action to ensure that their conditions aren't eroded and that no jobs are lost.

By Nicola Gatesby

By Nicola Gatesby

By Nicola Gatesby

By Nicola Gatesby

By Nicola Gatesby

By Nicola Gatesby

By Nicola Gatesby

By Nicola Gatesby

By Nicola Gatesby

BRISBANE STUDENTS occupy the foyer of the Australian Government Centre. Delegates from the Queensland Police and other public workers in the building most of whom applauded the students' aims.

# Public Service Unions Officials tak big but . . .

**PUBLIC SERVANTS** around Australia are beginning to fight back against the Razor Gang cuts.

But it's the rank and file of the ACOA and the IPA which is leading the fight, not the union leaders.

The officials of the two public service unions have refused to take any action until the rank and file of the unions has agreed to do so.

The officials have refused to take any action until the rank and file of the unions has agreed to do so.

By Nicola Gatesby

By Nicola Gatesby

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By Nicola Gatesby

By Nicola Gatesby

By Nicola Gatesby

By Nicola Gatesby

By Nicola Gatesby

# Socialist gays gather

**A SURPRISINGLY large turnout — 150 people — spent the Anzac Day weekend at the first Australian Socialist and Homosexuals Conference in Melbourne.**

Speakers covered such topics as how gays are oppressed under capitalism, whether gay movements should be a utopian or a realistic heterosexual group, mass work with gays and gay work in unions.

By Nicola Gatesby

By Nicola Gatesby

By Nicola Gatesby

WORKERS from the CBA in Melbourne demonstrate against the proposed merger with the ANZ.

A SECTION of the 3,000 strong student rally in Brisbane.

THE BATTLE 30 MAY 1981 PAGE 3

Uranium . . .

# "ACCIDENTS" DO

### TWO RECENT "accidents" prove once again that uranium and all radioactive materials can never be produced or transported safely.

The water supply of the **Charters Towers**, north Queensland, area was contaminated with radioactive water in February this year. . . . The concrete seal after its usual heavy rains in January. Water which seeped through the cracked blocks of Uranium, never reached the stratosphere.

## Black resistance in Redfern

### A LARGE group of Redfern blacks have struck back against continual police harassment.

In retaliation to a lot of police descending on EVELING Street, Redfern, at midnight on Wednesday 13 May, they defended themselves and drove the cops off. A number of cop cars were damaged in the process.

The cops went to the street of being the "Eveling Street" because of local businessmen. When they arrived they immediately suspected the blacks from

with "malicious injury to police vehicles" and with causing "serious offence". The other two were held under the Industrial Relations Act. . . . The fact that two of these people were arrested from their homes, and not on the street, gives you some idea of how readily the cops knock them out. . . . Harassment of this kind from the cops looking up shady ventures outside the borders of local businessmen. . . . By end of the night the cops had arrested 15 blacks and drove the cops off. Three have been charged.

By Rae Norris

discovered into Keelboat Creek, which runs into the Burdekin River which is used by the Charters Towers' water supply. . . . Radioactive levels in Keelboat Creek were 1200 times acceptable.

After a week of heavy rain the concrete seal which covers the uranium strip of the Keelboat Creek dam was cracked.

his committed in the area is not new to Redfern blacks. The Aboriginal Legal Service was set up in 1973 probably because of this problem. . . . Although the degree of harassment has varied since then, the underlying tension is still there. . . . A spokesman from the Aboriginal Legal Service explained some of the background to the local blacks in the last twelve months have made for Black House, Redfern, where this is not happening. . . . Aboriginal Housing Company own a group of buildings in an invasion of the area which takes on even more significance.

Most of the blacks in the area were unemployed and made. The Australian Government has been sometimes over the money to play Space Invaders — a beyond their grasp. . . . While employment continues to grow, while Fraser makes noises about throwing under the bus the Redfern black who holds the area safe for businessmen and property speculators, then the fight with the cops on 13 May is just the beginning of resistance in Redfern.

By Diane Fields  
black, known as penance, comes in the race. . . . "I've tried to wage a peaceful struggle. I've had to be so careful in what I say, and so careful not to get involved. . . . One of the things that has helped me is the support of the black community. . . . Because of the force, and the fact that you get under the skin, it's sometimes hard to see how you can win. . . .

"When they're the fuck they are, you get maximum frustration. There's no way out of it. . . . One of the things that has helped me is the support of the black community. . . . Because of the force, and the fact that you get under the skin, it's sometimes hard to see how you can win. . . .

ONE of the other major health problems is lung disease. . . . "I've only got to be in the shower room for a while and see that that people spit up out of their lungs. . . . One of the things that has helped me is the support of the black community. . . . Because of the force, and the fact that you get under the skin, it's sometimes hard to see how you can win. . . .

They were intended to divert attention from Israel's occupation of the West Bank, and to protect its interests in Lebanon. . . . The Syrian army, on April 28, occupied the West Bank. . . . In retaliation, the Syrian stationed some of its troops in Lebanon. . . . Obviously with an eye to the popularity polls, this produced a furious response from Begin. . . . On May 10, at an election night, his Likud coalition, he warned that the Syrians had better move the installation of the Israeli army into major conflict with the Syrians.

With Janey Stone  
moving called "I mean, I know you're a very good person, but I don't know how you can win. . . . One of the things that has helped me is the support of the black community. . . . Because of the force, and the fact that you get under the skin, it's sometimes hard to see how you can win. . . .

THE REAL question at Mt. St. is, as in all work, safety. . . . One of the things that has helped me is the support of the black community. . . . Because of the force, and the fact that you get under the skin, it's sometimes hard to see how you can win. . . .

## Warning of health hazard

MINING is no longer a safe job. . . . The fatal death statistics is once was. . . . Nonetheless, it is still an extremely hazardous occupation. . . . John Boyd, who was an underground miner for 25 years at Mt. Isa, talked to Body Politic about his experiences. . . . "I've seen this sort of thing time and time again with my own eyes. . . . One of the things that has helped me is the support of the black community. . . . Because of the force, and the fact that you get under the skin, it's sometimes hard to see how you can win. . . .

PAGE 4 THE BATTLE 30 MAY 1981

As hunger strikers' deaths continue we look at ...

# HOW RELATIONS

IN 1886 and 1893 Liberal Governments in Britain passed Bills for Home Rule in Ireland. . . . The House of Commons for the Tory-dominated cabinets were defeated in the Tory-dominated cabinets of Lords which, completely unperfected, were the rich and powerful, were completely vetoed over all legislation. . . . The Prime Minister of the time was Lord Salisbury. . . . He had a complete veto over all legislation. . . .

At the time of the second Home Rule Bill the present complex situation in Ireland was being created. . . . The Prime Minister of the time was Lord Salisbury. . . . He had a complete veto over all legislation. . . .

IRISH youths overturn a truck in Belfast after the death of the first hunger striker, Bobby Sands

## Begin plays brimsmanship

NOT CONTENT with stirring up a renewed war in Lebanon, Israel seems intent on bringing the whole Middle East to the brink of a purely for its own reasons of state.

By David Lockwood  
government has done its best to dispatch a special envoy to shuttle between Damascus, Beirut and Tel Aviv, trying to preserve the status quo. . . . The Syrian army, on April 28, occupied the West Bank. . . . In retaliation, the Syrian stationed some of its troops in Lebanon. . . . Obviously with an eye to the popularity polls, this produced a furious response from Begin. . . .

By David Lockwood  
The arguments used to smear the speaker was not heard were a sad patch of work of "no one" who charge anything even if they were to be a "peaceful solution". . . . It is clear that the Israeli government will be a "peaceful solution". . . . It is clear that the Israeli government will be a "peaceful solution". . . .

INTENTION  
The SYRIA however, had no intention of complying. . . . The SYRIA however, had no intention of complying. . . . The SYRIA however, had no intention of complying. . . .

# INDIA



Above: THIRTY-thousand workers are employed in building this dam on the River Krishna. Such projects are often staffed by local unemployed in exchange for food relief.

Below: THIS PALACE in Andhra Pradesh is now a private boarding school for the sons of India's wealthy elite.



IN THE city of Jodhpur there is a palace, built by the Maharajah. It is a very grand affair — with a huge dome and an underground swimming pool.

Facing hard times, the Maharajah opened up half of it as a luxury hotel. For those who see India as one sprawling mass of poverty, it will come as a surprise to learn that the majority of guests at this hotel are Indians. They are the immensely wealthy representatives of India's leading industrial families.

The Modi family, whose conglomerate company owns in the region of \$135 million worth of assets, the Nandas, whose engineering empire had \$200 million in sales last year, the Birlas whose assets were estimated at over \$100 million in 1978.

The cost of these people gives the lie to the idea that the situation in India is one of the whole nation being ground down by the West.

It is true that, due to the structure of the world economy, India is a backward country, with no real hope of any further development. But within that structure, there is a section of the population that is doing very nicely — the section that owns fifty-four percent of India's total company assets.

Meanwhile, on the other side of the country, Calcutta has a population of seven million. At least 30,000 of those people have no homes at all. They live, sleep, eat and die on the street.

It is that sort of contradiction that continually assaults the visitor to India. Between the rich in the luxury hotels and the desperately poor in the streets of Calcutta. Between the 14 million unemployed, for whom there is no dole, and the government's huge construction programme for the Asiad 82 games, on which it is squandering a cool \$38 million.

When India was granted independence from Britain in 1947, its ruling class had high hopes of building a self-reliant, industrial country. This

is clear from the tone of the book of the three Five-Year plans. The first plan was intended to accumulate the economic resources necessary to undertake such an industrial programme — which would have been the same sort of scale as that of the Stalin regime in the Soviet Union. They tried. The second Five-Year

plan failed. The Indian working class is to be expected in a population of six hundred million, is a very large indeed. It is an inescapable political fact that activity in this class is spreading. Simply looking at an Indian newspaper confirms this. The Times of India in two pages on February 24 this year reported: strikes by insurance workers, the Delhi Transport Corporation, junior doctors and other matters, a demonstration by state electricity workers, an announcement of

**"The Indian working class is in a state of seething agitation. But this agitation is slow, disparate and localised."**

in the late 1950s, led to a massive investment into the public sector, and a state-wide trade union movement. The investment had to be cut back.

With China, and their still not to mention domestic class struggle, India — due to the fact that to register a union, you only need seven members. In addition, there are at least eight separate national trade union federations.

The Indian railway strike in 1974 has the major exception to this dismal record. It was a strike by 1.7 million workers, spread out to cut across the different unions, competing considerations and the three languages that are spoken from one end of India to the other.

The only way that the government could win out was by repression — which it took up with a vengeance. Thirty thousand railway workers were arrested, and the strike was smashed.

From that point onwards, seriously weakening the trade union movement was one of the Gandhi government's major aims. It was one of the reasons for the 1975 Emergency.

Shortly after the railway strike the government imposed a wage freeze in the public and private sectors. When the Emergency itself was declared, the right to strike was suspended. In the first six months of the Emergency period, over half a million workers were either laid off or dismissed.

The workers' movement is not moved from the blows it received during the Emergency. Not even the opposition movement against Gandhi's Emergency in 1977 moved it to any significant extent.

India has a woman prime minister — but that shouldn't fool anyone into thinking that the position of women is from now on.

Two major religions — Hinduism and Islam — regard women as subservient. The idea of a woman over twenty years of age and unmarried, is totally alien to large sections of Indian society. And the idea of women taking political action is still nonexistent.

In the rural areas, it has been worse than that. In fact, the agrarian (or land reform) and a fair deal for agricultural workers. There are regular reports of women being beaten and raped for doing this. Reports of rape by the police are daily.



the police involved are ever prosecuted. Dowry deaths — the murder of wives by husbands after the dowry has been received — are still common. And there have been attempts to revive the cult of Sati — the practice of wives committing suicide on their husband's death.

But the situation is changing. Here's a report on Manushi, an Indian feminist magazine. It concerns the iron ore miners of Dalli-Rajhara (Madhya Pradesh), half of whom are women.

"On September 27, 1980, some overseers stopped a 14 year old female worker with the intention of raping her. A large number of workers men and women, gathered, gathered (surrounded) the overseers and demanded that they be arrested.

"Other overseers then broke into the armoury and started firing on the unarmed workers. One worker was killed and 35 injured."

Despite that, this was regarded by the workers as a victory, because they had prevented the rape. Some months later, the trade union organised a procession and mass meeting, which brought together 30,000 workers.

"Nearly half of the participants were women, many wearing their miners' helmets on their hair-covered heads. The slogan were: 'As long as human beings breathe, there will be a trumpet on the earth'; and 'Long live the Revolution!'"

In India, almost all political parties claim to be 'socialist' in one sense or another. The Congress Party itself claims to be laying the foundations of a 'socialist' society. In a country where there are so many poor, even the most reactionary forces must pay some attention — at least verbally.

**"India has a woman prime minister — but that shouldn't fool anyone into thinking that the position of women is a rosy one."**

The established left consists of the Communist Party. The largest of these is the Communist Party — Marxist-Leninist. Formed as a split-off from the original Communist Party in 1964, the CPM was based party on a more radical domestic policy than its parent and partly on the desire to remain independent in the dispute between Russia and China.

The Communist Party of India (CPI) is a mass party of the working class, which is certainly not afraid to mobilise in its own support. It is anti-Congress, but in a constantly attempts to build a 'broad' possible movement against the government — which means allying itself with all sorts of reactionary elements as it did in the 1977 movement against the Emergency.

The CPI controls the state governments of West Bengal and Kerala. This produces problems of its own. For one, the CPI governments cannot those legislative assemblies into existence in those states.

There is a bandit problem in the Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. The bandits prefer the bandits to the villagers, preferring to burn and so on. Recently, the bandits have taken to wearing police uniforms. From their reports coming out of the areas where they are attacked, the villagers have no idea whether their attackers are bandits or police, and their behaviour indicates one or another. In fact, some of the villagers prefer the bandits to the police, because they like them more.

"The bandits treat the police like human beings, while the police treat us like dogs."

In the last analysis, all the usual hopes and new economic programmes, and the world cannot lift the people of India, and of the underdeveloped world in general, out of the degradation, the primitiveness, the squalor in which their existence are so much less than their potential. Only revolution can do that.

Millions of dollars are spent every year on openly sold sex magazines. Playboy alone sells 174,200 copies per issue.

So pornography is big business, bought by Mr. Joe Average, not just produced for the dirty raucous teenage. It is a wild fantasy which feeds on constant dissatisfaction.

# Should they be ...

The readers are encouraged to visualize themselves as the wild ...

In a magazine which is ...

Such a woman ...

These highly ...

Our criticism of ...

answer

In the answer, then ...

and threaten the very fabric of society.

This is why Mary Whitehouse ...

The act of censorship ...

an obsession about sexually ...

We have to attack the ...

By Nicky Soltner

# REVOLUTION BLOODSHED?

**THE MEDIA** identify revolution with endless bloodshed. Red Republic with Red Terror, the overthrow of the established order with universal insecurity and fear.

The technique is probably as old as class rule. It is none the less effective for that. Most socialists react, quite

rightly, by pointing out that the terror dealt out in periods of great revolutionary upheaval is on a much lower scale than the humdrum toll of factory accidents and premature death that normal, peaceful run-of-the-mill capitalism churns out day by day, let alone the mass barbarism of periods of open counter-revolution.

The October revolution in Petrograd caused 11 deaths — fewer, it is said than the number

who died in accidents when Eisenstein made a film of the event ten years later.

The Paris Commune of 1871 was subject to vicious abuse, but in its last desperate days, 61 hostages were executed by revolutionaries; the counter-revolutionary army that conquered it received praise from the press of the whole of Europe as it murdered 20,000 or more communards.

Even the bloodiest event in the calendar of revolutionary terror, the September massacres of the great French revolution, only resulted in 1699 deaths — a figure surely less

than the number of Prussians who died as a consequence of nationalism whenever the time of the 'shot up'.

It was only then that terror spread upon the leaders of revolution by an elemental force from the bottom of society.

A band of two or three thousand 'sans culottes' terrorized the poor parts of Paris inside the prison and then another band the Royalists awaiting trial there before improvised but hardened revolutionaries.

Yet what is not often mentioned is that it was effective, that it safeguarded the revolution and ensured the eradication of bourgeois rule from all Europe.

Such examples are necessary to put the question of that into perspective.

The violence that is ascribed to the revolution of the majority of peoples against a ruling minority is that of a minority that seeks to end its undemocratic rule.

It is only these who are responsible for the preceding ruling classes, and those among the masses who begged justice supporting them.

It merely seeks to force upon the enemy a quantitative difference between revolutionary and counter-revolutionary violence that cannot be the operative matter in a social revolution. There has to be an element of surprise, there has to be an element of force. Indeed, the essential

The Battler features ... The Battler features ... The Battler features ... The Battler features ...

When I was in primary school, the Victorian Education Department were producing a primary reader.

My teacher was so enthusiastic about it that I found it so boring that I hid it under my desk.

By Mike Grewcock

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The Battler features ... The Battler features ... The Battler features ... The Battler features ...

Lawson during the late sixties and seventies was able to highlight and admire his nationalism.

Now show me a vision for the wrongs on earth a card.

By Mike Grewcock

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The Battler features ... The Battler features ... The Battler features ... The Battler features ...

For dole heads it better bleed Briar bleed and soe.

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COMMUNARDS after the Paris Commune. 20,000 were slaughtered.

# OUR KIND OF FOLK

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# BOB MARLEY 1945-1981



Babylon system is the vampire Sucking the children day by day Babylon system is the vampire Sucking the blood of the sufferers Building the church and university Deceiving the people continually Me say they graduating thieves And murderers. Look out now. Sucking the blood of the sufferers.







**the battler**  
PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

### Melbourne's administrators... Maul civil liberties

**THE NEW Melbourne city administrators got off to a flying start the other week. In a meeting that lasted all of twenty minutes, they zoomed through no less than forty decisions.**

One of these decisions was to declare the Bourke St mall a no-go area for demonstrations, the distribution of leaflets — in fact for any "activities that will attract large crowds".

The reason? Well, according to Peter Thorley, one of the administrators, "people have to have room to do their business".

In other words, nothing must be allowed to come between Melbourne's shoppers and the big retail stores in the Mall — Myers, Blockley, Coles and the rest. Demonstrations might get in the way. So

in office by the Hamer government after it had sacked Melbourne City Council.

We opposed that sacking because it was an obvious ploy to hand over the city to the big developers. But we wouldn't have any better lot under the old council — it was they who thought up these regulations.

The regulations are not the only ones restricting demonstrators in Melbourne. People speaking through a megaphone and selling the Bulletin in the Victoria Market have been threatened with arrest under Melbourne city laws. We've even been told that we aren't allowed to hold rallies in the City Square — although this move appears to have petered out (for the moment). If the new regulations are allowed to stand, then Bourke Street

will have gone from a place where a few hundred Socialists had gathered for a demonstration, to a place where demonstrators are forbidden to gather.

If it is not considered an outright assault on the right to peaceful protest, it is at least an attempt to interfere with the free speech and demonstration rights of Melbourne citizens.

by Chris [unclear]

## MELBOURNE FEARS ON THE SCRAP HEAP

By Ian Rintoul, AMIEU.

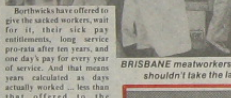
**BORTHWICKS** have thrown more than 600 meateworkers from their Moreton, Brisbane, shed onto the dole queue. Moreton, they've said, will not open this season.

There was however little sympathy for Borthwick's cries of "financial difficulties" at the mass meeting called to discuss the closure. "They can talk about 'financial trouble' Every man, woman and child at this meeting is a financial trouble," says the meateworker said. "We're talking about a multinational with five other sheds in Australia working. As far as I'm concerned they are alive and well and they can stick their redundancy offer where they like."



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**BRISBANE meateworkers picket live sheep exports in October 1976. They shouldn't take the latest attack on their jobs lying down about it.**

## Tax rep saved

**ACOA MEMBERS** in the Sydney Tax office have forced management to back down from victimising a militant union rep.

After three weeks of refusing to budge, senior management withdrew the charge in the face of threatened disruption and industrial action from Administrative and Clerical Officers Association (ACOA) members.

As soon as the charge, under Section 564 of the Public Service Act, was laid, we organised lunch-time meetings throughout the office to get support. A motion to stop work. If they failed to withdraw the charge was carried in the Wollongong Regional Office. And a large meeting in the Recovery Section voted to ban an important revenue collecting project if the charge went ahead. For the first time a significant number of Federated Clerks Union (FCU) members were involved in joint action with ACOA members despite a directive from the FCU Tax Office Branch Executive not to attend support meetings.

The agreement between union and management, as the withdrawal of the charge is politely known, involves ACOA and staff organising an unauthorised meeting in the Taxation Office premises while the overall policy regarding union meetings is revoked. We can still ask for improvements and will continue to hold meetings and will continue to hold meetings and will continue to hold meetings as necessary. Tax management were also notified that ACOA may 'goal' our representative. This, they thought, would undermine their disciplinary powers and authority. We don't need to brag, but there are important lessons to be learned from our victory. We want because we organised the job. Meetings to inform members and to make decisions was an important part of union organizing. We stressed the link between unionisation and defending the right to organise. Management backed down because they saw industrial militancy was a real threat. Despite the despatching of some officials, ACOA members' Tax can only be handled by the Branch Executive not to attend support meetings. The agreement between union and management, as the withdrawal of the charge is politely known, involves ACOA and staff organising an unauthorised meeting in the Taxation Office premises while the overall policy regarding union meetings is revoked.

by Chris [unclear]

# the battler

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

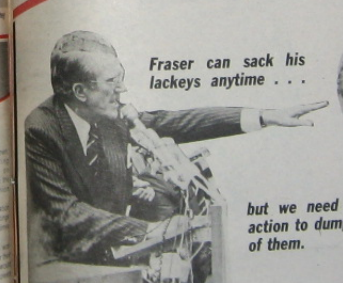
No. 111 June 13, 1981 20 cents

**EL SALVADOR**  
**Demonstrate!**  
Brisbane: Sat 13 June, 10 am King George Sq  
Sydney: Sat 13 June, 10 am Town Hall  
Adelaide: Fri 12 June, 4.30 Parliament House  
Melbourne: Sat 20 June, 10 am Treasury Gardens  
Canberra: Sat 13 June, 11 am Garena Place

## The Liberal Party Stands



- ★ IN QUEENSLAND, they crawl to Bjelke-Petersen. In South Australia they give uranium miners the green light.
- ★ IN NEW SOUTH WALES, they are so bankrupt they go for a corrupt wowsie as their new leader.
- ★ IN VICTORIA, Hamer's dismal record of anti-worker policies and scandals comes to an abrupt end, but he is replaced by the cadaverous Lindsay Thompson.
- ★ IN CANBERRA, they're at each other's throats — but the razors are still hacking away at US.



**Fraser can sack his lackeys anytime . . .**



Mason



Hamer

**but we need militant action to dump the lot of them.**

**BUT THE GANG** of scoundrels who "govern" this country are also under attack — from their own employees. Postal unions across the country are considering bans. In Melbourne, they stopped work and voted for a demonstration. As we go to press, public servants in several States have held mass meetings. And above all, Telecom employees are teaching the government a lesson it won't soon forget. The Telecom dispute is a measure of what the Fraser government stands for. The workers are paid less than in other government industries. And even the management has agreed to a rise. But it's high time that strength was mobilised in a serious push against the Liberals and the bosses they represent. The Libs are bankrupt, incompetent, venal. They stand condemned. Let's demolish them!

**The paper that fights for workers' power**

# Now let's demolish them

**CENTRAL AMERICA**  
**Eyewitness Report page 8**

# REAL THE TRANSPORT CUTS

**NO CLOSURES — save our trains!**  
That's the demand of angry Brunswick residents. The Victorian government is trying to implement yet another of the recommendations of the Lonie Report by closing the Upfield railway line.

The line serves the Melbourne working class suburbs of Brunswick, Coburg, Labor and Parkbur.

Brunswick residents are not taking this attack lightly. Organising as part of the campaign to stop the rail closure, and improve services on the Upfield line, 300 angry residents assembled on Wednesday last June outside the Melbourne Institute to discuss the closure of Brunswick.

Brunswick speaks about the threat to jobs, women who work at the weaving factory, and the school children who would suffer.

At 5.30, the demonstration was announced to march down a road to the Melbourne Institute.

As the demonstrators marched, a group of about 100 women who work at the weaving factory, and the school children who would suffer.

Teachers estimate from local schools make it clear that extensions will be substantial expense and will be difficult to organise within the school budget.

The group and the school children were to get around the road works addressed by the workers in Geelong and Tullahoma.

**BATTLE FREWAY PROTEST:**  
A freeway is for taking cars out of the city where people live. Just here in the project to replace the freeway.

**AT LEAST IT MAKES SENSE !!**

**women protest**

ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY women and children were thrown and carried out of King's Hall, Parliament House, Canberra on June 2.

They were demonstrating to draw attention to the issue of funding for women's services.

Some 26,000 women have been camped in Canberra in protest against the closure of the Canberra Bazaar.

The women have taken to the streets in protest against the closure of the Canberra Bazaar.

By P. Green



## Queensland Students Step Up the Struggle There's No Stopping Them!

STUDENT activists from campuses all over Brisbane have been meeting regularly in the wake of the cross-campus strike and rally several weeks ago.

The Cross Campus Action Committee held a picket of the Federal Government offices over the recently announced funding guidelines and is also working towards a pre-Budget rally with public sector workers who are also under fire from the Fraser Govt.

At Queensland University, a rally of students passed a motion to the administration demanding that they follow Adelaide (and Armadale) Universities and refuse to administer fees or loans up to the Vice-Chancellor's office but be held in the library.

By Caroline Harrison

## 3CR Radio is Facing New Test

MELBOURNE's community radio station 3CR will be facing licence renewal hearings next month.

The station was the subject of a publicity two year ago, when programs produced by Palestinian groups were accused of antisemitism.

By Colleen Harland, 3CR, and Janey Stone, JAZZ

Paths to Peace, a small left-ZIONIST group brought a complaint before the Broadcasting Tribunal, demanding editorial air time. They used the standard argument that anti-Zionism is automatically antisemitic.

They got the support of the Jewish Board of Deputies and the right wing magazine, The Bulletin.

By P. Green



VICTORIAN LIBERAL Cabinet ministers enthusiastically welcome Hauer's resignation — by Victoria's Premier.

## Anti-abortionists in the ACOA are ...

By Di Minnis, ACOA Branch Councillor

As last week's meeting organised and planned that was the need for a person attending in a meeting of the Parliament.

As well as members of the main platforms in the election campaign, I've been told that Cain, O'Brien and Alex Magner, Victorian State Secretary, are NCC sympathisers.

As well as their own taking over unions and to do deals with the bosses, they took every single progressive union policy.

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By John

## Liberal thieves far out

THERE'S no doubt about it. It's been great fun watching the Liberals tear themselves apart over the past fortnight.

By Tom O'Lincoln

At the national level, the Liberal Party has been a constant rumbling on the back bench. But the real fun has been State politics.

The Liberal Party's internal organisation is being reorganised in a way that will allow it to run a more professional campaign.

Big business are the key. More precisely, finance capital. Grant Maurice, National AMP and Capital Mutual, who are linked to other major manufacturers and financial institutions.

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As Minister of Education the Liberal Party has been a constant rumbling on the back bench. But the real fun has been State politics.

By Ian Riddell

## RIGHT ON THE RAMPAGE

THE SECRETIVE, extreme right wing National Civic Council (NCC) is making a last ditch bid to win national office.

As part of NCC sympathiser Kevin Cairns' attempt to capture ACOA's Assistant Federal Secretary position, he is trying to smash ACOA's current policy which supports the right of women to abortion and asserts that abortion is a medical issue.

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By John

## Zionist Madmen

Menachem Begin will do anything to win an election.

When Israel left the nuclear reactor in the desert last week, he postponed the danger of war, risked radiation poisoning for people nearby, and turned world public opinion dramatically against Israel. And after

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By Nicola Calabry

## It's political football!

ONE OF THE great sporting events of the year — NSW vs Queensland rugby league — took place at Lang Park a couple of weeks ago. It was a match that resurrected the Maroons (Queensland) had a chance and 38,000 people turned out to witness the event.

By Ian Riddell



When Sir John Kerr and Malcolm Fraser organised the sacking of the Whitlam government in 1975, the *Battler* ran the front page headline: **STRIKE FRASER OUT**. These days, that headline has become a popular slogan chanted at demonstrations all over Australia.

And not by accident. For the past half a decade, not only workers but all of Fraser's opponents have looked to the unions to lead the resistance to the government.

In the current issue of the International Socialist *Journal*, Alec Kahn has written a blockbuster history of trade union struggles during the Fraser years. In these pages Tom O'Lincoln summarises some of that history, and some of the lessons we can learn.

## Prelude 1969-74 . . . the confident years

Throughout most of the postwar years, strikes were comparatively few. Strike days lost stayed below a million a year. In 1967, the figure was 700,000.

But in the late sixties the Vietnam war reached its peak, when student protest rocked the campuses. And they were the years when the Labor Party moved inexorably toward political power.

With Whitlam in government, and a new boom strengthening our ability to win gains, the unions redoubled their offensive in the early seventies. With strike days lost at a mammoth six million in 1974, the Australian ruling class began to worry. And as the boom began to turn to bust in that same year, they began to demand government action to restrain the working class.

### women

These were the years when women workers began their march toward equal pay, when the movement against

unboly alliance against strikes, while offering to a three-monthly wage rise. The system was rigged to make sure that in practice the wage rises lagged behind the real rate of inflation.

It worked, but not fast

enough. Panicky employers and ambitious liberal politicians conspired with the Governor General and Whitlam was dumped. Fraser parked his Duxart in the Lodge; and the stage was set for war.

### Kerr and his cur...



## Medibank massacred . . . political action smothered

But we didn't see the armageddon we expected. Instead we got years of tension, punctuated with major eruptions about once a year.

In 1976, there was a Medibank bank and a general strike over response was remarkable.

with one mass meeting in Melbourne voting for action well to the left of what even the Communist Party officials were calling for.

But Bob Hawke was able to contain it, and even to turn the general strike day itself into a demoralising "holiday" — symbolised by his own appearance on the tennis court.

A year later, Latrobe Valley power workers took to their State government and the ideation system. For 11 weeks the power workers stood up heroically against government intimidation, and against a sustained campaign by John Halpin to get them back to work.

### support

There was impressive support from workers in Melbourne, but the strikers failed to mobilise it, and in the end they got virtually nothing for their efforts.

In 1978 there was a major fight again in Victoria over the proposed Newcourt power station, which unionists saw as an environmental disaster. And in 1979 another national general strike, this time over union-busting in Western Australia.

But all the struggles were contained, and mostly they were defeated — by union officials who systematically spread demoralisation and conservatism.

## Closing ranks . . . public scabs and the IRB

The consequence was a growing mood of defeat. This was most obvious in Victoria, where the struggle had been the most intense. The defeat of the power workers in 1977 had a devastating effect on the militancy of Victorian trade unionists.

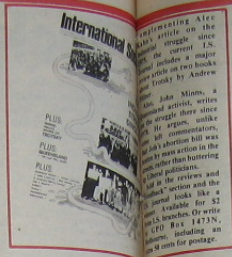
Whereas Victorian and NSW strike levels are usually about the same, the year after the Latrobe Valley dispute saw Victorian industrial disputes fall to half the NSW figures.

And overall, strikes were becoming fewer right through 1978. Real wages began to fall. Fraser began to tighten the wage screws more and more, until ideation became a joke.

Even so, there were silver linings. One was a major blunder by Malcolm Fraser, the Industrial Relations Bureau. The IRB encouraged a process of fighting, would-be ruling class heroes, each hoping to destroy compulsory unionism.

Scabs like Paul Kruttschnitt, Frank Kane and Barbara Biggs all tried to undermine the closed shop. But all were beaten, in a series of union victories that reduced the IRB to an ineffectual paper tiger. In the Kane case, the one time the IRB actually summoned up the courage to prosecute on behalf of a scab, a five-week strike by Melbourne garbos won not only the court case but a hefty pay rise.

Another bright spot was the turn to political action by Australian workers. Even before the Medibank campaign, the unionist is relatively new in this country. Interestingly, the had staged in May 1976, the world's first strike against nuclear energy. Later the



INTERNATIONAL ALICE KAHN'S article on the current ISJ covers a major strike on two books fronts by Andrew John Miles, a syndicalist article, written three since the arguments, and the author had was in the author than butting the strikers and the book looks like a book for \$1.50. Write to: LPO Box 14733, Melbourne, for postage.

# 'STRIKE FRASER OUT'?

## Paralysis . . . arbitration under fire

And things began to pick up on the wages front from 1978. NSW oil storemen won an eight dollar rise for "increased value", and other unions began to win similar rises. Telecom technicians fought the Federal government to a standstill in 1978 and again in 1979. The number of strikes, and of victories, began to rise.

Why did this happen? To a frightening rate. Workers' confidence began to return. A large extent the Arbitration Commission had "created its own pitch" by resorting to six-monthly indexation. The employers might have made short-term gains this way, but the disciplinary power of Melbourne has won victories. The ACTU now from Union Carbide in one year to tell strikers, "go back to work or you'll jeopardise the indexation rise".

The recession had eased, compensation have been beaten back. Strike levels, but it was no longer rising at

lights the ironworkers for the right to build the Omega spy base. Amongst the moderates, Jack Eganon has departed clutching a Tel Bull of the members, while Bob Hawke has record into parliament culogised by the parliament that used to foam at the mouth at the mention of his name.

## Rank and file organize — tactics of the times

The occupation tactic on the one hand, and the rightward drift of the union officials on the other, raise a central issue for socialists in industry: the urgent need for rank and file organisation on the job.

An important rank and file organization at Chrysler and Adekade was destroyed for the opposite reason: while they had impressive support on the factory floor, they failed to build an alternative inside the union structure. When the time came for mass layoffs, the union officials could arrange the victimisation of the militants without any real challenge.

And the past year saw a huge rank and file rebellion among Victorian municipal employees, with thousands of workers besieging the union officials at a mass meeting. Unfortunately, all the explosive energy has not been translated into stable organisations. Public servants have shown a secondhand

### militancy

on the other hand, there have been exciting new developments among public employees. Public servants have shown a secondhand

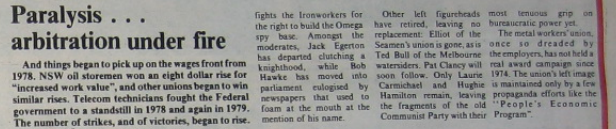
## Coming to the party . . .

What can we learn from the past five years of struggle? The lesson of Medibank, the rightward drift is that we can't rely on the union officials. We need our own rank and file organisation to fight where there is no power.

The Latrobe Valley strikers proved the importance of building links across union, industry and geographical barriers. The Union Carbide occupation showed how regular mass events right at the workplace can make this possible.

The anti-structures experience and the Civil Liberties battle in Queensland proved we can mobilise large numbers of workers for political struggle. And today, every

DEFIANTLY, Sanjyo workers (Wongong, Victoria) burn the feds of those being sacked. Unable to name the dismissal notices on the individual workers the company sent out telegrams.



WOLLONGONG workers and their families turn out for a rally during the general strike for Medibank in 1976.





## Bris. Metal Bosses Cave In

# OFFERED AGAIN!

**EMPLOYEES AT Fox Brisbane** (a branch of the Fox manufacturing Company, owned by the multinational Placer Exploration Ltd) are in the final throes of negotiations for their shorter hours deal. In fact, Friday June 5th was their first rostered day off.

This breakthrough comes after weeks of negotiations. Recently their brothers at Fox Smithfield NSW returned to work, having won their shorter hours after 11 weeks on strike.

Fox Brisbane employees, who were sent donations each week in support of the Smithfield strike, I would like to extend my personal thanks to Fox Brisbane apprentices for their share in the contributions.

From May 1981 workers have been on a 37 and 113 hour week. This will go

down to 36 hours in November and drop to 35 hours in May 1982. Fox will be continuing to work 40 hours in the transition period, except that they will be on a higher rate of pay, and that each day's pay will accrue toward payment for an extra day off every three weeks or two weeks respectively. When they reduce to the 35 hour week they will be working reduced hours in each day in addition to a day off each fortnight.

On the dark side is the fact that persons absent on sick leave or absent without pay will lose approximately 53 per cent of their pay. It is not expected any better until we take over.

Employers have also had to submit to having their afternoon smoke time shifted to the end of the ordinary working day. (This means knocking off 10 minutes earlier.) This is not necessarily a great loss as the deal is not as good as it should be, but it is another factor for the door for the company in Queensland and I do not expect any better until we take over.

Employers have also had to submit to having their afternoon smoke time

# the battler

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

## Public servants meet

**PUBLIC SERVANTS** held mass meetings across Australia on 10 June, to protest the Razer Gang cuts. Reports were just beginning to filter in as we went to press. In Melbourne, ACOA members overwhelmingly carried the official motions. These called for an indefinite strike upon notice of further workings, plus a series of demands. A motion from the Reform Group to widen the terms of the strike motion was not put as the meeting ran out of time. But this was partly due to delaying tactics used by the Branch Secretary and President, David Wynn and Ann Forward. Although members of the Reform Group, they took a hostile attitude to the strike motion. In Canberra, the Public Servants' Action Group (PSAG) gained strong support for a motion to call for a strike on Wednesday 17 June. The motion was carried by a large majority. The motion was to be presented to the meeting. But the meeting was adjourned. However, the motion was carried by a large majority.



AMOCO refinery workers meet to consider offer

# Safety Win At AMOCO

**400 maintenance workers at AMOCO oil refinery in Brisbane won four hours pay over a safety issue, after almost two weeks on the grass.**

We walked off the job because it was unsafe to work outside in the rain. Someone had already injured his head.

We decided to stay in the shed till the rain stopped because there wasn't sufficient protective clothing and shelter on the job.

When the rains reported to the company, at first they agreed to pay us while we stayed in the shed, but then they changed their mind.

By Laiasi Patu  
AMWSU member  
AMOCO

In a piece of cynical numbers game politics, the right-wing at the Annual Conference of the NSW Public Service Association won a motion calling for the abolition of the Women's Council of the Union. This attack on women's organisation in the union is just part of an offensive against the growing movement to bring the union under rank and file control.

Women's Council was set up as a vehicle for fighting annual issues which the officials would prefer to forget about - issues such as technological change, contract labour and the 35 hour week.

But although the right hand had the numbers at the Annual Conference, this should not be taken as any pride in their strength on the ground. Women's Council was a bureaucratic structure and therefore was vulnerable to attack from the rank and file.

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# To hell with the guidelines!

# LET'S GO ALL OUT FOR WAGES

**NOW IS the time to go on the attack over wages.**

The Telecom workers have shown that major wages rises, up to \$30 a week can be won despite the clap trap of the indexation guidelines.

All you need to do is to put enough pressure on and the guidelines will buckle.

Other workers in the public sector - Telecom clerks, storemen and postal workers - inspired by the Telecom technicians' success have gone out on strike for their own pay claims.

In the private sector 50,000 truck drivers, who have been the pace setters for wages in the last decade, have started action over a 10.45% claim.

The employers and the Fraser government are getting worried as they face a whole raft of new wage claims.

But they are divided and seem to have no strategy for containing the wage push.

During the Telecom dispute we saw the government, Telecom management and the Arbitration Commission all at each others' throats. If we stay on the attack we can keep them divided.

The problem for the bosses is that the economy has picked up over the last year or so and that means there are shortages of skilled workers in a number of key areas. Also the slight fall in unemployment has taken the pressure off a lot of workers who previously

# The great train hijack

**AS The Battler goes to press** members of the Australian Railways Union (ARU) and the Transport Officers' Federation have hijacked over 30 goods trains. Their move is part of a campaign to prevent the chopping of passenger train services on Victorian country routes.

State Transport Minister Maclean is threatening to close down all rail services if the unions don't release the trains.

But the unions are determined to continue their campaign until they get the public enquiry into the closure of passenger services that they want. Whatever threats Maclean chooses to throw at the workers, their services will keep running. "We're ready and willing to mass passenger trains without pay if necessary," say the unions.

And they've had the co-operation of resident groups and the ALP for their actions so far.

At Crick Point on the Mornington Peninsula, residents groups set up a 24 hour picket in freezing conditions on Sunday June 14 (not unimpressively to continue with the picket) until the Minister for Transport agreed to an enquiry into the train service.

But while the passenger services have been stopped, the freight train to Lyngah lined at Hastings continued to run until residents set up a picket across the line.

Members of the transport unions blocked the train, and it won't be moved until an enquiry is held. The same goes for over 20 other trains now held.

The State government thought it could cut services to these areas and still rely on returning members to parliament. But it's unionists and residents of the areas continue with the campaign, the government will have to wage a fight to get the train system back on the rails, let alone win an election.

(Continued on p2)

# In your Battler this issue

P.3

# No troops for Sinai

P.5

# Bani-Sadr on the run

The paper that fights for workers' power

# Wives Organise

Wives of Brisbane metalworkers are getting together to organise support for the 35 hour week campaign. Copies of a letter from one of the wives have been sent out through the AMWSU office.

"My husband is a member of the AMWSU and is currently involved in the 35 hour week campaign. Being a housewife and at home a lot of the time, I am exposed to a lot of anti-35 hour week propaganda put across by the media.

As my husband is involved in the campaign, I am aware of the problems associated with the loss of pay.



**When fighting an offensive boss, you need an even more offensive weapon. Subscribe!**

I want a 6 month subscription - 1 issue for \$1.00 for 20 issues, made payable to The Battler. I enclose \$20 for a supporting subscription.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City and post to: PO Box 46, Pennington, SA 5012

PRISONERS FREE.

# acts gelines

**AT LAST** a real victory! Telecom workers have busted a hole through the indexation guidelines, with the biggest win on the industrial front since 1975.

Their triumph showed the ruling classes' passiveness when it faces big unions that are hard. It was a delight to see Cabint, the Arbitration Commission, and Telecom bosses stretch their throats as the pressure built up.

The agreement — a 2.5 per cent pay rise and a 20 per cent increase in superannuation — was well above the 2.25 per cent increase offered by the AEA. The AEA made significant concessions on superannuation, but its management's attempt to get a 20 per cent increase for itself was opposed.

In Queensland and NSW, the state AEA officials threatened to sue Telecom workers who had been told to argue for the deal.

Manfred argued a lot of risk from the floor, with a 20 per cent increase in superannuation. One worker was a 20 per cent increase.

Start from free trade, AEA members were bound to the technology deal and the fact that no method was specified for salary adjustments. Some workers had been out of the time employees of the AEA (the AEA) in 1975.

Preparation was made again. Handouts by a mass meeting of Telecom

**By Tony Sullivan**

This would have been the struggle at the state level. Telecom's strategy was to stall any agreement at the state level. Telecom's strategy was to stall any agreement at the state level.

## TELECOM — BAN THE BILLS

**FOLLOWING** the success of the Telecom technicians' pay rise, Telecom clerks in ACOA are taking action over their own claim for a 12 1/2 per cent. They have banned revenue collection rates. They have banned revenue collection rates.

The last dispute in their Revenue area cost Telecom heaps of money. All cash inflows was stopped by effective banners and Telecom had to borrow money at high interest rates, just to pay its employees.

The saving of phone bills in some areas will three months behind because of the dispute.

In most states the current ban are just as effective. Uniformly, the Cashier in Revenue Branch is stopping, so the revenue is not being received.

The motion also called on ATU (postal workers) and APSA (postal assistants) to refuse to accept ACOA picket lines and ban.

Management is playing a limiting role in the dispute. If National Executive has reserved a long standing position calling for national 48 hour stoppages of mail.

In response to a state of Victoria's hand was Melbourne members walked off the job and held rally in the City Square.

Preparation was made again. Handouts by a mass meeting of Telecom

the Jan Armstrong backed. This would have been the struggle at the state level. Telecom's strategy was to stall any agreement at the state level.

## ACIA MANSFIELD, ATEA Federal Secretary, speaks at the Brisbane mass meeting. He flew up to quell the disturbance.

meeting. They have called banners, but been stopped. An ACOA Rep in Telecom's NSW Revenue Branch spoke to the Bulletin about the dispute and said the best trick of carrying the day for the officials — a lot of being put in the position of having to defend actions.

She said that the way to deal with the actions of the ACOA officials that the no longer wanted to be identified with them. She went on to say "I feel that this dispute is all split ACOA in Telecom wide."

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# IT'S "REBEL BOD" "GATT" IN GLADSTONE

By Ian Rintoul

GLADSTONE, a glamour development area on Queensland's Central Coast, is coming to an abrupt halt.

A general strike has been called on the day for all unions to consider the nightmarish that the huge social industrial boom has meant for Gladstone's workers.

The proposal to ban all construction work in Gladstone is a model for the rest of the state. Gladstone is a model for the rest of the state.

Community back-up groups are almost non-existent in Gladstone. Gladstone is a model for the rest of the state.

in another project's car park for up to 200 cars. House and flats have risen up to 1000, more than any other town in Queensland. Gladstone is a model for the rest of the state.

Community back-up groups are almost non-existent in Gladstone. Gladstone is a model for the rest of the state.

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# Black bans on Brisbane Games?

**GOVERNMENT** and big business interests are becoming hysterical about a possibility of a boycott of next year's Commonwealth Games.

The immediate focus of the threat is the games of the proposed boycott by black African nations. The proposed boycott by black African nations.

Other pressures are building up. A Boycott the Games Committee has been set up in Brisbane to coordinate the campaign to get the Games cancelled.



**JACK NICHOLLS** speaking at a mass meeting at the Williamstown Naval Dockyard last year. His death is a loss to the whole union movement.

## The Commission has claimed one victim. Now we must . . .

**Defend the Ship Painters and Dockers**

The Commission has claimed one victim. Now we must . . . defend the Ship Painters and Dockers. The Commission has claimed one victim. Now we must . . . defend the Ship Painters and Dockers.

Black within Mick Miller has publicly stated that although it is not in the interests of the Games, and even if it were, it is not in the interests of the workers who are to be demobilised and attempt to interrupt them.

## No Troops for Sinai!

By Rod Connolly

Naval Dockyards told the Bulletin that Jack Nicholls was the most left wing of any union official have ever come across at the Dockyards.

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Jack Nicholls was the most left wing of any union official have ever come across at the Dockyards.

Australia has been offered shared command of the "peace keeping" force sent to the Sinai.

The US initiated force is to suppress the staged withdrawal of Israeli forces from occupied Egyptian territory as part of the Camp David agreement.

The Camp David agreement which negotiated as a "peace" treaty between Israel and the PLO to solve the conflict in the Middle East.

## Action

But if we're going to beat Fraser, we need a way. As a step at the Sydney state rally said, "Let's raise the issue about the cuts in Fraser's water-pipe program."

## Fifth

It's a pity he died in such fibreglass and it leaves all the fibreglass in the Royal and Dockers' Commission unworried.

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It's a pity he died in such fibreglass and it leaves all the fibreglass in the Royal and Dockers' Commission unworried.



**800 PEOPLE** marched in Sydney during the National Day of Action in solidarity with the workers and residents of El Salvador. In Australia we can best assist them by building a strong solidarity campaign inside the Australian labour movement. The Day of Action has given a good start. In Melbourne 600 people marched.



# At Evans Deakin Brisbane FIA MARKERS 'BUSES' FILE

After three weeks out the gate, FIA members at four Evans Deakin shops in Brisbane have won assurances of a wage increase in the form of a multi-skill allowance.

They went out to maintain their wage in technology. Non-skill workers covered by the FIA had established an ASSE reliability component with AMWSU members in 1975. They did not want

to increase pay to FIA members by the company. However eventually it was agreed that any additional contract handed down by the company would be negotiated by the AMWSU. So the company had to agree to a new letter which the FIA assumes that the case for a multi-skill allowance will be allowed to proceed without prejudice.

The strike went out for all FIA members. This is an important victory for all FIA members. It is a Queensland, FIA committee at Rocklea held the matter. A multi-skill allowance will allow FIA

members to maintain the level of one wages in the between it and the tradepeople would rapidly increase as technology changes within the industry?

The strike organizers had now left a greater base now left a greater base. The strike organizers had now left a greater base now left a greater base.



EVANS DEAKIN workers vote for action.

# YOU TOUGH

With Janey Stone

IT'S GOOD to know that in the international year of the Disabled, the government is really doing something to help. Bright and, but it's to hope, boys 12?

Take Melbourne's writers' report. In the next years, 111 retarded people will need permanent residential accommodation.

The kindly authorities have already provided 1 beds in the region and 4 more are being planned. How comforting...

BUT ALL is not so, BUT ALL is not so, BUT ALL is not so, BUT ALL is not so, BUT ALL is not so, BUT ALL is not so, BUT ALL is not so, BUT ALL is not so.

burdays those hours in more affluent water suburbs. And although the average infant mortality rate is declining steadily in Australia, the rates in many inner-city areas are on the increase.

Another thing that in Melbourne, the highest rate is in Port Melbourne with nearly 30 deaths before twelve months per 1000 live births.

It is true the rates are similar ranging from 1 in 332 in the outer western suburbs to 1 in 144 in Brisbane and 1 to 742 in Ennisville. And in Glenageary, there is a major effect on the physical and mental health of the children.

IF you look at an illness by occupation rather than by region, you can see that those in the health professions are better off.

But all is not so, BUT ALL is not so, BUT ALL is not so, BUT ALL is not so, BUT ALL is not so, BUT ALL is not so, BUT ALL is not so, BUT ALL is not so.

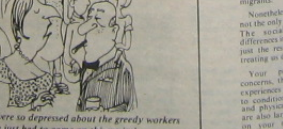
John and I were so depressed about the greasy workers we left had to come on this crisis.

# TOP CE RE IT E E

books. Yet doctors and the health establishment generally not only fail to act on it, but seem to do their best to exacerbate the situation.

In fact some medical experts suggest that it was the demands of the medical profession that pushed them to invent so many more illnesses over the last few years.

So much for why doctors create such jobs as patients.



John and I were so depressed about the greasy workers we left had to come on this crisis.

# A week of gay rights

JUNE 28 is the twelfth anniversary of events in the Stonewall area of New York which heralded the birth of the modern Gay Liberation movement.

Three days of rioting followed a brutal police raid on the gay bars in the area.

Stonewall type police raids are not a thing of the past — just take the streets of Sydney on the night of February 5 this year in Toronto, Canada.

A mass day rally of 4000 people on February 10 stormed Parliament House and interrupted a meeting of the Cabinet.

# THE CONTRAST

Where once crowds of Iranian had chanted 'God is Great' and pledged loyalty to Islam and the Ayatollah, now they were demonstrating against the Shah.

The streets of Tehran were lined with thousands of people who had gathered to protest against the Islamic revolution and the sacking of the Embassy.

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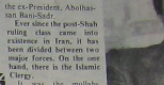
# TR TROUBLE AT THE OP OL

The Republican Party is feeling angry. The Shah is clearly angry — and it is not only about the future of Iran, it has been divided between the regime's move against Iran.

It was the multiple, represented above all by the Shah, who mobilised the masses against the Shah.

It was the multiple, represented above all by the Shah, who mobilised the masses against the Shah.

# By David Lockwood



DR BANU-SADI. He was in threat to the multiple but not rifed to the workers.

Workers held the Central Bank, resigned under pressure. On June 10, the Ayatollah took away Banu-Sadi's position as commander in chief of Iran's armed forces.

He said the regime had turned the economy around. A campaign against imperialism in the Islamic press he was a "pioneer", a "vanguard".

# MARCOS WINS "ELECTION"

The Philippines election on June 16 saw the President Marcos win a landslide victory over opposition candidates.

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With the multiple and the technicians are not new for Iran's workers and the National Front, the (Kurdish) Democratic Party on a broad alliance with Banu-Sadi.

# Viets Sacked

THREE Vietnamese men have been sacked from their jobs as mail officers with Australia Post — because they were "too small".

The workers who worked at Rosberry Interim Mail Sorting Office, were sacked when the Commonwealth Medical Officer declared that they were medically unfit.

# Playing the Party game in Poland

ITS the workers who are being squeezed to pay Poland's enormous debt, as these empty supermarket shelves show.

A STRANGE thing is surfacing in the Polish Communist Party — democracy. Party members are electing representatives to their special July Congress through secret ballots with a choice of candidates.

# ension

While the tension between the two sections is continuing, they have continued to act in themselves in power.

The last stage of a coup, making the President a puppet in the last few months, the multiple, but not rifed to the workers.

# hypocrites

Some days the technicians are not new for Iran's workers and the National Front, the (Kurdish) Democratic Party on a broad alliance with Banu-Sadi.

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# membership

The CP membership is the ruling class's main base. It includes all the workers and managers, professions and so on. It includes the workers who go to get ahead of the backs of their mates, and who genuine communists who believe in the system.

The special congress will be a desperate attempt to win back the CP membership.

Party members have resigned in droves. The CP has lost 100,000 members since 1960.

# corruption

But workers want an end to food prices and corruption. The long line of demoralization could set in the union.

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A British soldier on duty in Belfast

Troops on patrol in El Salvador

Lebanese refugees flee from Israeli troops

Nasser Pact troops during manoeuvres in Poland

White South African women learn to shoot blacks

Tehran during the last days of the Shah

■ ARMS spending, per head of the population (in dollars)

America	426
Russia	310
Latin America	17
Africa	5
South Asia	5

■ Spending on HEALTH, per head of the population (in dollars)

America	218
Russia	11
Latin America	1
Africa	1
South Asia	1

(World average spending on medicine and public health per person, per year is \$1 dollar)

■ Number of SOLDIERS for each member of the population

Warsaw Pact	1 in 77
NATO	1 in 113

■ Number of NURSES for each member of the population:

Denmark	1 in 120
(See world figure)	
Bangladesh	1 in 75,460
(World world figure)	

■ Spending on ARMS for the year 1977. In billions of dollars

North America	106.1
EUROPE	87.9
Europe	25.9
Middle East	22.9
Latin America	16.7
South Asia	16.4
East Asia	10.4

TOTAL world spending: 433.9  
TOTAL NATO spending: 162.7  
TOTAL Warsaw Pact: 163.3



■ Only four countries in the world—USA, Russia, Japan and West Germany—had a higher gross national product than the total world expenditure on arms each year (\$435 Billion Dollars). Those four countries account for over half the world's GNP.

■ IN 1977 Defence expenditure by Warsaw Pact countries (\$163 billion dollars) was greater than the combined amount of goods and services sold in the 100 eleven African countries.

■ IN the same year, NATO military expenditure equaled the gross national product of the top 12 African countries.

■ TOTAL American economic aid to the rest of the world between 1965 and 1977 was 100.5 billion dollars, less than two thirds of NATO military spending in 1977.

■ OXFORD estimates that the money necessary to provide adequate food, water, education, health, housing to every person in the world is \$7 billion dollars a year. That's just four per cent of world military expenditure.

■ BOSTON'S annual military expenditure could build 32,000 hospitals each year in the third world and provide a good meal a day each year for 700,000 orphans in India.

# With God on our side

"Now you see why I fight these people." The words rolled out of Maggie Thatcher's mouth earlier this year, in a third rate imitation of Winston Churchill's "Fight them on the Beaches" speech.

She was ready to fight seven young demonstrators who interrupted her sermon in a city of London church with chants of 'Jobs not Bombs'.

When the disturbance was over Thatcher told her lunchtime audience of city slickers and Tory ladies of the Government's 'moral duty to defeat the evils of inflation.

Her own 'moral duty' was evident at the end of the lecture when she announced: 'I was feeling that if I had not been in a church I would have gone... into them'. At the same time she smashed her fist into her hand. In this article British socialist Mike Simons looks at the implications of this kind of power politics for the world we live in... a world constantly under threat of war.

THATCHER'S threat to the young demonstrators and her protestations of her own moral concern aren't isolated incidents.

Another fine example of Tory morality was heard in the House of Commons last week when John Nott told MPs that 'we need Trident submarines (cost £5 Billion — equivalent to 200,000 new council houses) to preserve and maintain our independent nuclear deterrent and preserve our way of life — another few thousand Hiroshima bombs to add to the million and a half already in existence.

Arms expenditure rises in Britain almost in direct relation to the economic crisis. Two and a half million on the dole, buy some more bombs — show the world we're still a force to be reckoned with.

It's the same in America. The steel and auto industries are collapsing, ten million are on the dole and Reagan blames uncontrolled Government growth.

Some weeks ago Reagan announced 40 billion dollars worth of cuts. Cutting free milk to unemployed pregnant women was just a start necessary to free resources from the Government sector to encourage private enterprise. Sounds familiar?

Then two weeks later he announced a 34 billion dollar increase in military expenditure — almost exactly the amount he had cut from welfare spending.

As America reels from the loss of Vietnam, Angola, Iran and Zimbabwe, Reagan plans a rapid deployment force of 100,000 men ready to fly anywhere in the globe at a moment's notice. The cops of the world are back to protect America's crumbling overseas investments.

The chaos is not confined to the west. The Russian empire is shaky too. 100,000 Russian troops subjugate Afghanistan to keep a pro-Moscow government in power. There are mass strike waves in the Russian car plants and then there's Poland, of course.



Submarine	1975	1980	
Long Range Bombers	1975	1980	
Intercontinental Ballistic missiles	1975	1980	
1954	1054	337	332
1527	1398	391	356

□ These missiles carry a destructive capacity equal to Hiroshima bombs. The Hiroshima bomb killed 70,000 people instantly and a total of 200,000.

□ All the existing missiles were fired off in one enough power to kill every human being in the world — twenty times over.

There's no intention of letting the workers in their own free trade unions mobilise huge military apparatus to march on the Kremlin giving the nod. For workers can fight, lose and win, a better life. Russian workers may move.

Defence spending is so high they have to sell more dry. But as the crisis deepens cut defence expenditure. In 1978 10 per cent of its gross National product, now it's fifteen per cent. So as their economic crisis deepens they reach for their guns while trying to find an external enemy for the crisis. That is how the new world works.

Russia begins to poke out across Europe. Africa installs cruise missiles to match and then starts building the missile. Cuba launches another nuclear submarine. Plans germ warfare. Bulgaria to invade Poland. Reagan is ready to invade El Salvador.

As the economic crisis deepens and more bombs than ever are being made to sacrifice the lives of workers rather than lose their privilege.

They'll spend more on bombs than on their own working class. They'll spend it on times more on bombs than on their workers.

They'll — and that's why not necessary — be Nether, Washington nor International Socialism, Welfare not



AUSTRALIAN troops in operation in Vietnam (below), but the end of that war didn't mean the end of Australia's role in world imperialism. And for the world which has added British imperialism by relieving their British colleagues for service in Northern Ireland.

## Aussie imperialism is no better

AUSTRALIA'S rulers can't afford the expensive toys of the Pentagon. But that hasn't kept them out of the militarist game. The Liberals like to play out American war bases, from Omega to Pine Gap. And Bill Hayden would do the same, with a few niggling reservations.

And Australia has always encouraged the big powers to deepen their presence in this part of the world.

In 1983 the Queensland colonists demanded the rescue of New Zealand, and then New Guinea, by Britain.

In 1983 the Queensland government sold trade to the United States. It did so in Britain's behalf, in the belief that once the flag had been hoisted it would never be raised again.

A lot of letters tell us that we got into Vietnam because the Americans dragged us in. But Section shows that Canberra did a lot of the dragging.

Section wrote that in 1964, when the administration in Washington was waning slightly, Australia set out to use whatever influence it had to push the American war deeply into the mud that is the world, has a alternative but to press on to the end.

The plan was that the Canberra leaders should involve with their Washington counterparts the decision in the American administration.

Later generations of Australian leaders have been no different. For example, Canberra was bitterly

wired

Paul Hockley, Minister for External Affairs, said to the Australian Parliament: "You could see again the vital importance not only for Australia but for the world which we see in the American presence in Vietnam."

But Hockley, along with Holt, was not of the school, wanted Australian troops to go in with the US marines. The first four months of the war spent counter-attacking the US "troops" in an Australian battlefield fighting in Vietnam. Finally the American government decided to withdraw a book, which was supposed to be the end of the Vietnam government. The book was called "The Vietnam War".

Section wrote that in 1964, when the administration in Washington was waning slightly, Australia set out to use whatever influence it had to push the American war deeply into the mud that is the world, has a alternative but to press on to the end.

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# Law reform: example of the Workers' Republic

## My idea is the Commonly died for'



WITH the economic trends in Western capitalism come trends in the other spheres of capitalist culture and state. Perhaps one of the most revealing of these trends is in the area of law that affects citizens' rights — the area of "criminal investigation".

In Australia and overseas, the powers of police to arrest, search, detain, interrogate, attract attention and criticise several years ago.

### Tim Anderson investigates the popular myth that law reform can increase our rights

Pressure on people who had seen and experienced the present powers (like police "verbal") led to the creation of a number of public inquiries.

Meanwhile, police and state authorities are pushing for more powers. The issues are certain to remain disjointed.

Popular myth has it that law reform, as part of the liberal state, is a means of steady, if slow, progress, through "chipping away" at the problems that arise.

However, a look at the development of the law reform movement, as it affects citizens' rights, will show a clear trend that defies the popular myth.

The net result of the commissions and committees of inquiry, in virtually every case, has been a victory for the state — instrumentalities, because police powers and citizens rights are mutually exclusive.

The Thompson Report in Scotland (1975) was one of the first (in countries with a British legal system) to advocate general tape-recording of police interviews, as a safeguard against verballing. Previously there had been "ex-perimentation" with this that is, the police had used it when it suited them, and verbalised when it did not.

But this year new legislation, the Criminal Justice (Scotland) Bill has just passed through the British Parliament, bringing "sweeping new powers for Scotland" police to stop, search and detain suspects without arrest, charge or formal caution. Suspects may be held for up to six hours for interrogation."

The original Report, which attempted to combine police powers with citizens' safeguards, has been used entirely for the former purpose.

This was no exception. The Beach Report (1977) in Victoria and the Lucas Report (1974) in Queensland offered similar packages. The Beach report was overturned in its entirety by the later Norris Inquiry.

None of the thirpology police-industry critics, like Barry Beach, were ever

Many of the changes are being introduced fairly unilaterally. In many cases, there is no recognition of state "interference". The ASIO illegal operations powers play off the powers of the police philosophy.

Many of the new police and security laws are "terrorism" — whether or imagined — so as to look at Northern Ireland where laws like that have been fully effective.

In the District (with no jury) many bits of evidence have been changed. These courts try all general charges in relation to political offences. A majority of convictions based on "confession" in the arguments in the centre on whether received in police areas were due to "misbehavior" or were "self-inflicted".

convicted.

In the case of the Lucas Report, the Bickel-Parsons Government instituted its own inquiry into the Report. Lucas had stated that his "package" of police powers could not be implemented unless the protections were also introduced. The protections were thrown out and the police enjoyed another victory.

More recent inquiries have been omitting the protection of civil liberties clauses. Thus the NSW Royal Commission into Drugs, as well as finding no evidence of police corruption in the field of drugs, recommended only extra police powers.

The Federal Royal Commission into Drugs found evidence of corruption (planting of evidence and fabrication of confessions, amongst other things) but made no firm proposals for safeguards against police powers. More powers (for search and eavesdropping) were proposed.

Now the latest British Royal Commission into Criminal Proceedings has reinforced the trend.

The thrust of its proposals was in the direction of the Northern Ireland Prevention of Terrorism laws. They include wider police powers to stop and search people in the street and to enter premises. And a guarantee preliminary power to hold a person without charge for up to six hours, to be exercised by a senior police officer for 24 hours, thereafter by a magistrate, up to a further 24-hour extension.

Far from the situation our popular myth may have suggested, we find that each and every report regardless of whether it has contained any promise of civil rights has been used for the one purpose — more police power.

Tim Anderson is a writer and journalist who has written for the Workers' Republic and other socialist publications. He is currently in London.

### CONSTANCE MARKIEVICZ was 48 years old when she was a second-in-command of the small contingent of Irish Army soldiers that occupied St Stephen's Green during the Easter Rebellion of 1916.

Markievicz, known as the Irish Bonnie, and there awaited her death sentence, as day by day, word came that yet another comrade had been shot.

But her story never begins nor ends in 1916. Born in 1868 into an Anglo-Irish family whose property and wealth were being lost, she was a gentlewomanly conduct in Ireland, committed her parents to 'penal servitude for life'.

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CONSTANCE MARKIEVICZ at target practice in 1910. She was a strong advocate of physical preparedness for women as well as men.

to centuries old subjugation of the Irish people. Constance Markievicz was for many years a typical representative of her class and of the women of that class.

Her first struggle was against the narrow restrictions placed upon her as a woman in the British Army or Police.

A long time years after her presentation as a debutante to Queen Victoria in 1887, she was finally shot, at the age of 29, to persuade her parents to let her go to Paris to study painting.

There did not meet an art student whom she eventually married and she and her husband, a Polish Count, named Casimir Markievicz, returned to Ireland and the ferment of the Irish literary and linguistic movement at the turn of the century.

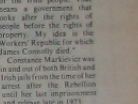
Her husband was a member of the Irish Literary and Linguistic movement at the turn of the century.

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### Patty Brady looks at the life and times of Irish Republican socialist leader CONSTANCE MARKIEVICZ

She was also the first female member of the short-lived Irish Republic. Her husband was a member of the Irish Literary and Linguistic movement at the turn of the century.

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## AND DI SHOW!

where you have to rub it in. Meanwhile Di has got problems of her own. The London Daily Express reported 'With little to do but wait for the wedding, Lady Di has been admitting to friends that she is a tiny bit bored'.

Poor old Di has had to abandon her advanced research into the cure for cancer, and leave her first symphony unfinished. Still, to relieve the monotony she has been shopping with her mother Mrs France Mand Shandy all week. Yesterday she went to Harrods. But if she's bored now, christ knows how she'll be once she has to sleep with Charlie every night.

And talking about the royal nights, the British Foreign Diplomatic Corps had a whip round amongst the boys to get Chas & D present. At £30 a head they got together \$4,500.

Charlie let it be known through diplomatic channels that what he really wanted in his life was a bed, so now

chaps at the FO are looking for a four and a half grand bed. No one will say whether the royal sack will be round, square or even a water bed.

But one thing is certain — it will have to be very big to compensate for the Prince's habit of falling off anything he mounts.

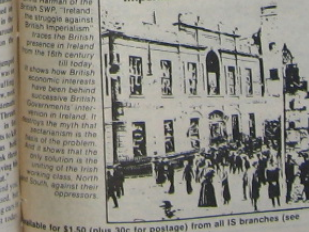
Finally Madame Tussauds announced they will have a life-size replica of Di ready for the wedding. It will be accurate in every detail, even down to having the royal hairdresser pop in to do the royal hair.

But just to be on the safe side Tussauds are inscribing a big blue X under their dummy's feet to make sure it doesn't get confused with the real one.

From the Battler special correspondent in London for the Royal Wedding, Dame Zara.

## NOT OFF THE PRESS! I T'S THE GAS

### IRELAND: The struggle against British Imperialism



IN case you didn't realise, Buckingham Palace has officially announced that the Chas & Di Show is (and I quote) not a state occasion. It is a family celebration.

I can't understand why anyone would have been silly enough to think anything family deeply personal wedding.

That's why 2,500 guests have been invited — including Chas & Di, all friends as all European heads of state, the NATO chiefs of staff, all leaders of the Commonwealth plus the Cabinet and shadow Cabinet.

Plus of course, just to keep it particularly intimate, an estimated 400 million TV viewers.

The latest piece of all family occasion possibly personal Chas & Di junk to hit the market is Royal Chas & Di Jelly. Apparently Prince Philip and Princess Margaret can't eat enough of it. The problem is it doesn't say on the label

It's a family celebration.

It's a family celebration.

**NEW FEES MEAN DEATH TO THE TRUCKIE**

**TRUCKIES CARRY THIS COUNTRY MUST WE FINANCE IT TOO?**

*Members demonstrate in Melbourne against the introduction of licence fees. They mounted an effective campaign and, more importantly, won.*

# TRUCKIES LAIK LICENCE FEES

TRUCKIES have launched a Victorian government attempt to make life on the road even more of an uphill battle.

The state government hit on a great new money-making scheme in June — massively increasing the licence fees for truck owners.

But the drivers, petrol, and the hefty fine in \$100 for the registration of heavy vehicles (some \$100 for semi-trailers).

Previously, a licence would cost \$40 and \$150 for a motor car and \$150 for a semi. The new tax was set at \$100 for a licence, \$100 for a motor car, and \$150 for a semi. The new tax was set at \$100 for a licence, \$100 for a motor car, and \$150 for a semi.

The government is already receiving increased revenue from the state tax on petrol.

## Glassworkers breakthrough to \$5!

METAL TRADES workers in the glass industry look set to win the \$5 hour week.

Most glass industry bosses have conceded the demand for a \$5 an hour week. The work was virtually won by the end of last year.

## Plugging productivity

A RECENTLY formed joint Shop Stewards Committee at Bendigo Textiles, Carleton United and Camberlain, is concentrating efforts on building the 35 hour week campaign.

The official 35 hour week Working Party, led by ILE President Macdonald, has shown and other officials, has issued offers to have back the 35 hour week. These offers have the increased productivity of the working party.

The shop staff represent-back for an adequate, reliable working conditions. They disagree should start working for conditions and in the process, but they were more likely to be successful.

## SOMETHING HAPPENING WHERE YOU WORK? Write for the Battler

# Scabs take the cake at Eventide

240 HOSPITAL Employees Federation members at the Eventide home at Sandgate, Brisbane, have taken on the fight over the administration of the hospital.

For months job reps have been involved in conference after conference over staff levels and increasing work requirements. The administration has given promises, but nothing else.

Things came to a head when a new ward building was opened around two weeks ago. The Health Department tried forcing members to work with even less staff than before.

Many of the staff that should now be in the new wards have been left in unoccupied wards, in the hope that members would cop the new arrangements. Then temporaries would be quietly pd and people leaving not replaced. Smart hel.

The administration even generally staff weren't needed.

The workers have an award that will be employed. AS PERMANENTS, there will be no return to work.

Stop work meetings have been called

# END OF THE LINE FOR RIGHT WING RUBBISH

"THIRTY shunters hold Sydney to ransom!" This and similar headlines graced the Sydney dailies last week.

A wildcat strike in support of a claim for \$4.40 allowance inflamed the outrage of the editorial writers.

In reality it's the Swan government's refusal to pay the allowance, which tradesmen and other grades in the running shunters already get. This has caused inconvenience to Sydney commuters.

Striking train examiners in some sections have also won a similar allowance. But the government won't pay for their costs, and that's why

they've kept your strikes. For a job that has an average of eight deaths a year, and an uncopied accident and loss of income, \$4.40 hardly seems a lot to ask.

The militancy of the shunters has also been used by the right wing of Australian Railways Union members to stir up a red sheet against those they see as their opponents in the elections at the end of this year.

Headed "Save Public Transport Hypocrisy", the leaflet attacks a moderate union official, Roger Law and "his mad communist" friends.

Striking train examiners in some sections have also won a similar allowance. But the government won't pay for their costs, and that's why

# Write to The Battler: P.O. Box 46 Flemington, Vic 3031

## Dear Battlers

# The Science of Oppression

As you will know, the scientific method is a process of discovery. It involves the formulation of a hypothesis, the design of an experiment, the collection of data, and the analysis of that data.

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## Occupations for the unemployed

"WE have claimed over \$500,000 worth of unused Government housing," announced a spokesperson from the South Australian Squatters Union.

They are campaigning around the lack of housing available to low income earners. And they've shown what positive action can do.

The first occupations were in the Brighton-Bowden area. There are three vacant houses had been purchased by the Highways department for a proposed new route.

This plan was later scrapped, leaving about one hundred houses empty for up to eighteen months.

Representation from the Highways department to demand that vacant and the built but not occupied houses be re-occupied and that each squatter be able to negotiate a written agreement to occupy the house.

Twenty-five houses have been occupied. About half of these have had leases granted, while the other half will have immediate action taken against them.

By John Lewis, Melbourne

## Janey Stone, Melbourne

## Maxwell Scab

TRADY unions all over NSW and Victoria have been financially supporting Bob Maxwell's scabbing during a strike at Scotts of Ipswich. Maxwell has in his fight against a defamation writ.

The writ was filed by a former scabber, Maxwell, during a strike at Scotts of Ipswich. Maxwell has in his fight against a defamation writ.

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## SUPPORT THE HUNGER STRIKERS

National Demonstrations: Sydney: Saturday 11 July, Sydney Town Hall 11 am. Melbourne: Friday 10 July, King Square 5 pm. Brisbane: Saturday 18 July, City George Square 10 am. Adelaide: Friday 10 July, Rundle St Mall 7 pm.

## WHAT'S ON

- BATTLER EDITORIAL** 180 Box 46, Flemington, Vic 3031 376 3307 (180 answering and message machine)
- N.S. NATIONAL OFFICE** 180 Box 46, Flemington, Vic 3031 61 2056
- MELBOURNE** 510 Box 1473N, Melbourne, Vic 3001 61 2056
- SYDNEY** 180 Box 46, Flemington, Vic 3031 61 2056
- ADELAIDE** 180 Box 46, Flemington, Vic 3031 61 2056
- CANBERRA** 180 Box 46, Flemington, Vic 3031 61 2056
- IPSWICH** 180 Box 46, Flemington, Vic 3031 61 2056



ROBIT checkup for the USA's space shuttle 'Columbia'. Investment and research in the space race has close links with the military machine.

## FUNDRaiser

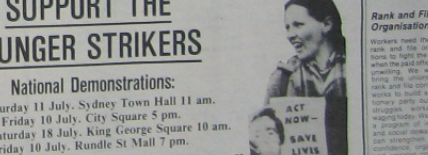
Cyde Engineering 35 hour week campaign 8 pm 26 June, Shannon Room, Pines Hall. Cost \$4 (\$25 unemployed) presented by UWU Adelaide.

## How to contact the International Socialists

BRISBANE: Tuesday 7 July, Inter-Community Action Committee, 10 am. Speakers from the party will be present.

MELBOURNE: Tuesday 7 July, Inter-Community Action Committee, 10 am. Speakers from the party will be present.

SYDNEY: Tuesday 7 July, Inter-Community Action Committee, 10 am. Speakers from the party will be present.



## Rank and File Organisation

Workers need their own rank and file organisation. The rank and file organisation is the only one that can speak for the workers in the workplace.

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**I WANT TO JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS!**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone no: \_\_\_\_\_

Trade Union: \_\_\_\_\_

City and post office: \_\_\_\_\_

P.O. Box 46, Flemington Vic 3031.

# As mail strike ends it's ... Back to the starting post!

**THE STRUGGLE** against the Razor Gang has suffered a serious blow with the collapse of last week's Victorian postal strike.

After four days out and bringing the entire Victorian mail service to a halt, the 6000 posties, sorters and drivers were left high and dry by the cowardice of General Executive and the APTU (Postal & Telecom Union) Federal Executive.

State's Federal Executive met for two days in Melbourne in the middle of the strike, but refused to do anything to spread it beyond Victoria.

Faced with the prospect of isolation and long bitter struggle on their own, Victorian members voted overwhelmingly for a State Executive motion to go back to work.



POSTAL WORKERS march through Melbourne.

## Print workers won't budge

SIX HUNDRED workers at Sungvare, a print-shop at Rosebery in Sydney, are on strike for decent retrenchment pay.

Over three weeks ago, the company, which is owned by Fairfax, let it be known that there were likely to be retrenchments at the plant.

They offered the workers three weeks pay for every year worked if the retrenchments were caused by technological changes in the plant. But if jobs were cut for 'economic reasons' they would only get two weeks a year redundancy pay.



When fighting an offensive boss, you need an even more offensive weapon. Subscribe!

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Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
(Zip and post to PO Box 91, Hindmarsh, SA 5013)

centres to bypass the Federal Executive and get them to support it.

Second, to send delegations to other unions and work places to raise a strike vote in Australia Post can't survive us back to work.

And third, to set up pickets, where we suspect snatching going out.

But with a large right-wing contingent at the meeting that had not bothered to attend previous mass meetings prior to the strike, and the State Executive would have three jobs: "The Strike Committee, open to all members, to be set up to re-launch the strike campaign."

"This Strike Committee would have three jobs: 'The 2000-strong mass meeting last Wednesday. First, to send delegations to other states, direct to rank-and-file at the mail office, even a call for an overtime ban to maintain the mail backlog was defeated."

Despite the defeat of the strike, several positive things have come out of it. For a start, it was the most serious action undertaken by the Victorian branch of the union in well over a decade.

Second, the strike came about due to two factors: a bold initiative by a shop stewards' meeting to step up the previous campaign of bans, and an overwhelming vote — in defiance of the Federal Executive — by about 1000 members who had attended a mass march led by the shop stewards.

This indicates a much new trend of militancy in wide sections of the union.

Third, the Terrier group itself took on a bold initiative, by attempting to organise interstate solidarity with a direct approach to militants in Brisbane and Sydney.

This was particularly successful in Brisbane, where three shop stewards circulated a leaflet and a petition to try and get a mass meeting to organise support for Victoria.

They gained 100 signatures in a lunch-hour at the Brisbane Mail Exchange, before management threatened to sack them if they continued inside, and to call the police if they tried it on the loophole outside.

(No wonder management was worried — notably the mass meeting for the strike was not only opposed by the Federal Executive, but also by the angle of view of the Razor Cuts. For our drivers' spontaneity struck fear into the Razor Cuts' hearts.)

And the State Executive will soon face similar pressure once again. Australia Post Corporate Services is to be dissolved on July 1, and its assets redeployed to a new Razor Gang cut.

Several of the Razor Cuts drivers will be relying on themselves to re-launch the State Executive meeting to adopt a more immediate strike action against compulsory redundancy.

So for the road to be again sound, the union officials might find it a little harder to push us back to work.

by John Minns

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## Bans put the heat on Bjelke

350 Queensland government blue collar workers voted overwhelmingly to continue their campaign for increased allowances and the 35 hour week.

At their June 17 meeting, they decided to maintain bans and reject the feeble resources of the Public Service Board.

When the PSB met with union officials and delegates on June 17, they would still only agree to \$8.10 a week in 1981-82, a 10 per cent increase on a \$74.00 award, and nothing out of a \$50 allowance.

However, the PSB agreed to a possible further \$8 after a work vote has been held.

But this was not acceptable. As one plumbing delegate said, "Our's is not an extravagant log of claims. Some tradesmen are getting at least \$46,500 in state pension awards in external industry."

These workers in the metalworkers' vehicle builders, electro trades and plumbers' unions are amongst the lowest paid government employees.

Some tradesmen's wages are less than fourth year apprentice private industry. At Agony meetings on May 13 they decided to support the bans in support of their class. State Cabinet had the Home Affairs workers to go to the State Industry Commission. But no one was to be taken in.

These highly paid government lackeys are not interested in improving workers' conditions, they do us to tie you to an agreement you don't want.

Already John's air conditioning breakdown down and two government hospitals are running 15-20 beds empty as the laundry equipment tops up.

This is the language the PSB understands and the way to win the bans.

by Tony Coleman

# the battler

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS  
Approved by CPUSA Melbourne and Brisbane.  
No. 113 July 1981 20 cents

Let's get our cut of the bosses' resources boom ...



NOTING in Brisbane — the first and (near) another first — Thatcher takes to the tube to plead against greed.

## Riot on

A list of rubbish has been written in the press to explain the riot. At its most absurd level there have been police reports of all the rioting, in a dozen different cities, simultaneously mind you, being perpetrated by four naked men.

Margaret Thatcher and the right wing press have blamed it all on "greed" and a break down in the respect for "our democratic way of life".

More sensible reports have looked at the underlying causes — namely high real wages and a white, police controlled society.

The great majority of British workers have remained totally in the face of mass unemployment. They still do not know how to respond to

**FIGHT THE CUTS DEMO**

March from Town Hall Square to Hyde Park, Sydney — 10 a.m. Saturday, July 18.

Muldoon's in trouble. So's the tour. Story — p.3

Let's get our cut of the bosses' resources boom ...

# JOHN THE WAGE WIKER

THE RESOURCES boom is now really starting to have an effect on the Australian economy.

Massive overseas investment in coal, aluminium and other resource industries will lift Australia's growth rate to an estimated 5.7% this year — the highest of any advanced capitalist country.

But all this wealth is massive profits for the bosses of a few Australian and multinational companies, unless we get in for our share. Already the politicians have shown that they don't intend moving out of their chop.

What we can do is put our own wage claims in — in each union and every job. And back then up with militant action. We can leave isolated groups of workers to fight on alone. That means leaving the resources boom to the bosses, as well.

So far all we have got out of the 'boom' is a slight reduction in unemployment. But according to the government's own figures, which massively underestimate the actual numbers, there are still 340,000 Australian workers who have to take an existence on the dole.

It is vital that we get in now for really major wage increases or we will miss out on revolution, meaning that the factories as well as the streets have to be seized.

That means that to be effective, vigilante militant fighters have to learn to talk to, lead and organise young workers as well as the older, more experienced workers as well as black.

**The paper that fights for workers' power**





**THE ABORTIVE** rising of 1798 was the first to a seven year period of organising and counter-organising by proponents of Irish unity on the one hand and of Protestant ascendancy on the other.

It all started in 1791, with the rise of the Irishmen under the leadership of Theodor Wolfe Tone.

Tone, a Protestant lawyer, was arrested like many others, by the hunderd of the French Revolution of 1789.

It tore them out of the safety that had been their for many decades, and into a new period of hope. For the aristocracy, of course, it was a disaster and the end of the French Revolution aroused.

As Tone wrote: "The Irish, like the French Revolution became the test of every man's political creed, and the nation was fairly divided into two great parties, the Democrats and the Aristocrats." And he added, "It is needless to say that as a Democrat from the beginning."

He was invited to draft a resolution in commemoration of the second anniversary of the storming of the Bastille.

And its programme soon grew specific — manhood suffrage, equal electoral districts, no property qualifications, abolition of the aristocracy, and a new constitution for the country. 2) That the most effective way to oppose it is by a reform in Parliament. 3) That no reform would be just or effective which did not include the Catholics.

The opposition which he had provoked led him towards formation of the Society of United Irishmen. The Society was declared its aims as "securing a Brotherhood of Affection, and a Union of Power among Irishmen of every religious persuasion and thereby to obtain a complete Reform in the Legislature founded on the principles of civil, political and religious liberty."

By Rae Norris.

Threatened by the rising tide of democratic-espionage enthusiasm among the United Irishmen, it retaliated by stirring up the more "ignorant, debased, corrupt, and reactionary" stratum of the Protestant religion, an orthodox secret society — the Mother Lodge of the Orange Society — was formed.

The Orange Order became an organised conspiracy aimed at replacing the struggle for equality with an embittered war of race against race from which only the Protestant ruling class and their hangers on would benefit.

The struggle between the forces of Revolution and Counter-Revolution turned into actual war in May 1798. The previous years of repression had shown the United Irishmen that Parliamentary reform was not enough.

Only a revolution could ensure complete success in their aim of united Ireland. They therefore looked to the French for an example and for a assistance. Throughout 1796 and 1797, the belief that the French could and would come to the aid of an Irish revolution took hold of more and more people, until by the end of 1797 the strain of waiting became unbearable, and impatience and demonstration set in.

Meanwhile the Government was organising through propaganda aimed at the gentry, both Protestant and Catholic, to ensure that an insurrection

The enactment of the Militia Act heralded a new wave of repression. But as the repression accelerated, so did the resistance of the people.

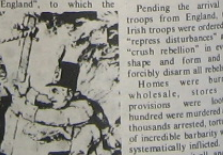
What amounted to a minor civil war broke out in the West and parts of the retrained, and defended themselves with desperate courage.

The Government jumped to the conclusion that the peasants' resistance had been directed by the United Irishmen, and began to suppress the Society by force. As a result, Tone had to flee to France.



THE IRISH BRAMMANSHAM

**THE IRISH people were portrayed as apollitic savages from the early 1600s until 1926. The same attitude is shown today in so-called Irish jokes.**



THIS ENGRAVING of a travelling galloway dates from the rising of the United Irishmen in 1798.

the Government was organising through propaganda aimed at the gentry, both Protestant and Catholic, to ensure that an insurrection

**IRELAND:**  
The struggle against British Imperialism



50c (for postage) from all IS branches (see page II for details)

containing their terror for years "searching for means". As for the leaders of the United Irishmen, three were hanged, including Tone, while the rest struck a deal

with the Government whereby they went into voluntary exile in exchange for all but individually incriminating information. So ended the abortive rising of 1798.

Each wave of repression in Ireland during the 1790s resulted in hundreds of arrests. Not all were executed or imprisoned in Ireland — many hundreds were transported to the colony of New South Wales.

After being kept in iron, the whole grueling journey to Australia, they arrived in Botany Bay to be dumped in the atrocious penal camps of NSW, with inadequate food, clothing and bedding.

No bits of their "crimes" or the length of their sentences accompanied them. Consequently there was no guarantee of when, if ever, their sentences would expire.



RUTHLESS evictions were a feature of life in 19th century Ireland. Peasants were driven from their land and replaced by flocks and herds. The population almost halved in 50 years.



**... TRANSPORTED**

Irish seagoing, many of whom had been participants in 1798 uprising.

By March 1, the panic and repression had ebbed slightly. Three days later the convicts at Castle Hill revolted. Driven to despair by the poverty, squalor, misery and

as soon as the news of the rebellion reached Sydney, they ordered the rebels — 233 wretched half-starved men — armed with a few Irish-made muskets, one fowling piece, one plow-broke, eight crapping hooks and two stolen swords — at Rose Hill.

There they faced well-armed, well-trained, well-dressed soldiers. When the best of the convicts were shot or were later hanged, and the rest brutally hanged.



The Battler features... The Battler features... The Battler features...



The Battler features... The Battler features... The Battler features... The Battler features... The Battler features...

### Yes Minister: bungling at the top

IT'S FUNNY, it's clever and, best of all, it shows politicians up for the frock so many of them are.

It's 'Yes Minister' a new British comedy

All the television public... The second was even better. Again the cool clever civil servant puts his minister out of the shot after the first time there was more guts in the air.

The newly drafted producer of *Yes Minister*, one of Britain's few TV series to be set in the past, is Scotland Yard in order to give a 'spec'. And what a spec!

Pandemonium breaks out when the government sees (or a civil servant notices) a paragraph in a press-magazine of it, calling on the people of Britain, indeed, (p. 10 million pounds, second time, resignation left).

"Blackmail" means the outrage over money (what's coming along to make sure his minister doesn't make any such reference to any terms or his party) to the president's inquiry response.

If the writers can bring it up, it looks like 19 and 1981, but between 1980 and 1981, it would seem to be quite good.

By Mae Morris

# FOR BETTER OR WORSE?

WHY DO YOU make me feel so guilty about staying at home? I enjoy looking after my children.

I remember that woman almost pleading with me about staying at home? I enjoy looking after my children.

It is a woman almost pleading with me about staying at home? I enjoy looking after my children.

It is a woman almost pleading with me about staying at home? I enjoy looking after my children.

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It is a woman almost pleading with me about staying at home? I enjoy looking after my children.

## TALKING ABOUT SOCIALISM

by Margaret Henn

involved in the murder of Prime Minister Corcoran.

There was no evidence against her. It was found that she had been found guilty of the crime of murder.

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then lack and men and women can begin to live together in a world with a good chance that they will get on.

Having children should be the first priority of a couple. It is a woman's duty to have children, and men should be prepared to do so.

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# GEORGE ORWELL

--- all animals are equal but some animals are more equal than others ---

George Orwell's *Animal Farm* is a political allegory that satirizes the Russian Revolution and the rise of Stalinism.

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# THE BATTLE 18 JULY 1981 PAGE 9

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## The postman .. twice bitten

by Mike Growcock

WHEN A screaming Jessica Lange found herself cradled in the arms of a giant King Kong, alone being shot at by FBI's at the top of the Empire State building, the audience was almost compelled to feel sorry for the fat, pathetic ape.

And no doubt, when Sydney Inoué's Cora Collins goes from being King Kong II one wet and miserable winter's night, channel ten viewers will be implored to pay particular detail to an exotic flicker of Jessica's eyes or be informed of the recipe of her Walker's favourite fruitcake. (We already been given Katherine Hepburn).

And no doubt, there'll be inevitable comparisons between the original and the remake: the structure and the plot (if you can find it).

It is this great tradition of King Kong like Bill Holden, employed, that Lange and new great ape.

Cora. In many ways, just an extension of the Hollywood female stereotype.

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PAGE 18 THE BATTLE 18 JULY 1981

Despite official skulduggery...

# POSTAL BARRAGE

**BITTER** faction fighting involving State and Federal union officials is undermining the postal workers wage campaign.

APU Federal Secretary, George Slater, after grandstanding over the Telecom wage rise (which he did nothing to win) is intent on attempting to drop the campaign in the sky "until after the upcoming union election."

Federal office vice a direction to apply certain...  
Last month his plans were a little away when the mail and file in Victoria reported an attempt to drop the campaign in the midst of stand down...  
Liberally support other union leaders...  
The would be done...  
This would demolish any chance of Slater's opposition...  
But Slater then...  
He would then ensure that exactly what he wanted being put in the other...  
The Thompson government provoked the dispute by urging the Metropolitan Fire Brigade to stand for a printing halt by refusing to operate vehicles which they have used their wiper and petrol supplies.

By **Sve Drakeley**, APTU delegate Redfern.

This week we are gradually clearing down the NSW system. On Monday the postmen met, on Tuesday the Mail Officers went for 24 hours, Thursday the drivers and Postal Officers on Friday...  
But despite that order the campaign nationally still remains a token one. An all-out, indefinite, national stoppage, or at least a series of national rolling actions is needed...  
The action members showed the way when they smashed through the...  
It's not a question of...  
The results, and that's exactly what we want...  
The results, and that's exactly what we want...

**appealed**  
They have since appealed to the APTU...  
The results, and that's exactly what we want...  
The results, and that's exactly what we want...

To make sure we can get to go on, we'll need...  
The results, and that's exactly what we want...  
The results, and that's exactly what we want...

**DOCKERS WIVES** dress up to spook the Royal Commission...  
The results, and that's exactly what we want...  
The results, and that's exactly what we want...

**Dockyards won't cop this lot!**  
WORKERS AT Williamstown Naval Dockyard (Melbourne) are taking a stand against management harassment. We voted last Friday to tell the following Tuesday and then consider further...  
The results, and that's exactly what we want...  
The results, and that's exactly what we want...

**Fighting Fund:**  
Our Fighting Fund needs help. Our tanks...  
The results, and that's exactly what we want...  
The results, and that's exactly what we want...

**Dear Battlers,**  
Why Support The Truckies?  
Dear Battlers, I was excited to read the...  
The results, and that's exactly what we want...  
The results, and that's exactly what we want...

**TALK'S ALL WE GOT FROM GMB**  
TRADESMEN at GMB Fisherman's Bend (Melbourne) walked out the gate last week in support of a \$24.40 pay claim...  
The results, and that's exactly what we want...  
The results, and that's exactly what we want...

**WHAT'S ON**  
Sydney Sat 18th July...  
The results, and that's exactly what we want...  
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The results, and that's exactly what we want...  
The results, and that's exactly what we want...

**Getting the run around at Eventide**  
AFTER SIXTEEN days on the grass, 2400 Eventide Hospital workers in Brisbane voted to return to work...  
The results, and that's exactly what we want...  
The results, and that's exactly what we want...

**NSW PLUMBERS** are on strike over pay...  
The results, and that's exactly what we want...  
The results, and that's exactly what we want...

**No flow-on for plumbers**  
Union members the...  
The results, and that's exactly what we want...  
The results, and that's exactly what we want...

**How to contact the International Socialists**  
BATTLER EDITORIAL...  
The results, and that's exactly what we want...  
The results, and that's exactly what we want...

**WHAT'S ON**  
Sydney Sat 18th July...  
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# NO 35hr



BRISBANE CITY COUNCIL blue collar workers. Waiting for the Lord Mayor to meet the people.

**BRISBANE** City Council workers are led up with useless negotiations and broken promises from ALP aldermen.

So 400 of them took over the 3rd floor of the Council Administration building on 29 June, to chants of 'No 35 hour week — No Games'.

Earlier that day 3000 workers overwhelmingly and (life delegates' motion to reject the Council's offer of a 35-hour week. They decided to strike immediately for 8 hours and ban all work associated with the Commonwealth Games.

They then marched to the Council's office to present their proposals directly to the ALP Aldermen. Union officials had to go

By  
**Tony Coleman**

he pushed her out of the way. A chase up and down corridors finally trapped Sieman and Vice-Mayor Harvey in an elevator.

Union officials suddenly popped up again and said they would negotiate with the Aldermen if workers allowed the lift doors to close.

When the doors reopened, surprise, surprise — Sieman and Harvey had disappeared.

With the Games only one year away, the bare reality have Sieman worried. 'We've even had rumpuses from job about bringing in private enterprise to do the work.'

intention to intensify negotiations. They have 30 contingents — 1000 in total — and a further 1000 have not yet been needed.

About 500 roadworkers and 20 railworkers are involved. These 500 would probably operate around the city area but would require many cars to get them to the site.

Sieman said some of the 500 would be used for social operations with 1000 as an aid. He has three times with officials on the road but nothing ever got the way on paper.

Casual workers are set up with 35 hour week. The ALP aldermen said that the Commonwealth Games cost of a

State government have made a lot of noise about how urgent it is that the dispute be settled. But the workers were out for three weeks before they notified the Arbitration court of a dispute.

'We'll say out until we get what we want because we don't trust the State government, the Arbitration court or the Authority.'

Conditions for these workers have always been poor. They work longer hours for less money than workers for private companies. But the State government is afraid that if a 35 hour week was here, it will flow on to other State organisations.

'There's a common link in all the disputes at the wharves over the last few weeks', a worker told us, 'and that's the State government.'

### On the right track

**THE 35 HOUR** week campaign is spreading to the Queensland Railways. Members of the Queensland Railways, Metalworkers and Painters Unions are meeting across the state to get the campaign going.

They now only show under the federal award have been involved in the 35 hour week campaign, and companies have been taken on by us.

The overwhelming vote at the railway vote took place on Tuesday. There we won't be employed by the Authority — in the four week and that's all there is to it.

The Authority said the only Port in Australia that hasn't got a 35 hour week. In 1972, the Arbitration court ordered us into going weekly.

'That's probably what they'll be to do in the beginning on Tuesday. But we won't be fooled again. This will be the last time that all these crane maintenance workers — are on strike. Despite this, the Authority said the



**WHEN A machine goes wrong, you can always throw it away and get a new one.**

**The General Electric Company in Melbourne thought it could do that with its workers too.**

The workers, members of the AMWU (Metal Workers Union), assenon electrical goods at G.E.'s plant in Hocking Hill. It involves firing, repetitive work. When seven of the workers came down with tenosynovitis — a work produced disease that affects the joints — they were off on compo.

G.E.C. thought nothing of renouncing that it would sack them all, and employ new personnel. Maybe.

Since many of the remaining workers could get tenosynovitis themselves, they wouldn't stop that. After a couple of industrial protest strikes, and no response from management, they walked out on June 26.

We can't afford to let the bosses get away with it, one worker told us. 'We should do what they did in Tehran — bomb them. They could not price ourselves.' They were supported by

# the battler

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

## Keep up the wages offensive ...



## the wage offensive

which has rocked Australia over the last few weeks has the bosses and the Fraser government on the run.

The determined industrial action by a whole series of unions, but particularly the Transport Workers, has shown we can all make major gains ... despite all the Liberal government's tough talk, its use of stand downs and the State of Emergencies declared by the state governments.

The paper that fights for workers' power



# FRASER'S ON THE RUN

The wage indexation system seems unable to give up its compromises. If we keep up the offensive over-boss can win at least the \$20 on so we have lost through partial indexation over the last few years.

But now it is not the time for compromises. If we keep up the offensive over-boss can win at least the \$20 on so we have lost through partial indexation over the last few years.

We can't afford to throw away the wage opportunity for seven years to make major gains because of hesitation on the part of our own ranks.

With Fraser on the run we should be really taking the boss in, not seeking deals. There is only one language these Liberal mugs understand and that's strikes.

# the battler

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

## We won't be fooled again

HERE OUT to smash the wage guidelines. There's no doubt about that.

That's the view of one of the maintenance workers at the Port of Melbourne.

They've been on strike for four weeks in all states for the Port Authority to talk with their unions — the UUE (Electricians), the AMWU (Metalworkers) and the IFA (Ironworkers) — about a pending negotiation — and they've got weekly.

There are 1400 workers involved in the 35 hour week campaign, and companies have been taken on by us.



**THE UNIONS ARE KILLING THIS COUNTRY!**

**the best crime coverage in... The Battler!**

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# BLACK EYES

MAGNIFICENT! That's the only way to describe the demonstration which stopped the Springbok rugby game in Hamilton, New Zealand.

5,000 militant demonstrators marched on the rugby ground in a brilliantly organised attack. The leading ranks armed with wire cutters broke away and attacked a section of the grounds fence and dragged it down.

They then poured through the stadium into the ranks of racist rugby supporters and onto the field.

By  
Rod Connolly

The police wrote me a letter a couple of days ago, saying that the demonstrators had been 'very well disciplined'. I should like to see the original letter, as it is an important part of the record of the events in a country where the police are so often praised for their 'discipline' and 'order'.

Because of the fear of a 'riot', the police are now being urged to 'stand by' the crowd in a country where the police are so often praised for their 'discipline' and 'order'.

In all, the protesters were seen on the ground for just over an hour as police officers tried to drag them off. The police used the riot charge to arrest 100 demonstrators. The police used the riot charge to arrest 100 demonstrators.

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**Uni. closes for games**

NEXT YEARS Brisbane Commonwealth Games will mean a lot more than fun and games for the staff and students of Griffith University.

Griffith Uni is situated next to the major venue for the games - an oval with the pompous title Queen Elizabeth II Silver Jubilee Sporting Complex - and will be evacuated for nine weeks from the end of August 1982 till after the completion of the Games in October.

The entire University will be taken over for the Games. All staff and students will be asked to leave the campus for the duration of the Games.

Griffith has benefited from the Games. It was given excellent assistance to build accommodation on campus for students.

They enjoy it! Because the athletes will be accommodated too. And when competitors move in, they will be very close to the action.

No one is quite sure how far it is to the university year-round that it is open. The administration on campus during the issue and the students union will be planning a demonstration.

Whenever happens there will be some pretty serious trouble. The police will be on hand. Security will be tight for the Games, not because of the possibility of demonstrators against its government.



AND DOWN came the fence at Hamilton's rugby park. It was a day of victory for militancy.

Andrew Molotsane tells the Battler about the other side of South Africa.

Andrew Molotsane, a participant in the 1976 Soweto uprising, has just spent ten weeks in New Zealand speaking about South Africa and Apartheid as a guest of the trade union movement.

While at school in Soweto, Andrew helped form the South African Students Movement, SASM, that called the students of Soweto out to march on June 16, 1976. He was a founding member of the Black Allied Workers Union.

In Brisbane, Phil Griffiths talked to Andrew about the situation in South Africa and the struggle against the Springboks tour of New Zealand.

There is a real fear in the province against sabotage National Congress Act. The police will be on hand.

When people ask about South Africa, they say that when they were there, they are bringing military forces into the war-torn.

Andrew spoke about the importance of organising the working class. The workers are important because of their numerical superiority.

The workers are important because of their numerical superiority. The workers are important because of their numerical superiority.

There were some real activists. Like the number of people called National Jones who are now in the ranks of the Communist Party.

Andrew Molotsane meets activists at the Aboriginal tent Embassy in Brisbane's King George Square.

# Truckies stake the guilines.

As we went to press, wage indexation was just about destroyed, dealt with by the transport workers.

Our story shows, transport workers found tremendous energy and determination to overcome press hysteria, and they got government pressure. And they appear to have won a historic victory.

But the collapse of indexation has, ironically, opened the Full Bench party for postponing the strike. Some sort of bastardy may be looked up to try to streat the victims of the drivers.

But whatever happens to their 20 dollar claim, nothing can detract from their achievement.



BRISBANE transport workers on the picket line at Greyhound.

By Nicola Cafesky

THE STRIKE that shook Australia began when 50,000 transport workers, covered by 50 federal wage awards, walked out in support of a 10 per cent wage claim.

The claim was to make up for their lost buying power. The strike was originally called for their lost buying power.

The bosses in the industry were far from united against the claim. The Australian Road Transport Federation agreed that transport workers' rates were too low, but could not come to an agreement on how much they should be increased.

What stood in the way of TWA's claim was the government, the Arbitration Commission, and the fear of the Australian ruling class that the TWA could initiate a genuine wage explosion.

Once the strike was underway, shortages began to appear. Milk, bread and other food items were affected. Governments at first seemed reluctant to pressure the employers.

The TWA rank and file consistently showed its readiness for action. The TWA rank and file consistently showed its readiness for action.

Ess Services Act - it's been beaten before

WHEN THE Essential Services Act was first passed in Victoria in 1948, it was the signal for severe strike actions.

The union paper enraged the employers and the government's intention was to crush the union's power.

The union paper enraged the employers and the government's intention was to crush the union's power.

They backed down repeatedly. Victoria officials agreed to meet them, then food and pharmaceuticals were rationed.

It's disgusting what's happened over the strike. It was our best bargaining point. The union should either fire or go on strike.

It's disgusting what's happened over the strike. It was our best bargaining point. The union should either fire or go on strike.

The stores did not exactly fall by the wayside. The TWA rank and file consistently showed its readiness for action.

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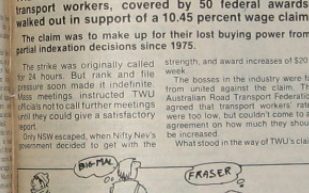
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# WITH STRINGS!

**AN ANGRY** meeting of Brisbane City Council delegates flatly rejected a union officials' proposal to accept a 3 1/2% hour week.

A second motion to leave the dispute in the hands of the rank and file strike committee and to call of a planned mass meeting was carried after some heated debate.

As one delegate said, "3000 workers tossed this same offer out at the last mass meeting so why have you back with nothing further to offer."

Some AWU officials spoke about accepting the proposed deal but were loudly shouted down. These officials are advising their members to pull out of the dispute and are spreading petitions around the shops asking members to accept the offer.

All 1000 delegates of the Council voted to accept the offer because of the support of the rank and file strike committee. A 3 1/2% offer was not accepted as a last resort because of the support of the rank and file strike committee.

There are angry attacks at the Council's offer in the Brisbane work a secreted talk which is held in a room in the building about leaving the hour further.

Most delegates were not voting on this and recognized that they must keep going, while they have the power, and not have it taken away from them.

**ABOUT 300 PEOPLE** marched to Hyde Park after a rally at Sydney Town Hall, against the **Fazor Gang** cuts. Seven trade unions and a number of community groups endorsed the rally. It called on the NSW Trades and Labor Council to organise a Sydney against the federal budget.

# Safe work? That a joke!

**"GOD AMINITE!** you have made an accurate statement." So says the Melbourne Herald in announcing a wonderful new medicine to cure you of a "Safe Work Day."

The Herald has a great "campaign" to make the National Safety Council to take that day accident free.

Every workplace that does it gets a Certificate of Achievement.

Just consider: The economic crisis, with unemployment, low wages, job losses, and so on, has already reached a point where we can no longer afford to have any more accidents.

The government has taken the risk and increased the cost of accidents, but it has not increased the cost of preventing them. Building companies, these days, charge more for insurance than they do for building.

"See that sign up there Mobley. That's our new safety program and I expect you workers to..."

**Commonwealth Games:** One planning shop has been cancelled because of the Commonwealth Four Year Builders' strike. The shop was supposed to have been held but has been related to drive them.

The council workers have the power to win this fight. They have control over every Commonwealth Games construction project and with the Games only one year away, the Council will be being worked on anything associated with the Commonwealth Games.

**Victoria Kalyano Eprou Ciapipitesi Teroy Sydney Varosi** says it has had to slash 500 million a year service. And another year of 500 million taken from the year's capital works programme.

**wait** The impact will be greater on women in patients care longer waits for treatment, yet long waits for

**Fight the cuts** Picket organised by Fight the Committee. 1 September October HCF (Hospital Contributions) George St, Sydney from 12 to 14 p.m. onwards

**Health care** The impact will be greater on women in patients care longer waits for treatment, yet long waits for

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# Bielke threatens health care

**QUEENSLAND'S** free hospital system looks likely to suffer the fate of Medibank. From now on we can expect tinkering, and when the package is softened up enough, the axe.

After weeks of indecision, state cabinet bulked at introducing a means test for public ward treatment. Instead the private and intermediate ward charges in public hospitals are going up — as are doctors fees and no doubt private insurance contribution rates.

To cover this cost quality of care is being planned. What, we're not sure, but unlike NSW or the UK, we've not had to meet any hospital losses.

The Patient Government says it has had to slash 500 million a year service. And another year of 500 million taken from the year's capital works programme.

**wait** The impact will be greater on women in patients care longer waits for treatment, yet long waits for

**Fight the cuts** Picket organised by Fight the Committee. 1 September October HCF (Hospital Contributions) George St, Sydney from 12 to 14 p.m. onwards

**Health care** The impact will be greater on women in patients care longer waits for treatment, yet long waits for

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# ISRAEL FOUSED LET'S GO?



**Bombed** — out residential area of West Beirut after Israeli air attacks.

**"Now we fight back"** Government. Only employed workers, taking action as workers, on the day. It was not until the day of the last day of the year.

**Government** Only employed workers, taking action as workers, on the day. It was not until the day of the last day of the year.

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## an eye-witness account by Steve Drakeley



Sandinista guerrillas fighting in Masaya . . .



. . . and Managua. Below: banner proclaims FSLN as people's vanguard.



JUST OVER two years ago, on 19 July 1979, tanks and troop carriers splashed with red paint spelling FSLN rumbled into a devastated downtown Managua.

A sea of red and black flags erupted in the centre of town as the city turned out to greet the Sandinistas and celebrate the victory over Somoza.

After a bloody civil war claiming 50,000 lives (out of a population of 2.7 million), the Nicaragua masses had smashed one of the most repressive states in a part of the world renowned for repressive states. A bastion of US imperialism had fallen to a mass movement of workers and peasants.

It was a tremendous victory lending impetus and inspiration to the masses of other Central American countries, notably El Salvador.

Anyone who goes to Nicaragua today, cannot help but catch a whiff of the excitement and enthusiasm that still pervades the air from that day.

## SOMOZA'S BLOODY REIGN

THE REGIME overthrown in July 1979 was established by one of the 75 US military interventions in Central America and the Caribbean.

In the late 1920's the US backed the conservative section of the ruling class in civil war with the liberal wing which was allied with the workers and peasants.

In 1934 General Sandino, from whom the Sandinistas get their name was killed and his army defeated. General Somoza took power with the support of the US and began to build the Somoza family's capitalist dynasty.

By the time of his collapse, this dynastic dictatorship had accumulated 50% of all arable and 40% of all industry and business. All this was achieved, not only at the expense of the workers and peasants whose labour produced the profits, but also at the expense of the other capitalists and landowners.

### callous

The devastating earthquake of 1972, which killed 10,000 people and razed down town Managua, revealed the Somoza dynasty's callous indifference for all Nicaraguans in the relief money was appropriated to his personal coffers.

Severe opposition began to move to the regime but it was the fear of intervention both from the nationalist bourgeoisie and the tiny national and social democratic left. Somoza's response was

simply repression dressed out with race equality and culminating in the blatant political assassination of the liberal capitalist candidate for president, Chamorro.

From this point on the possibility of reforming capitalism in Nicaragua, either by pressuring Somoza or replacing him, no longer existed. The masses, oppressed and unorganised, were now ripe for intervention and a break with the national petty-bourgeoisie, on whom they had for so long pinned their hopes.

At this point the FSLN-Sandinista National Liberation Front, a tiny guerrilla group of around 300 members, pulled a spectacular guerrilla operation which brought them into a vanguard as the leadership and inspiration of the Nicaraguan revolution.

Many of the members of the FSLN attacked the National Palace in broad daylight on 22 August 78 and held hostage the parliamentarians inside. They succeeded in freeing 1,000 political prisoners, gaining \$10 million ransom and a guarantee to fly them out of the country. Six days later a spontaneous rising had broken out in place in Managua. It took the National Guard a week to put down this rising. Two weeks later

## THE IMPERIALIST STRAIGHT JACKET

WHAT CLASS or classed the state? Is the economy based on capitalism or socialism?

If we take the economy that fundamentally little has changed since the war, Somoza still controls all of the economy. Key areas are owned by Somoza, are now run directly by the state.

But these areas are still locked into the capitalist economy of Nicaragua and the rest of the world capitalist system in a way characterised by underdeveloped countries as a raw materials and rural export crops and as an importer of manufactured goods and capital.

Nicaragua's fundamental problem to all other problems, is its economic dependency on imperialism, principally United States imperialism.

And there is no escape within Nicaragua itself, for no matter who controls the surplus produced by the Sandinista economy, whether it be individual capitalists, the state, or the

balancing act, point to dangers that lie ahead for the revolution.

There is a real possibility that the nationalised portion of the economy will spawn a state capitalist class, which would also include the upper levels of the state, and the military and the FSLN bureaucracy. This class could assume state power as happened in Russia under Stalin.

Another possibility is that compromise made by the surviving capitalists will become permanent, or that even 'honest' compromises could lead to a counter-revolution.

This however is unlikely in the immediate future, given the existence of the armed militia, and the overwhelming support for the FSLN.

## THE ROLE OF THE SANDINISTAS

THE FSLN is not a mass party, a party composed of the most class conscious elements of the masses themselves, like the Bolshevik party in 1917 in Russia.

How then is the proud FSLN hoard — 'The FSLN does not give up or sell out' — to be guaranteed?

The FSLN was formed in 1961 by a tiny group of revolutionaries influenced by Marxism and directly inspired by the Cuban revolution, where a small group of guerrillas succeeded in overthrowing a reactionary state similar to Somoza's.

From Cuba they borrowed the mistaken notion that the socialist revolution can be carried out by an elite group who substitute themselves for the masses.

This substitutionism arises out of a political contempt for the working class, the belief that the backwardness, ignorance or passivity of the masses disqualify them from directing their own revolution. It has sought and had the support of a mistaken understanding of the nature of socialism — not to take state power and not to work directly control of the means of production, but a nationalised economy administered by the state.

After the military victory the guerrillas became the 'body of armed men' the administration, in the state apparatus, the state takes control of production, imposes social changes, and democratically devises the economic plan.

The FSLN through the 60's and 70's invested its energies in Cuba and remained intact. But primarily this debate over the nature of the revolution, rather than over the nature of the FSLN itself, or the nature of socialism.

As the revolution developed, one which wanted to fight the traditional C.R. Guardia militia guerrilla war, another which wanted to organize



Tank rolls into Managua on 19 July, 1979. Below: two guerrillas



doors of the party to the masses (membership has been closed since July 1979) The other is the nature of the dem-

ocracy to be introduced. Of course, this is not a debate just in the FSLN. The debate is involving an image of socialism to every class conscious struggle for

THE FSLN'S AIMS for Nicaragua are shared by the most advanced of the workers and peasants. They include economic development, national independence and socialism. But the country's backwardness makes these goals impossible, unless the revolution spreads throughout Central America. And ultimately its success can only be guaranteed by spreading the revolution into the heartlands of capitalism: the USA, Russia and Europe.

For the last two years Nicaragua has kept both doors half open, tenuously preserving a degree of independence. But this situation is intolerable to the US ruling class. They are well aware that Nicaragua is just a part of the struggle in Central America, which they are determined to throttle.

Unless the situation becomes desperate however, the US is unlikely to intervene directly. Clearly the imperialist strategy is to isolate Nicaragua and prevent the 'diverse' from spreading to El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala. They intend to accomplish this through aid, particularly military aid, to the right wing regimes in those states.

And it's here that we have a role to play in Australia, by building a movement in solidarity with the revolutionary struggle in Central America. A movement in opposition to imperialism and in support of the aspirations of, and the class struggle being waged by, the workers and peasants in Nicaragua and El Salvador.



# Teacher strikes roll ... but how far?

VICTORIA'S secondary teachers are staging rolling general strikes over the breaking off of negotiations on conditions.

For over ten years, members of the Victorian Secondary Teachers' Association (VSTA) have fought to establish maximum teaching hours and maximum class sizes of 25.

Having won the policy schools, we have been fighting in recent years to get a state-wide agreement on conditions.

By Tess Lee  
Ack, VSTA

The members would have rejected a Bill Education Minister Bill Keenan had introduced in the Victorian Parliament. The bill would have set the maximum class size at 25 and the maximum teaching hours at 29.5 per week. The bill was rejected by a narrow margin.

Members who have fought conditions as well as an understanding of the reasons for these conditions go down the drain. The leadership was going to propose acceptance of a new set of conditions at the recent Annual General Meeting. It seems likely that

towards the end of term, but some members are still in a state of confusion as to what the Government has done. Some are angry and some are disappointed. The Government is proposing that teachers will be allowed to work for 30 hours a week, but that they will not be paid for the extra hour. This is a significant concession, but it is not what the teachers want.

They have pointed out that the Government is not prepared to pay for the extra hour. This is a significant concession, but it is not what the teachers want. They are not prepared to accept a 30-hour week without a corresponding increase in pay.

Two Victorian teachers, recently offered support for the Labor Party, are now in a state of confusion. They are not prepared to accept a 30-hour week without a corresponding increase in pay. They are not prepared to accept a 30-hour week without a corresponding increase in pay.



VICTORIAN secondary teachers march on the Education Department during a strike on July 22.

last entry came with his daughter in tow. Tom Pope, author of *The Man Who Wasn't There*, is a high school teacher and a member of the Victorian Secondary Teachers' Association. He is not prepared to accept a 30-hour week without a corresponding increase in pay.

Write to The Battler: P.O. Box 46 Flemington, Vic 3031

# Dear Battlers, DRUG A HARD BARGAIN

Dear Battlers, I've read in the Daily Mirror how all sorts of people are complaining about the cost of living. I've also read in the Daily Mirror how all sorts of people are complaining about the cost of living. I've also read in the Daily Mirror how all sorts of people are complaining about the cost of living.



# the hospitals disaster

Health insurance funds are offering new members everything from waiver of the normal waiting period to free consultations. The federal government's new health policies have forced large numbers of people to take out insurance. Hence the competition among the funds.

# POSTIES GET ACTION AS UNION POLL LOOMS

MASSIVE rank file pressure has forced the Federal officials of the APTU to pull their fingers out and get the wage campaign rolling. The motion passed overwhelmingly by the NSW mail officers' mass meeting, outlining a campaign of rolling national strikes, has been adopted word for word.

# Clyde strikers in 13th week

The Clyde Engineering strike could make or break the 35 hour week campaign in South Australia. Clyde workers at Riverbank in Adelaide are still on indefinite strike over shorter hours and a wage claim.

# IRELAND: The struggle against British Imperialism

A brand new pamphlet produced by the International Socialist League, based on articles by Chris Hyman of the Socialist Workers Party, outlines the struggle against British imperialism in Ireland.

# Never say Die!

LORD Poulter is one of the chap lads. He will have to spend time with his family as a member of the Wandorf family. The government's actions and other proposals are all aimed to reduce everything they do, no matter how small.

# In the Port of Melbourne 35 Hour win near

SLOWLY but surely, workers for the Port of Melbourne Authority are forcing the State Government to back down over the thirty five hour week. It's got to the stage now where the Victorian government is desperately looking for a face-saving device so that it can start negotiations with what appears to have been defeated.

**SOMETHING HAPPENING WHERE YOU WORK? Write for The Battler**

PO Box 46  
Flemington, Vic  
Tel 03 - 376 3307

**How to contact the International Socialists**

BATTLER EDITORIAL  
PO Box 46, Flemington, Vic 3031 376 3307  
13 hour answering and message machine

NSW BRANCH  
PO Box 147, Sydney, 2011 61 2056

MELBOURNE  
GPO Box 14734, Melbourne, 3001 61 2056

STONEY  
PO Box 147, Stoney Creek, 2068 61 2056

ADELAIDE  
PO Box 413, Cowandilla, SA 5033 49 7939

CANBERRA  
PO Box 147, Canberra City, ACT, 2601 61 2056

BRISBANE  
PO Box 339, Westmoreland, 4006 391 5366

SPRINGS  
PO Box 147, Springs, 3901 61 2056

**WHAT'S ON**

**Sydney**  
Sat. 15th Aug  
12.30 pm - 2.30 pm  
1.30 pm - 3.30 pm  
3.30 pm - 5.30 pm

**Brisbane**  
Mon. 20th Aug  
7.30 pm - 9.30 pm

**Melbourne**  
Tue. 4th Aug 7.30 pm  
Wed. 5th Aug 7.30 pm  
Thu. 6th Aug 7.30 pm

**I WANT TO JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS!**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Postcode \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Trade Union \_\_\_\_\_  
Club and post to: I.S. National Secretary  
P.O. Box 46, Flemington, Vic 3031



# PUBLIC SERVANTS TACKLE STAND DOWNS ... AND IT'S NOT OVER YET



Brisbane public servants at a mass meeting earlier in the campaign. Rank and file support for those who have been strong.

THE ACOA pay campaigns in Telecom and the Public Service may be close to a settlement, after a thousand standstills and massive disruptions to Telecom's revenue operations. Pressure from the Government to concede ground on Public Service/Telecom pay, and a decent rise is now possible.

The campaign to date has not been helped by confusion and timid leadership from the ACOA officials.

At the Sydney Telecom meeting held after CEEP was used to stand down workers, rank and file members called for an immediate stoppage. This got strong support. It was down only after the officials argued yet again that the time wasn't right.

These same officials argued minutes in both when CEEP was used

particularly when workers at Telecom's head office were locked out. But the branch executive strongly opposed any strike action, and came under criticism for that at the next joint meeting.

A meeting of Australian public Service reps voted for a proposal that all ACOA members go out for three days. They sent this to the National Executive, hoping to encourage them to take a strong stand. The National Executive, finally recommending strike action at joint mass meetings around Australia on Monday 27 July. These meetings were held, and the officials' call to stay out for the rest of the day.

## force

Rank and file activists in most cases called for longer strike action to force the Government to meet the demands of CEEP altogether. In Melbourne a number of militants took on behalf of a 24 hour strike in the PS to stop pay rises. Calls to stop pay rises were widely supported at the Sydney meeting.

If anyone doubts the need for militancy in the public service they should look at the Tax office in Sydney.

No sooner have CEEP standstills been lifted than Tax management have started using No Work As Directed - No Pay legislation to stand down a new batch of workers.

Union members in three entire sections of the Tax Department have been stood down for implementing a ban relating to Razor Gang cuts.

Management's attack started earlier in the day when buses were around each section and warned of standstills if the bans weren't lifted.

Meetings were held at once in each section

**the batter**  
PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

Editor: G. D. McManus and Treasurer: Alan D. Forster. Published for the paper by the International Socialist Club. No. 115 22 August, 1981 20 cents

In your Batter this issue



# the batter

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

## Queensland cops grab new powers

THE QUEENSLAND police play a really valuable role making sure scalps get safely to work and rescuing lost children and dogs. So the state Government has continued to reward them with legislation to increase their already sweeping powers.

In 1977 marches were effectively banned, but by a technicality. When the Commissioner of traffic refused a permit you could appeal to — the Police Commissioners!

Last year, under the Bail Act, police watchhouse keepers were given complete power of discretion to detain people for up to three days over weekend, for example before they could appear in court.

The rise in this double. The Conference has been advertised for at least one day. There is no guarantee that the Public Service Board, Telecom management and the Government will agree to a general freeze.

With this in mind members also voted to go out again if the Government brings on its promise on 'non-compatibility' with the progressive sector.

A real blow from private industry's clerical rates would ensure a significant pay rise a real reality, even if not the full 17%.

But let's make no mistake. The National Executive's plan of a freeze and token support have us no more. We've a very serious deficit behind us. It's not a matter of this time or that. It's a matter of simply because our claim to solidarity with an upsurge of pay campaigns. There's the whole pressure to settle with an exceptional. We'll face stormy times. It's ending. Jobs are good conditions. Right now the world of the international solidarity is stronger than ever.

Restoring the right to appeal to a magistrate in these two questions would be a gain, though it doesn't go far enough.

Even more extensive the recently introduced 'Dossier Amendment' by the Police Act. It authorises the Police Commissioner to use information to any law or Federal Department or body. And 'informal' means Special Branch have to pick up, not just data of convictions.

There will be a pick outside the Magistrates Court, North Quay on August 21. It will focus on the Bail Act but also raise the mobility of the Police Commissioner's cops.

by Carol Finn

Ready for the holocaust — p.2

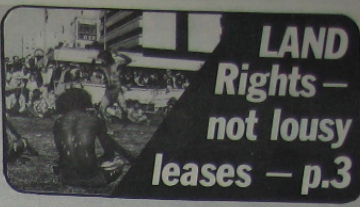


Polish Solidarity in the streets — p.5

The paper that fights for workers power

# Howard's budget ...

# RIPPING OFF THE WORKERS



LAND Rights — not lousy leases — p.3

FROM START to finish the latest Howard budget represents attack after attack on the standard of living of the average wage earner, of the unemployed and of pensioners.

The most immediate slug is the 2.5% across the board increase in sales tax. This is a totally unequitable tax which will disproportionately effect lower income earners.

Howard has also set a precedent for future major sales tax increases which will increasingly mean less tax for the rich and more for the poor.

An even bigger slug, though not as immediate as the sales tax increase, is the record increase in income tax. Wage earners will pay at least 22% extra in tax this year, based on an expected increase of 13.5% in income. If wages rise more than that, as they well could, the tax bite will be even greater.

And while workers will be paying more tax big business, wealthy graziers, and doctors, lawyers and other professionals on high income will be paying less.

And poor old BHP, Australia's biggest and wealthiest company, is to get a massive tax relief subsidy to pay company, is to get a massive tax relief subsidy to pay company, is to get a massive tax relief subsidy to pay company.

The massive budget surplus of 1.5 billion then is to be clearly funded by Fraser and Howard putting their hands in the pocket of the average worker.



continued p.2

**HIROSHIMA DAY RALLY**  
Sydney: Saturday 8 August, Assemblée 10 am  
Brisbane: Saturday 8 August, Rally in City Square 4 pm  
Adelaide: Saturday 8 August, Rally at Torrens Parade Ground 10 am  
Brisbane: Thursday 6 August Assemblée King George Square 5 pm

**THE UNIONS ARE KILLING THIS COUNTRY!**

**the best crime coverage in... The Batter!**

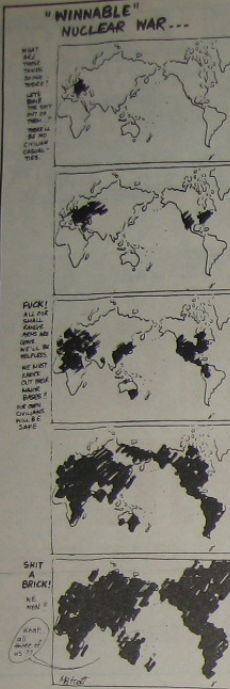
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I'll pay you 100 B.M. \$100.000, 100 B.M.



## ABSOLUTE MADNESS! How else could you describe President Reagan's decision to build the Neutron Bomb? A bomb designed to kill human beings but leave property intact!

It is the logical conclusion of thirty years of nuclear arms race. Thirty years when billions of dollars have been spent on weapons, each one of which could murder a million people.

They completely ignore the alarm their decision caused among even the most moderate European politicians.

Reagan and his Defence Secretary Casper Weinberger believe the US should not allow to defence policy to be dictated by European political concerns. So the Neutron Bomb got the go ahead.

The immense power of the bomb is quite small compared to other nuclear weapons. It kills by short but intense bursts of radiation. One bomb affects an area of about 25 kilometres in diameter.

But they are not designed to be used singly. They were designed to be fired first in salvoes of 40 to 50.

The White House and Pentagon, and their apologists in the world media, have argued that the Neutron Bomb is a defensive weapon designed to prevent such a Soviet/Russian tank formation, should it be used in the Middle East.

Much has been made of the split in Reagan's cabinet between Weinberger and Haig (ex-ship w/ing for Richard Nixon) the US Secretary of State.

Haig is opposed to building the Neutron Bomb because he's suddenly realised there was a Russian tank invasion it would be used against.



**COPS PICK** a victim from one of the earlier protests in Queen St, Auckland.

## Sending them in to baton

The first T&E meeting at the Springfield and New Zealand was played out only because of police thuggery, 6,000 people marched to Christchurch's Lancaster Park but were unable to get onto the ground.

There were four baton charges during the day, the ground charged when activists inside the grounds charged onto the pitch ten minutes before.

Marie Hobbs, a Christchurch teacher described part of the assault. Jim Graham was the first to hit him with his baton. Jim said "Please don't hit me, I'm not going to hit you." And the policeman just laughed and hit him twice on the head.

By Di Minnis

## THE TENT Embassy in Brisbane's City Square set up by the Foundation for Aboriginal and Islander Research Action. Despite harassment, the embassy is rallying support for land rights.

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## THE BUDGET RIPOFF

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## No rotten deals on wages!

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## Nursing no sweetheart deal

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## Incidents

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## The ALP's Socialist Objective . . .

# FOR WHOM ARE WE FIGHTING FOR?

When they do show the ALP Socialist Left of the International Socialist. It was the fact that the working class socialist majority movement that we are trying to come to terms with in our article. The question is: how do we outside the ALP as a whole do so in our work to socialists? It is in this context that we said that those resolutions at ALP conferences will not help us here.

It is very easy for MP's and trade union leaders to vote for radical motions at ALP or trade union conferences, but in themselves these resolutions mean little or nothing and will not help us as socialists.

It is very easy for MP's and trade union leaders to vote for radical motions at ALP or trade union conferences, but in themselves these resolutions mean little or nothing and will not help us as socialists.

"What does our Socialist Objective mean?" asks a number of our readers. It is the fact that the working class socialist majority movement that we are trying to come to terms with in our article. The question is: how do we outside the ALP as a whole do so in our work to socialists? It is in this context that we said that those resolutions at ALP conferences will not help us here.

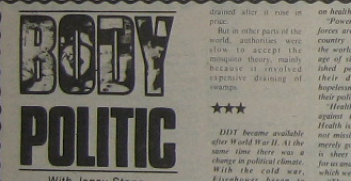
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### GEORGE PETERSEN

Member for Illawarra  
NSW State ALP

## IS WHAT WE THINK IS GEORGE Petersen has (unfortunately) misinterpreted the Battler's Socialist Objective.

We never said in our article on the ALP conference that the Socialist Objective was correct. It is important for socialists to relate to it. To ignore such a radicalisation in the ALP ranks really would be to ignore the reality of the situation.



**With Janey Stone**

In 1955, the World Health Organisation declared that total eradication of malaria in the third world was technically feasible.

Act in the third world, the disease expanded rapidly in Asia and Africa. For instance, Pakistan, which had 1950 cases in 1964 had 10 million in 1974.

It is the fact that the working class socialist majority movement that we are trying to come to terms with in our article. The question is: how do we outside the ALP as a whole do so in our work to socialists? It is in this context that we said that those resolutions at ALP conferences will not help us here.

On health care in 1970. "Powerful communist forces are at work in this country and throughout the world, taking advantage of ill and impoverished people, exploiting their discontent and helping to undermine their political beliefs."

"Health is now regarded as a commodity. Health is not charity, it is a business. It is a commodity which is bought and sold like any other commodity. It is a business which is run for profit and not for the benefit of the community."

"The Rockefeller Foundation, one of the world's largest private foundations, has spent \$100 million on malaria research in the last 20 years. It has funded the work of the World Health Organisation and the Centers for Disease Control in the United States. It has funded the work of the World Health Organisation and the Centers for Disease Control in the United States. It has funded the work of the World Health Organisation and the Centers for Disease Control in the United States.

**WHAT'S ON**

**Melbourne**  
 Thurs. 27th Aug  
 Lenin and the 1917 revolution, Socialist Party, 47-50 pm; basement 328 Flinders St.  
 Fri. 11th Sept  
 Women resist the razor - rally 5.30 pm St. Square, March to Parliament House.

**Sydney**  
 Sat. 22nd Aug.  
 Introduction to I.S. politics, first in education series. The Workers Revolutionary Party, 7.30-11 pm, Empire Rd, Empire Hotel, 1563 for further info.

**Next Wed 2nd Sept.**  
 The Bolshevik Party and the Russian Revolution. Socialist Party, 7.30-11 pm, Empire Rd, Empire Hotel, 1563 for further info.

**Thurs. 27th Sept.**  
 Beginning tonight, I.S. branch meeting to hold on Thursday nights. 7.30-11 pm, Empire Rd, Empire Hotel, 1563 for further info.

**Tues. 1st Sept.**  
 Picket outside HCF, office, 6-9 pm, between Market and King Sts. 11.30-11.45 am, Organised by Fight the Goliath Campaign, 240-260 for further details.

**Sat-Sun 26-27th Sept.**  
 Education school, Bushwackers Club, Mack 10-12 pm, \$4.50 per meal, including regional food and bedding supplied. Vegetarian catering. Child care available. Post please apply to Topic 1926 General Service in Britain, Anthony the Australian, Left, Marxism and Women's Liberation, The Labor Left and the Worker, Australian Caption.

**Canberra**  
 Tues. 1st Sept.  
 Fight the Goliath, Noon till 2 pm, the 2nd floor, onwards outside MBF in London Circle.

**THE WIKES** ago, Thomas McFlure became the 7th Melbourne hunger striker to die in the disgusting H-bomb prison of Northern Ireland.

He was a Republican in a trade union and labour movement.

As part of this agitation, the AISC has occupied the site of Gosford House, Cuckoo Quay, which contains the British High Commission. For the first 20 weeks, the sign took the form of a continuous rotating token hunger strike, where group members spent 24 hours a time on the steps holding up banners and collecting donations and petition signatures.

Now the protest is taking the form of a permanent picket.



**Reagan flight hits turbulence**

STRIKING workers in shackles, union officers in jail, fines of a million dollars a day against a third, thirteen thousand member union — there's been nothing quite like it in a long time.

Workers are once again in the headlines here, throwing up the first challenge to the right wing government of Ronald Reagan.

Reagan responded to the Air Traffic Controller's strike by firing them all. It was like a boxer. He won the fight.

The controllers asked for a rate of 10,000 dollars. He also gave a 20% raise.

"They took an oath in writing that they would not strike," said the President, "and they have broken that oath."

They had a 20 year old strike when it was first called in Ireland and the struggle of the Republican people in the south of California. It was a 20 year old strike when it was first called in Ireland and the struggle of the Republican people in the south of California.

It is not an ordinary strike. It is a 20 year old strike when it was first called in Ireland and the struggle of the Republican people in the south of California.

**SOLIDARITY IN THE STREETS**

**by David Lockwood**

New industry has been kicked underway by the political arena — organizing demonstrations around the food shortage, economic reform and political prisoners.

In Poland's second industrial strike of 1974, the 40,000 workers took to the streets, demanding more food. At the same time, they were being harassed by the police.

But the crisis in Poland is not only economic, it is also social and political.

That's why, under massive pressure from its workers, Solidarity has moved beyond its initial goals.

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**HUSKING COCONUTS.** Milne Island Niugini has the coconuts to make all its own soap... but that would eliminate a market for Australian soap manufacturers.

**WHEN YOU get off your plane at Port Moresby you think you have arrived in an independent country. All the airport workers, ticket clerks and customs officers are nationals and even some of the pilots.**

Since independence the Papua Niugini government has made it mandatory to employ nationals and if any progress is obvious it is that the average Mary Live Bin will find a fellow black behind the counter, rather than a white.

Port Moresby is really a small town where you can find the House of Assembly, its bureaucracy, a few embassies, a bit of commerce, expatriates (white Australians), a small working class and remnants of local villages where houses stand on stilts in the bay.

Unemployment is rife and all expatriates secure their windows with bars and wire against burglars who will even break into the U.S. CIA on a weekly basis to get at the food order.

Walking around Port Moresby, you are sure to come across the local Burns-Phillip Store. You find them

everywhere. They are really a small town where you can find the House of Assembly, its bureaucracy, a few embassies, a bit of commerce, expatriates (white Australians), a small working class and remnants of local villages where houses stand on stilts in the bay.

By **Barbara Hall**

### The colonial continuum

The overwhelming majority of the population live in small villages and subsist out of their gardens where they grow root crops such as yam, sweet potato and taro for their staple diet.

Only 4.5% of the population are wage or

valary earners. Cash cropping of copra, cocoa, and coffee provide another income avenue. The relatively rich and powerful villager is favoured with government financial help. This group is consolidating its position to become the new rich peasantry.

In capitalism's traditional way, the missionaries have led the field in establishing schools and pacifying villagers into tolerating barbaric practices of the plantation owners.

In typical carno-before-the-donkey style, the example of white material wealth was used to persuade villagers to take up the seemingly superior ideology of Christianity in the hope that God would bestow upon them similar wealth and power as he had with the whites.

### Terminal bondage

Indentured labour was in force from 1880 up to the

**WOMEN weaving mats for sale (Welfare Society, Samarai). About three-quarters of production is carried out at workplaces employing less than 20 people.**

1940's and used to mine gold that helped Australia out of the 1940's depression, and work the plantations in the cheapest possible way.

The plantations were run like small states and since it was policy to employ single men they needed only to pay them enough to live on.

The death rate was high because of the poor diet. It was a crime to desert or to create or foster a bad influence among fellow workers. If a worker did desert he was flogged and once he returned to the village he faced the wrath of the village leader who had been paid to sign him up.

### Unionism in a captive market

Papua Niugini was still a colony when unions emerged in the 1940's. Rather than suppress them, Haskell, the Australian Liberal Minister for Territories offered counselling, guidance and training of union officials.

Then the colonial administration imposed laws upon the union movement that virtually put them into a straitjacket.

Unions had to register as an industrial organization to prevent subversion.

Unions were prohibited from affiliating with political parties.

Unions were prohibited from spending for political purposes.

If an offence operated an unregistered union.

Unions are subject to complex and detailed legal rules in their internal ordering.

All these colonial laws still apply within independent Papua Niugini.

Since 1976 when the Papua Niugini government took the advice of the World Bank and resisted union growth, increases in wages and real wages have declined.

The unions are weak, membership fluctuates and

rather than pressure the government into real industrial development, the Central District Waterside Workers' Union favours foreign investment and rent has invested in taxi installing its Union President as director.

The Lae Miscellaneous Workers' Union is also involved in taxi and the Public Service Association sells office space.

The political parties do likewise especially in partnership with foreign companies.

An indicator of the backwardness of the Niugini economy is the small size of the working class. And the failure of industrial development is graphically illustrated by the fact that the working class actually decreased in size in the seventies.

Despite population increase, 1970 was a peak year when 5% of the population worked for a wage or salary.

1970 — 24,585 workers  
1971 — 124,143  
1972 — 120,014  
1973 — 118,482  
1974 — 118,523

The majority of workers are unskilled and likely to remain that way for a long time in the future because of government economic policy. To set up manufacturing industries as the United Nations has recommended would mean heavy imports from Australia.

Papua Niugini is a copra producing country and has the resources to manufacture all its own industrial goods to eliminate the market for Australian soap manufacturers.

Papua Niugini grows the world's best arabica coffee but you can't buy it locally. People buy Nescafe instead at a far higher price than home.

Australia has a captive market for its manufactured goods in Papua Niugini. In 1976 the so-called independent government passed the



**CHARLIE** walks up a sweat to the ceremony for heads of state on Independence Day. Economic subjugation was already accomplished. The trappings of a parliamentary democracy made the sham complete.

**They have been bought off by high wages and status.**

The only indigenous people the colonial government put fit to educate as thoroughly as possible were defence force personnel after World War II.

Their education included indoctrination, technical training, positions of responsibility and a superior life style. They invest in business and act as an effective pressure group against budget cuts.

### Education for the few

One sure way to fire people into an enthusiastic conversion is to talk about education which is available

to only those who can pay, which is a minority. Not a single person I met believed that he/she should pay fees for education.

The history of education is pathetic even a representative from the pre-World War II League of Nations thought it was the most slowly developing education system he had seen.

In the 1960's, fewer than 10% of children were primary educated. Only in 1964 did the first Papua Niuginian gain a degree from an Australian university in agricultural science.

Hubert Murray, Lieutenant-Governor of Papua from 1900 to 1940, thought by 1950 that "humane and fair" believed that "Europeans as a whole have an innate superiority over Papuans and that intel-

lectual training would make the native less amenable to labour."

Teacher training and school facilities have improved but only a proportion can afford the fees.

Keeping people uneducated keeps them feeling inferior. They are not going to understand enough to criticize and exact pressure for a better share in the country's resources.

They won't know to pressure the government into limiting the profits that go out of the country that would be better used for the industrial development of Papua Niugini's rich resources.

But if your parents are wage earners or cash croppers and you make it to university, privilege awaits

you, because only then does education become free. Once you've finished, bureaucracy or business awaits you.

For Australian capitalists, Papua Niugini has meant cheap labour, natural resources, gold to alleviate the Depression, a market and a place for making capital and sending it back home.

Up to World War I, Germany benefited from Niugini in the same way.

At present, Papua Niugini is becoming a copper colony since copper makes up 59% of its export.

In Bougainville, Conzinc Rio Tinto, using technology, computers and 4,000 labourers in 1973 to 74 produced \$A284.5 million from a country where subsistence to feed the Papua Niugini people is valued at \$A195.5 million.

Papua Niugini is chronically dependent on food imports while Japan harvests the waters off the coast for tuna and sells Japanese mackerel to them.

### Papua Niugini ripped off

The capitalists both rip off the resources and sell manufactured goods to a gullible market to produce a surplus for metropolitan capitalism.

A Japanese company, are ripping off the forest near Madang and bribing Papua Niugini officials to prevent reforestation and compensation to local villagers for harming the bush.

Japan lacks energy resources and now plans with the Papua Niugini government to create the Purani Wakolo dam which makes Japanese also will make Japan aware of its own needs for the future but again the benefit will be a terrific cost to the environment, local skills will be lost, communities near by local workers will be needed



**RIOTING** May, 1975. Copra broke a union and arrested workers at the CRA-owned plant. The mine is both the largest investment and the largest industry in Papua Niugini. If CRA would invest, it would be a good thing for Papua Niugini. But support behind the

accessionists and set up a puppet government in Bougainville. (Bougainville government is geographically and ethnically part of the Solomon Is. It is part of Niugini due to an accident of 19th century imperialism.)

So the government staged a police riot at Bougainville, Armales and all to prove its loyalty to CRA.

**WORKING** in Koroia pineforest. The area of land turned over to timber production for multinational firms has increased dramatically since World War II.

The Battler features . . . The Battler features . . . The Battler features . . .

# His disease is dissident

THE STATE is everywhere. It controls the lives of all who live under it. But how do you show the state on the stage?

Tom Stoppard has the answer in his play 'Every Good Boy Deserves Favour'. He symbolises the State by an orchestra. And he puts the orchestra on stage. All his pieces, the players are surrounded by it.

"Every Good Boy Deserves Favour" is about the Soviet State. On plays a triangle, He imagines that he has an orchestra of dissenting individuals in his head. He imagines that he has an orchestra of dissenting individuals in his head. He imagines that he has an orchestra of dissenting individuals in his head. He imagines that he has an orchestra of dissenting individuals in his head.

And what is a state man doing on a metal hospital? He will be complained that in Russia are people are being looked up in psychiatric hospitals. The State says they are not. Ivanov must be deluded, as he is looked up in the psychiatric hospital. His disease is dissident, his ideas are heterodox.

The absurdity of this situation is obvious. The hospital's psychiatrist plays a true servant of the State. In charge of the hospital is a colonel, whose specialty is not psychiatry but semantics. The colonel Ivanov's any obsession. He is very sure.

At school his teacher tells him that for the good of the state it must play together. Just like an orchestra.

## wants

Ivanov wants to get out of the hospital. He complains to the doctor, an agent—as why am I here? But to no avail. The Doctor is an instrument of the State. His answer has to fit with the ideas of his political masters.

Ivanov will have to say that he is cured. Then he will be freed. But Ivanov

may be as true today. But it is the system that decides what behaviour is normal, what is mad.

In Russia dissidence is abnormal. The State rationales this by saying that dissidence has subversive implications. It is a dissident note in their orchestral system.

Ivanov tries a hunger strike. The system cannot cope with the problem of his dying uncoerced. So Sacha is brought in to convince his father to live. Sacha writes his dad back. He is already a juvenile dissident. He has the germ of the psychology major, this

Tell the doctor that treatment is wrong. He says: "If you are right, I'll be right, but if you are wrong, I'll be right, too."

Jeff Goldhar tunes in on Every Good Boy Deserves Favour.

a play by Tom Stoppard  
Music by Andre Previn.



The plays end on an ironic note. The colonel solves the problem when he moves up the two favours. He asks the orchestra to play the notes in a certain order. He asks the orchestra to play the notes in a certain order. He asks the orchestra to play the notes in a certain order.

The colonel thus asks the political Ivanov if he still hears the notes in the orchestra. He grabs the notes from the patient snaps and says: "I can hear them."



"YOUR IDEAS are your symptoms," explains the violin playing doctor to his patient, the dissident Ivanov.



# NORTHERN NIGHTS

## ... a political prairie fire

THREE AREN'T many films which leave you feeling totally satisfied with their production, acting and story. *Northern Nights* is one of the few.

It's set in North Dakota, a northern state of the US, in 1916 and is a beautiful old film and script. It's more like a contemporary documentary than a modern film.

The story centres round one farming family struggling to make a living out of the flat barren land. As with their neighbours, they were a contented but not only against the elements but also against the million-dollar middle men who intervene between their produce and its sale.

When their crops fail, the bank's foreclose on the mortgages the poor migrant farmers have been forced to take out on their farms. When the crops are plentiful, the merchants set the prices so low, and the standards of quality they accept so high, that it's impossible for the farmers to profit from their year's labour.

Many of the farmers seem to accept their lot in life, seeing no hope of any change for the better. But against their men. But they can worry without hindrance, and they do.

Her impassioned outburst is directed at the way women are treated, and has been through her experience. By men who just go away when things get too bad at home. The women left behind to cope with the poverty and hopelessness of their situation have only one right to worry.

thousands mission of winning members but to the League.

The women in particular suffer, but that is nothing new. In one of the most powerful scenes I've ever seen, the farmer of one of the organisers puts the woman's side of the story to her man, who neglect and thoughtlessness is driving her to distraction. But that's been heard, or opposed to his activities, as the too involved in indulging her for the coming election.

## outburst

They mustn't complain or give up or say a word against their men. But they can worry without hindrance, and they do.

Anyone who is to do justice to this scene in words, anyone will feel the impact of it. And every woman who reads this will sympathise completely with this woman who speaks for all of them.

Other scenes in this superbly realised and a touch of reality to this otherwise serious film. All in all, one of the best I've ever seen, and you can be sure I'll grab any opportunity to see it again. So should you.

By Rae Norris

# SOVIETS CARRYING THE CAN

IN EARLY 1954, the Communist Party press carried a strange statement entitled "For Party Consolidation." This statement singled out two leaders of the party, Jack Blake and Jack Henry, for merciless attack.

Both were indicted for sectarianism, and even worse, for being in conflict with the central leadership of Lance Sharkey. In fact, it was suggested that they had tried to seize power within the party while Sharkey had been in goal in 1949-50.

Blake himself made a grovelling statement. "There is no doubt," he wrote, "that my activities in the period referred to were a grave menace to the Party, and the Party owes a great debt to Comrades Sharkey and Dixon who led the Party out of this danger."

This sordid little episode was not reconsidered by the Communist Party until last year. In 1967, the Political

Committee brought in the results have been published and the amount to be shared by the leadership as well as just what was sectarianism.

Finally last year, at the Communist Party annual conference in Melbourne, Jack Blake got to tell his side of the story. And since he had done so, the National Committee of the party was committed to support a commission to investigate the role of the "Sectarians."

Internationally the leadership from Moscow has a far-reaching sense of them and has produced a plan for quite a while back resolution for the Communist Party to go into the circumstances surrounding the activities of Blake and Henry.

Blake has since shared by the leadership as well as just what was sectarianism. Blake has since shared by the leadership as well as just what was sectarianism. Blake has since shared by the leadership as well as just what was sectarianism.



MENZIES, who rode in on the miner's defeat, as seen by the cartoonist of the Miner's Federation newspaper, Communist Cause.

ship of the working class. And just as clearly, they were nowhere near strong enough to do so.

They found this out the hard way in the great coal strike of 1949. The miners had a just cause, and they fought a heroic struggle.

membership, and nearly led to it being banned. And this was only symptomatic of the attack on working class militancy generally, which paved the way for the conservative Menzies Government.

Tom O'Lincoln probes the strange case of Jack Blake, a leading cadre of the Communist Party of Australia in the post-war period, scapegoated by the party at the time and recently exonerated.

But the Labor Party leaders, and the entire ALP trade union machine mobilised against them. Sharkey even sent the troops. In the end the miners suffered a historic defeat.

On the "errors" of the Communists of those days are not just a caricature for labor historians. What Blake, and with him Sharkey, did right or wrong, is important for us these days of bitter struggle.

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Clearly this sort of thing was a major reason why the party got used to isolation and suffered so many defeats. But while the "sectarian" line of the CPA was abandoned after 1951, with poor old Jack Blake carrying the can, the bureaucratic view of the leadership of the Communist Party would look to learning of the lessons of the immediate post-war years.

Today we are still paying the price for the sort of approach by following union officials.

It is fitting and proper that Blake and Henry have finally been cleared of a gross unjust indictment. But it would be better still if the Communist Party would look to learning of the lessons of the immediate post-war years.

And both the historian and the CPA neck. And this is a serious disadvantage for labor historians. What Blake, and with him Sharkey, did right or wrong, is important for us these days of bitter struggle.

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A NEWCASTLE meeting to rally support for the miners in early 1949.

**NSW Australian Railways Union (ARU) officials have sold out the right to strike for a year for a \$20 pay rise.**

**This is in spite of a resolution on the books against such deals.**

By **DiAnne Feildes**

... (The NSW Secretary and the rest of the NSW officials had to negotiate on rank and file opposition to agree to the deal.)

... (Wahle did not sign the agreement.)

... (The ARU officials had to negotiate on rank and file opposition to agree to the deal.)

# Parents, teachers unite and fight

ON 20 July, parents at Melbourne's Footscray Tech withdrew their children in protest at the lack of teachers. The month-long strike is now over with the help of much prodding and threats from the Education Department and the principal.

... (The school was closed for 10 days.)

... (The parents and teachers united to fight the school's actions.)

education. But not without a fight. On 20 July was the culmination of months of protest and attempts at negotiation. The teachers' final lock-out work action was broken by the school's principal.

... (The school was closed for 10 days.)

... (The parents and teachers united to fight the school's actions.)

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**A PICKET in Melbourne's City Square of parents and teachers from Footscray Tech.**

# Now they throw out your lunch!

**TOYOTA, North Altona (Vic) workers were out last week after a foreman chucked a bloke's bag in the scrap bin.**

... (The workers were out for 24 hours.)

... (The foreman chucked a bloke's bag in the scrap bin.)

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**WORKERS' POWER**

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# How not to win \$5

**FOR A long time the Battler has run articles on the 35 hour week. The victories at Altona in Victoria and Fox in Queensland have received front page coverage.**

... (The 35 hour week is a key issue.)

... (The victories at Altona and Fox are key examples.)

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**MEET THE MEN WHO STOPPED THE TRAINS**

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**DEAR BATTLEERS**

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**WRITE TO THE BATTLER: P.O. Box 46 Flemington, Vic 3031**

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**FOR A long time the Battler has run articles on the 35 hour week. The victories at Altona in Victoria and Fox in Queensland have received front page coverage.**

... (The 35 hour week is a key issue.)

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public service militants say...

# LET'S FIGHT AS

COMMONWEALTH public servants are currently involved in a series of campaigns against Razor Gang cuts. But the fight-back is fragmented, and is relying on the weak tactic of bans. In some areas this has opened the way for management to victimize militants.

In Employment and Youth Affairs (Victoria) management have laid disciplinary charges against two members who have refused transfers which were caused by the cuts, the Secretary of the Section Committee.

with one of those charged is Secretary of the Section Committee.

Obviously management have been emboldened by their recent victory over the staffing campaign, where they encouraged bans and isolated militants who opposed them.

The bans were later withdrawn. Management then stepped up their attack by refusing union meetings over staffing from CES premises.

At a meeting on 13 August the Section Committee of the ACOA (Administrative and Clerical Officers' Association) recommended a two day stoppage of the whole Department with another meeting the following week.

## ineffective

However, it was clear that the ineffective bans have done a lot of damage to members' morale. The call for an initial two-day strike was lost 128-112.

But members also voted to receive on Thursday 20 August to consider options including an indefinite stoppage, if standstills and discipline charges are not withdrawn.

The clerks stood down in the Sydney Tax Office on 28 July under the new Infamans "no work directed no pay" legislation have returned to work because the NSW officials of the ACOA were not prepared to organise support outside Tax.

Immediately after the stand-down 120 people walked off the job in support. A meeting of Section Committee was held with 50 or so of the people stood down. They supported a motion to be set at a two-day meeting calling on the NSW Branch Secretary, Barry Carter, to arrange a meeting of all ACOA members in NSW to take action on the stand-down.

Although this motion was passed, Carter did not attend the meeting, or even discuss plans to support the dispute, with an elected dispute committee.

Carter told the stand-down workers that they had no support in the rest of the public service. Yet a motion was adopted by the Tax workers and calling for a mass meeting had been passed unanimously by the NSW Social Security Section Committee.

## harden

Meanwhile, telephone operators at the Department of Immigration V Telephone Interpretation Service (TIS) have noted to harden up their own ban against the cuts.

The Fraser Government decided to cut staff in other States and NSW country areas. Fraser direct calls to Sydney and Melbourne TIS offices. These offices are understaffed and housed in

By Tom Freeman, ACOA GES (Vic) Tax (NSW) and Pam Townshend, Secretary ACOA Section Committee, Immigration (NSW).

substandard buildings. Staff are overworked, which is exacerbated by TIS staff who are based in the States. The NSW office has been closed for some time making some staff unable to attend meetings. The Victorian office has been closed for some time due to the cuts. The NSW office has been closed for some time due to the cuts.

# the battler

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

Registered by Australia Post - publication no. 598 122

## Fraser's axed CYSS ...

# ANOTHER KICK FOR THE UNEMPLOYED

## But they're not taking it lying down!



## defend

To defend jobs and Fraser's battles of a union legislation in an union must be organised a hard fight. The union National Federation strategy to take jobs on the rest of the ACOA.

But as a public servant's union has 100,000 members together in one.

The public service Action Group (PSAG) Sydney and Canberra committees are to be united, supported by the NSW Branch Secretary, Barry Carter, and a meeting of all ACOA members in NSW to take action on the stand-down.

If you would contact PSAG at address above or Sydney 28 Park Lane, Sydney NSW 2000. Canberra 211, Perth 211, Adelaide 211, Melbourne 211.

Fraser the whole union must be organised

IT'S GOT TO BE WRAN

BUT FOR WHAT? — p. 3

No. 116 September 5, 1981 20 cents



## RAZOR PROTESTS GROW

OPPOSITION to the Razor Gang cuts has built up to coincide with the Budget. About 4,000 people rallied in Melbourne's City Square to protest at the cuts to services and public sector employment.

The demonstration was called by the Campaign Against Public Sector Cuts. On August 15 about 2,000 people rallied again in the Square to protest against the Budget. There was a good turnout of workers from the SLE and building sites, as well as teachers, council workers and students.

In Brisbane, the Trades and Labor Council and CAGEO unions called their own anti-Budget rally and march for 12 o'clock August 21. Both bodies agreed to a 4-hour stoppage, but left it up to individual unions to call their members out.

Only the building trades group responded to the call. Whilst some of their union officials were

central to the rally organisation, the ACOA, the main public service union did not even announce it. In the many mass meetings over the recent wages campaign, some rank and file members of ACOA were determined to build a demonstration. They produced a petition calling for a stoppage.

As their local said, "I can't time rallies and invitations don't work. We have to stop work."

by Jim Collins

THE UNION'S ACE KILLING THIS COUNTRY!

the best crime coverage in... The Battler!

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"I SAY ONE thing as clearly and unequivocally as I can. These three men are completely innocent victims of the greatest miscarriage of justice in Australian history."

That was NSW Labor MP George Petersen speaking in parliament about the conviction in 1975 of three members of the Ananda Marga who were charged with conspiracy to murder Sydney Nazi, Robert Cameron.

The case ended from sight to fight. Anand Marga members — Paul Alister and Ross Dunn — were arrested while allegedly trying to help up Cameron in his home. A third member, Tim Anderson, was arrested when police broke into the group's offices in Newtown, Sydney.

But amid the hysteria of the Hilton bombing held had occurred earlier in 1975, and for which the Ananda Marga was named, the case was dropped.

For all these reasons, the case was dropped. The Ananda Marga members had not been charged with anything. They were convicted.

And Petersen, being the police officers concerned in the case all gave stores

Monday 13 February 1978. Two prison workers and a top aide when a package was found containing a bomb was used. Petersen suggested a scenario "something like the 'Bombing in ANSO' was determined to get legislation extending ANSO.

The Hilton bomb was meant to be found after a telephone call to police headquarters. "Somebody nobody hurt. Somebody else. However, ANSO was successful three weeks later in having legislation introduced giving them far greater powers."

"Obviously, the full details of the planting of the bomb would be known to very few people. Somebody had to be blamed and related persons statements blaming the Ananda Marga."

"It is high time that the Police Special Branch should be discredited, and we should demand of an incoming Government with Labor Government the dismantling of its role, and the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation."

The Hilton bombing occurred at 12.40 am on



**AFTERTH of the Hilton bombing during the NSW Commonwealth conference in Australia. Will ASIO pull out? Will ANSO be replaced by the Commonwealth Conference in Melbourne?**

## The price of power

**AFTER promising not to put their prices up for at least a year, the Victorian Electricity Commission (SEC) put them up twenty percent in August.**

Prices have now gone up \$46 in the last three years. The price hike has had enough for the SEC's ordinary consumers — coming at it on the morning of the Federal budget (see comment). But surprisingly, it also affected and elicited an outraged response from the SEC's most prized customer, Alcoa Aluminium. The Commission went to a great deal of trouble to attract Alcoa's \$1200 million smelter to Victoria. They promised them discounted electricity and a \$200 million power line from the Laroche valley to Portland, the smelter site.

**blame**  
The SEC blames the price rise on the Federal government's restrictions on its capacity to get loans, the rise in interest rates and (of course) wages. But for years it has planned enormous capital works for which Long Yang paid for by borrowed money and based on ludicrously high expectations of electricity consumption. It actively discouraged those who used large amounts of electricity to justify its projects. Alcoa fitted right

## GRAEME GRASSIE

**IN LATE August**, Graeme Grassie was killed in a road accident in Turkey. He was soon to return to Australia from France where he had lived for several years. Graeme along with Carole Ferrer founded the Brisbane branch of the International Socialist Party in 1977.

Although he had been well known on the left for years, many people will best remember Graeme for his role as the Queensland editor of the International Socialist Party's Brisbane branch. With his grasp of Marxist politics, he favoured above the rest of us.

I particularly remember him for his ability to lash those who wanted to run a queue, legal compliance and a lot of other things. The rest of us probably speak for those who were with more passion than when Graeme always managed to get around a famous military proposal issued like the west

by John Minns

# It's got to be Wran ... but for what?

SOMEONE asked you which Australian government held down wages; attempted to smash the military; ran down the public sector; and got a black on health services, you could be forgiven for thinking that they were talking about the Fraser Government.

This is the government that has been asked to go on September 19. But for the sake of the Wran Labor Government's record in NSW, a major wage rises after years in the courts for NSW, a 6000 increase in military; 5,000 unemployed teachers; 10,000 on public service; 8,000 unemployed teachers; and a black on health services, you could be forgiven for thinking that they were talking about the Fraser Government.

**by Diane Fields**  
government even less responsible to working class voters. We are being asked to support a referendum to increase parliamentary terms from three to four years.

What a lovely racket for all those parliamentary gluttons. We've now had five years of ALP rule in NSW, the last three of them with big majorities in both houses of parliament. Those years have shown that just voting for the workers' party doesn't keep wages at decent levels, doesn't save our jobs, doesn't turn back the tide of Fraser's cuts to welfare education and housing.

For that, we must to defend ourselves. Wran's Government accepts the limits of a system run for profit, and tries to make changes within those limits. In times of economic crisis, as profits start to fall, the room for change within the system shrinks to almost nothing. A lock as wages, welfare and unemployment benefits who get squeezed as this happens.

**That's why we have to fight to defend ourselves by militant action on the job and in our unions**, by taking on the employers in public demonstrations in the streets.

**We also have to build a political organisation outside the Labor Party that doesn't tie itself to the limitations of the public welfare system to get rid of the whole rotten mess.**

The struggle to retain CYS must broaden itself to take on the general question of unemployment. It is a taken gesture by Fraser to treat the unemployed as the problem of unemployment. It is a taken gesture by Fraser to treat the unemployed as the problem of unemployment. It is a taken gesture by Fraser to treat the unemployed as the problem of unemployment.



**"OUR MAN" New cops a carful of abuse after his failure to carry out promised prison reforms.**

## Feebe budget response

**THE RESPONSE to the Howard budget has been pathetic.**  
The Democrats bawled at the taken measure of cutting with Labor to block the sales tax increase.

But I suspect what move could be expected from the parliamentary street. Most disappointing has been the lack of concerted union response. The unions and the Trades Hall did nothing to build the anti-budget demonstration in Melbourne, Brisbane and Adelaide. The biggest turnout attracted a meagre 2,000 people.

The only spark of anger and militant action has come from the support of the thousands of unemployed workers who will be threatened by the next round of Fraser's cuts and his tax increases, the young unemployed who will be threatened by the next round of Fraser's cuts and his tax increases, the young unemployed who will be threatened by the next round of Fraser's cuts and his tax increases.

**SQUATTERS CLAIM MANSION**  
The squatters have now taken possession of the mansion. They are already being hit and anger at a government that is being organised by the City Council, companies and churches of the changes and how they will affect the health care system. The Department of Social Services is supposed to be maintaining the system but DSS management don't even know how it is supposed to work. Despite action against welfare recipients by public servants, it's the system that is under attack.

It is a year three days before it was supposed to start.

**ACOIA (Social Services)**

## INCREASING RENT

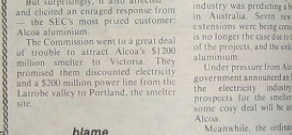
**CREDDY landlords and Sydney's chronic housing shortage have taken a tragic toll.** Eight people died in a fire in a decaying flat in Kings Cross known as Rembrandt Apartments. The Secretary of the Fire Brigade Employer's Union has condemned the state government for providing for annual inspections of fire safety facilities. "The eight people who died in the Rembrandt Apartment fire might have lived had these buildings had firebreaks and fire escapes," he added.

But the Rembrandt Apartments had only four exits for 20 apartments, six of which was underdry wooden staircase at the back of the building. People on the second, third and fourth floors could only get up a wooden staircase.

The appalling housing shortage in Sydney has meant that sky-high rents of up to \$60 per week are being charged for virtual sub-accommodation. Of course, there is no shortage for the rich as multi-million dollar luxury apartment blocks rise up in the air.

But when the Labor-controlled Sydney City Council introduced a 2% levy on developers to provide for low cost housing the amounts of money could be used all over the city.

High rents force unemployed, the ill and pensioners to become "guests" in the Rembrandt Apartments. To rent a flat, however cheap, requires a







# Against the fascist fascists

## The New Guard

IN 1922 "Red" Tom Walsh of the Seamen's Union and Archbishop Daniel Mannix both appeared on the platform of a meeting in commemoration of the Russian Revolution. Coinciding with a strike by 400 police in Melbourne, this symbolised what the middle classes saw as the main threat to God, King and country: Bolshevism and Irish Catholics.

Sir John Monash, under the direction of the Victorian government, took advantage of the hysteria to form the White Guard, a secret, quasi-military force to maintain "law and order." This was to be the first of several such movements.

The largest and best known was the New Guard which armed and organised thousands of middle and upper class men.

Lawless-Colonel Eric Campbell, its founder and leader wrote in his book, *The Redflood Police: How Communism Was Introduced into New South Wales* either by Act of Parliament or otherwise "it would have crashed it, it necessary by force."

Campbell was earlier involved with another ex-serviceman Major Scott in recruiting a secret force of 500 ex-servicemen. The occasion was the shipping strike of 1925.

Pione Minister Brierley declared about the strike "We either go back to industrial law and order, or go forward to the Revolution." The *Sydney Morning Herald* reminded its readers that "Italy" was only saved from Red Domination by the heroic methods of Fascism.

The Federal elections of 1925 were fought on the question of "industrial anarchy." The Seamen's strike collapsed and Bruce won the elections. The Campbell/Scott organisation was disbanded - there was no further "need" for it.

This was typical of the rise and fall of right wing neo-fascist groups throughout the late 1920s and early 30s.

The worsening economic crisis led to trade union militancy and unrest. Whenever conservative governments were threatened or, as happened in 1929, Labor came to government the ruling class was not prepared to rely solely on the police to safeguard their interests. They actively participated in organising and funding quasi-military movements.

These movements relied primarily on recruits from middle class ex-servicemen: fervently patriotic and

disenchanted with a society which failed to provide them with security in spite of their heroic self-sacrifices.

The year of 1929 confirmed their worst fears. The economic recession which had begun two years before, rapidly worsened. In NSW, unemployment increased from 9.7% in the March quarter to 13.8% in the December quarter.

During that year, 11,000 NSW miners were locked out for 17 months. The support of waterfront workers. Violence broke out when pickets were attacked by police; and a by-stander was shot by police at the Rothbury coal mine.

The Who's For Australia League was formed in Sydney in November 1929. Its rabid nationalism, loyalty to the Empire and the desire for strong government far outweighed the ideology of the New Guard.

### organise

When Scott and Campbell began to organise the New Guard, they found that members of the ruling class had already begun recruiting to the highly effective Old Guard. It had been founded in November 1920, a few weeks after the election of the Lang Labor government in NSW.

The Old Guard was headed by prominent members of the military, business and social Establishment.

Keth Anson in his book *The New Guard Movement* writes, "from the time of its foundation, one of the New Guard's principal objectives had been to develop a capacity to take control of the State should the need arise." By

*By the early 1940s fascist mass movements in Europe were a horrifying reality. In Britain the Mosleyites were approaching the peak of their influence.*

*NSW was the formation of Australia's most significant fascist movement, the New Guard.*

*Today's world faces another period of crisis, and the germs of fascism have emerged again in regions like the National Alliance.*

*SAYORS BY BLOOD! WORTH! looks at the rise and fall of the New Guard, and the response to the fascist threat from the Labor movement and the LCF.*

Goldfinch, general manager of Colonial Sugar Refiners.

The "Movement" as it was then known to its members, used a committee room provided by Mercantile Mutual Assurance and was offered a £12,000 overdraft by the Bank of NSW.

The Old Guard was inspired by a Melbourne group, the League of National Security. The League was secretly organised throughout the suburbs of Melbourne on a military basis.

At least some of its members had direct links with fascist movements in Britain.

One of its founding members, General Thomas Blaney, later became Victoria's Police Commissioner. Two recruits in August 1930 were the secretary of the Chamber of Manufacturers and a senior Treasury official.

The New Guard, in NSW, was much more public and aggressive.

The Old Guard was headed by prominent members of the military, business and social Establishment.

Keth Anson in his book *The New Guard Movement* writes, "from the time of its foundation, one of the New Guard's principal objectives had been to develop a capacity to take control of the State should the need arise." By



NEW GUARD daily at the Sydney Town Hall, 27 July 1931. Insp. leader Eric Campbell gives strongly fascist salute.

dominated by military and industrial businessmen. What he said was "I'm McKay, prominent with the New Guard, and the 'Fascist League' of the Government."

The Editor of the *Bulletin of the Morning News* attacked an Jack Campbell, leader of the Labor Party, for his modernist views on the 'Fascist League'.

What he said was "I'm McKay, prominent with the New Guard, and the 'Fascist League' of the Government."

They broke up communist and socialist Labor meetings at Guildford, Bondi, Drummoyne, Croydon, Enfield and Kings Cross.

They would turn up in droves of cars, surround the speaker and the audience and sing God Save the King, insisting that everyone remove their hats. Of course the communists retaliated, often driving the Guardsmen off and even destroying their cars.

On 11 January, 1932 Campbell announced at a rally at Lane Cove that the New Guard would collect a monster petition calling on the Governor Sir Philip Game to dismiss the Lang Labor government in NSW.

On 26 February, 40 cars carrying about 200 Guardsmen attempted to break up a communist meeting at Bankstown. Picketers at a nearby Labor carnival as well as hundreds of people from the local picture theatre and local residents came to the support of the communists and beat back the Guardsmen with a barrage of stones and abuse.

Campbell made it clear they were prepared for a coup if the Governor did not act.

"Every New Guardsman should be prepared for some out-cry called upon with very short notice carrying 24 hours food supply and it is anticipated that your services will be required before the end of the month. There is a very dirty job to be carried out. If you fellows were armed a few detonators or a few bliscones would not stop us."

The ruling class were determined the working class would get their for the economic crisis - and had had enough of Lang's attempts to make hoodlums and big business share some of the burden.

In May 1932 Governor Game

### communists

He also stated that it was New Guard policy to "intervene in all industrial disputes created by Communists."

The New Guard was inspired by a Melbourne group, the League of National Security. The League was secretly organised throughout the suburbs of Melbourne on a military basis.

At least some of its members had direct links with fascist movements in Britain.

### hysteria

But once elected he, as Lyons had before him, wanted nothing to do with them.

It is fairly clear that if Lang had not been dismissed, the leadership of the New Guard was prepared to get rid of him. Himself as well as take over government. They had a force of armed men several times the size of the NSW police force, and they had the determination.

With the anti-communist hysteria and politicians had whipped up, it is almost certain that in spite of the beginning of doubts in early 1932, most of the New Guard membership would have been loyal to the "scound"

The spirit of the New Guard did not reemerge until 1947 when Sir Thomas Blaney accepted the leadership of a new, secretive, paramilitary organisation known as the White Army. It was formed by wealthy businessmen to fight Ben Chifley's attempt to nationalise banking - which they saw as the first step to communism.

The organisation existed until Menzies appointed Sir Charles Spier as head of ANSO which carry out its originalisation.

The remodelled, ex-military led ANSO provided a permanent, legitimate substitute for the secretive White Army, and has continued to do so to the present day.

## New Guard members

**CHARLES KINGSFORD-SMITH** and **Charles Ulm**, the legendary aviators. They were also directors of Australian National Airlines (ANA).

**Sir Frederick Stewart**, another director of ANA, also a bus magnate in Sydney and director of the Sun.

**S.E. Lamb** - leading King's Cousins.

Lamb was chief prosecutor in the IWW cases.

**Commander Patrick**, a prominent ship owner.

**Samuel Biber**, a Sydney Turner.

## Supporters

**Earl Page**, leader of the Country Party.

**Banko Peterson**, Chairman of the Commonwealth Bank.

**Eric Baume**, a journalist. Along with Peterson and Gibson, he offered advice on several occasions which Campbell considered too extreme.

**George Davis**, managing director of Davis Galalino.

**Hon. Aubrey Abbott**, Minister for Home Affairs in the Bruce Page Government.

## about response

FACED WITH this openly pro-fascist movement, what was the response of the Left and the Labor movement?

Attempts to disrupt communist meetings were met with determined resistance by those present. At times, such as the one at Bankstown, the communists could count on the support of large numbers of people who were not necessarily call themselves "communists."

When Campbell threatened to intervene in the shipping strike in October, 1931, five hundred representatives of trade unions, unemployed organisations and ALP branches met. They decided to set up the Labor Defence Army, to "combat the New Guard and any other fascist organisation."

When the New Guard sent a contingent to help fight bush fires at Cobaw, the miners drove them out of town.

But the trade union leaders and ALP politicians did not respond to this militancy from their rank and file. By and large they were content to ridicule the New Guard, and to rely on Lang's control of the police force to banish them.

Rather than argue that the New Guard was the foe of the Australian ruling class to protect their interests the NSW ALP Executive preferred to attack it as an "extraneous, immoral and a fraud."

They warned "Customs should not be misled by the false cloak of patriotism and the equally false claim locally so courageously adopted by wealthy militarists who thinking on immoral terms of bread and butter on the other, my oath could go to huggery."

So the New Guard mobilised to have Stevens' United Australia Party rejected. They were rewarded by a cabinet minute that the police were to cease any further investigation into the New Guard. A Royal Commission set up by Lang to investigate them was abandoned.

By the time Lang was dismissed in May, instead of a movement which could fight back, Lang had a police force which was prepared to see whoever paid them. McKay said, "if my oath was on that side and my bread and butter on the other, my oath could go to huggery."

So the New Guard mobilised to have Stevens' United Australia Party rejected. They were rewarded by a cabinet minute that the police were to cease any further investigation into the New Guard. A Royal Commission set up by Lang to investigate them was abandoned.

### police

In 1932, the NSW police brought charges against several of the New Guard's leaders. Among others they were charged with "wilful and



THE ASSAULT on union leader Jack Gordon led this cartoon in the Labor Daily, New Guard: 'We are doing that which his majesty the King would be delighted for us to do.'



NEW GUARD'S Captain De Groot upstages Premier Jack Lang (inset) by cutting the ribbon at the opening of Sydney Harbour Bridge, 19 March 1932.



# CAIR ACROSS BACK FOR AN OFFER

300 SHIP repair workers from Cairncross Dockyard to return to work after a nine week strike for 50% allowance, metal money and shorter hours. The Brisbane Authority has agreed to make an offer over 16 hours within one week.

The Unions have also got an undertaking from the Government to allow the Authority to negotiate. It has been agreed with the Blake-Petersen government refusing to allow any conditions in an offer up till now. Individual employers who agreed to work with the dockyards.

Conditions at Cairncross are tied by a new agreement to Cookstown Island dockyard, a point that the government and the authority used to prolong negotiations. Any settlement here will be subject to ministerial approval and registration in the federal and state arbitration commissions and dockers feel that this will strengthen their hand at negotiations. The dispute has also strengthened the organization on the jobs. It began with action taken by United ship repair services workers and ended with all the dockyard workers involved. Now a dispute committee has been established with

representatives from both sides. The union has asked for a 50% allowance, metal money and shorter hours. The government has refused to allow any conditions in an offer up till now. Individual employers who agreed to work with the dockyards.

# NSW PRIMARY and infants teachers vote for direct action. INSET: Helen Sandersen.

## Primary teachers want a break

**THE FIRST-EVER NSW primary and infants teachers stop-work voted for direct strikes unless the Wran government meets their demands.**

Apart from restructuring and reclassification of positions in primary and infant schools, the teachers' main demand is for relief from face-to-face teaching. At the moment teachers are in front of the class all day, every day, and all their other duties must be done in their own time.

The strike was part of the NSW Teachers' Federation's overall campaign to increase staffing in NSW schools. Up till now primary and infants teachers have participated in union-wide strikes, but the action officers of the Federation have divided the campaign along primary/secondary lines.

by Diane Fieldes, NSW Teachers' Federation.

Nonetheless, primary and infants teachers showed they were willing to take up their own fight. They overwhelmingly carried an amendment to the official motion which indicated their willingness to take further strike action. The Battler points to Helen Sandersen of Newtown Infants School, who moved an amendment calling for an indefinite strike from the first day of third term until a definite commitment on release time had been received. Although the amendment was lost, it does point to the way teachers will have to proceed to win on staffing. As Helen said, "We've done all we've been asked to before on the one-day strikes and got nowhere. I did a piece of work of action — it divides the energy of the membership too much. We need strong, indefinite strike action."

# Hacking away at the hospitals

**THE FRASER government has moved even closer to its apparent aim of closing down Brisbane's Green Slopes Hospital.** Ordinary outpatients at the hospital are now being urged \$15 for a visit if they are unwell enough to be hospitalized, the fee for a bed is \$40 per day. There is a further charge of \$45 per day if they happen to use a specialist. Patients already occupying beds have been told that they will be moved to other hospitals if they are unable to pay. The thousands of public patients who use Green Slopes will now swell the queues at other already over-burdened Brisbane hospitals. For workers at Green Slopes, the new measures are especially alarming because it means they will have to pay to use the staff clinic in future — a major loss in conditions.

It is rumoured that the present moves will see a reduction of about 1000 beds.

By Steven Ratborne, HEF.

## The Maffra St mail centre: New pits for conditions

"BAN THE PLACE!" That is the mood of Melbourne mail officers from the State Mail Centre, King St and Roden St parcels over the new Maffra St Mail Centre.

Maffra St is to handle international mail and is part of Australia Post's plan to decentralise the Victorian mail network. The APTU (Australian Post and Telecommunications Union) has been negotiating over conditions at Maffra St since February 1980. The union's state executive position was that aims is to change the union's rules so that all-out cases such as the recent wage campaign work happens in the future. But the rank and file will remain in control of our union is by establishing a network of committees in every workplace who would exchange and publish material on the union's demands. A group of localists led by Paul Brookes are running for position in the State Executive and should be supported. One of their key



300 NURSES and local residents march through the streets of NewInn. Nurses from RPA in the Centres marched along with doctors and local residents.

members on the State Executive for two years. They've used them to make the Executive unworkable and are now cynically blaming Hawkins and Barnes. If they get total control they will work to smash the delegates' committees and take control over further away from the workers on the job.

The Fraser government has put on enough pressure already to ensure the closure of the state's free hospitals in the near future. Defences mounted by Hospital Employees Federation members as well as other unions at Green Slopes must be closed or be sold off to private enterprise. one of the other huge private companies, would love the chance for such a bargain. There are rapidly becoming two new hospitals at Green Slopes and his mates or get to be

Write to The Battler: P.O. Box 46 Flemington, Vic 3031  
Dear Battlers,

Dear Battlers,  
P/O'Connor raised a number of points on the article in your issue. But it was just what a columnist should do. The article was written by a very experienced journalist. It is a gross overstatement. It is a gross overstatement. It is a gross overstatement.

## Porn ban is dangerous

by laws against porn? Just look at America's Vice Squad. But it was just what a columnist should do. The article was written by a very experienced journalist. It is a gross overstatement. It is a gross overstatement. It is a gross overstatement.

It is earlier periods of repression porn was illegal and of limited availability. We were once a nation of the moralists of the 19th century. It is earlier periods of repression porn was illegal and of limited availability. We were once a nation of the moralists of the 19th century. It is earlier periods of repression porn was illegal and of limited availability. We were once a nation of the moralists of the 19th century.

## Senior Drivers

Senior Drivers are in a state of panic over the proposed new road rules. They are concerned that they will not be able to drive safely on the new roads. They are concerned that they will not be able to drive safely on the new roads. They are concerned that they will not be able to drive safely on the new roads.



The degrading spectacle of Playboy "bunnies". But women were no less oppressed before the so-called permissive era.

## VPSA: Grouper still at work

**VPSA Executive said they are still at work on the new road rules. They are concerned that they will not be able to drive safely on the new roads. They are concerned that they will not be able to drive safely on the new roads.**

**Full Equality and Liberation**  
For women blacks, workers and oppressed ethnic groups. Racism, sexism and homophobia are all part of the capitalist system. We are opposed to the oppression of workers by the pursuit of homogeneous goals.

**Revolutionary Party**  
To smash the capitalist state, we need a revolutionary party, organized and built in the workplace, without membership dues and without the straggles of workers' groups.

**Rank and File Organisation**  
Workers need their own organizations to fight the bosses when the pacifists are unwilling, the work is being laid off and the control is in the hands of the capitalists.

**WHAT'S ON**  
Sun 13 Sept.  
Film and public meeting on Et. Salvador. Refreshment. Speaker: Linda Briner (DISAC) 8.30 p.m. at the US Centre, 663A Stanley St., Melbourne. Beer and coffee available. \$2.00 concession, \$3.00 and 30c (unemployed and students on details) on 381 586.

**How to contact the International Socialists**  
BATTLER EDITORIAL: P.O. Box 46, Flemington, Vic 3031 316 3307  
FEDERAL SECRETARY: P.O. Box 46, Flemington, Vic 3031 61 2056  
MELBOURNE: P.O. Box 46, Flemington, Vic 3031 61 2056  
WIDEY: P.O. Box 46, Flemington, Vic 3031 61 2056  
BLAIDE: P.O. Box 46, Flemington, Vic 3031 61 2056  
CANNERA: P.O. Box 1166, Canberra City, ACT, 2601  
SPWICH: P.O. Box 198, Booval, Qld 2611 6113

**Melbourne**  
Sun 13 Sept.  
Business concert for Etirean (Lafayette). 7.30pm. Speaker: Linda Briner. 8.30pm. Reception. \$4.00. \$2.50 concession. \$3.00 and 30c (unemployed and students on details) on 381 586.

**Sydney**  
Sat 12 Sept.  
Public Socialist Action Fundraiser. 8.00pm. \$2.00. \$2.00 concession. \$3.00 and 30c (unemployed and students on details) on 381 586.

**I WANT TO JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS!**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone No: \_\_\_\_\_  
Trade Union: \_\_\_\_\_  
Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_  
City and post to: I.S. National Secretary, P.O. Box 46, Flemington, Vic. 3031

# Backs me to defeat Petese

THE CAMPAIGN for black land rights is hotting up. In the past six weeks, activists from the Aboriginal tent embassy in King George Square in Brisbane have collected 16,000 signatures on Land Rights petitions.

There has been a march of over 300 people and activists are preparing for another major rally on Saturday, September 12.

Ripke-Petersen's plan to introduce 50 year leases is directly aimed at making Aboriginal reserves available for commercial exploitation by mining companies and the tourist industry.

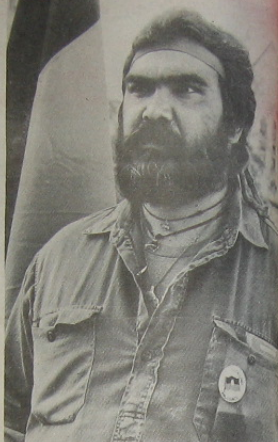
The move to replace the reserves with 50 year leases is being made to remove the threat, in next year's Commonwealth elections, of the old Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders Act being replaced by the Ripke-Petersen favored a buyout if it were not changed. The Committee to Boycott

by Phil Griffiths and Tony Coleman from the Boycott the Games Committee.

organising workplace meetings over land rights and Bob has spoken at a number of them. He says he has been "harassed" at the response.

"I didn't think they knew so much about the struggle. After the speeches we get a lot of questions asking what they can do to support us."

"We also get suggestions about different tactics we can try. Telegrams have also been sent from the meetings to the ILS calling on them to support land rights."



FAIRA activist Bob Weatherall.

What's more, they are out in spite of threats to use Section 45D of the Trades Practices Act against them. This legislation, described by one speaker at the mass meeting as the 'most disgusting bit of anti-union legislation ever seen on a law book', relates to 'secondary boycotts'.

Part of the reason that 45D has been threatened is that members of the Foremen and Deckhands Union employed on the ferries that take workers to and from Cockatoo refused to stop there.

The result was that even members of those unions that wouldn't take part in action for the thirty-five hour week couldn't get to work — and the Island was just about completely closed down.

It was the most successful industrial action seen on the Island for years. Even the buses were left standing on the wharves.

For once clerks, foremen and draughtsmen couldn't get to work either. The unions at ComEng have also retained the right to campaign for a further reduction at any time in the future.

## The 35 hour campaign

negotiate

## Brisbane campaign forging ahead

THE SHORTER hours campaign is hotting up in Brisbane metal shops.

The latest push has followed the successful negotiation of Commonwealth Engineering for a 38 hour week with no stopovers and 36 hours.

One worker commented that he will now have to change his stickers to read "38" hours and "36".

The bosses realise that they will have to give ground on overtime if they are trying to nullify the gains by giving as little as possible back as much as they can get from workers.

They are demanding overtime afternoon smokes at the end of the work-up time, and fewer sickies.

In the profitable machine industry, there is no doubt that the hours are there for the taking. It is important that maximum gains possible are won at a shop by shop basis.

But we must not let our confidence water down our campaigning process.

published by Australia Post — publication no. VBF 522

MALCOLM FRASER is throwing a lavish week long \$20 million party.

To celebrate the Razor Gang, his horror budget and the destruction of CVSS he has invited his mates from all over the world to the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting — CHOGM.

They will have a great time swapping stories about new ways to screw their working classes. There will be champagne toasts to celebrate the Prime Minister who has presided over the highest level of unemployment; who has introduced the toughest anti-union laws and carried out the most savage cuts in welfare spending.

And what a lovely bunch of mates Fraser has invited.

Firstly there is *Piggie Muddon*, fresh Minister of New Zealand from hosting the racist South African apartheid just about the whole New Zealand police force and armed them with special long batons and riot gear to make sure the tour could go ahead in its face of massive opposition.

Next on the guest list comes *Margaret Thatcher*. Thatcher has topped up a record three million unemployed in Britain. In Ireland she has murdered ten hunger strikers in the hot blocks of Long Kesh rather than meet their demands for political status. No wonder she feels like a little holiday in sunny Australia!

famous

Indira *Indira Gandhi* will be there too. Indira is most famous for her state of 'Emergency' introduced following the massive railway strike in 1974. Gandhi's government arrested 30,000 railway workers during the strike.

Then there's *Lee Asian Joo*, Prime Minister of that tightly run ship of state, Singapore.

Lee runs a virtual one-party state which has successfully stifled opposition and trade union organisation. Trade union and student leaders are in jail — some of them since 1961.

One Prime Minister who won't be invited is Malaysia's through the foreign minister *Chokai Shufi*. Malaysia is a country where the ruling class know what we think of them.

So he has mounted the largest security operation ever seen in Australia. Two-thirds of the Victorian police force armed with machine guns mobilised to try to keep any demonstrations off the streets.

For ANHO will be the biggest blitz since the Sidons Heads of Government meeting when they staged a little incident to justify their existence which was to let the crazy crazies and the rest of the post-colonial ruling class know what we think of them.

**RALLY AGAINST THATCHER**  
October 6, 6 pm  
Robert Blackwood Hall, Monash Uni.

**MARGARET THATCHER** catches a rather unconvincing toy buldog at the Tory conference.



No. 117 September 26, 1981 20 cents

# CHOGM... PAROLING CLASS RORT



THERE'S MAL making the most of the last ruling class roundup — the marriage of Ponce Charles 'Piggie' Muldoon looked like he didn't have such a good time.

# DOCKYARD

DOCKYARD workers at Cockatoo Island are out indefinitely for the thirty-five hour week.

Even after two weeks on strike, their ranks are still solid enough for an August 26 to agree to keep the dispute going for as long as it takes to win an assurance that the thirty-five hour week would be introduced in all areas at Cockatoo by July next year.

## BATTLER TESTIMONIAL

"I was laid up with pneumonia. Then I read the Battler. It made my blood boil so much I just had to get up again!"  
Mr. F. Nareen, Vic.

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**Don't COP THE CONFERENCE**  
City Square  
Wednesday 30  
September, 5pm.

**power**

**British Troops out of Ireland — RALLY AGAINST CHOGM!**  
Oct. 2, 6pm City Square  
March to the Arts Centre for the State reception.











Cockatoo Is. workers...

SOME ROVER

THE UNION officials are telling us now that we can't win it. That was what the Painter and Docker ...

After having been on strike since 12 August the dockyard workers employed by Vickers Cockatoo have been told by their officials ...

Chris McArdie, Organiser of the NSW Labour Council put the recommendation to return to work when a case had been given ...

By Dianna Fields

The first opposition to the resolution came from a rank and file painter and docker who said: "The officials say ...

The one official who opposed the motion was AMMSU (metalworkers) organiser Paul Johnson. He told the meeting that the strike had put the whole Navy program out of gear ...

together

And he had something to say about recent attempts to win claims in the court. Think back about what the court. Think back about what the court.

Mal Frazer and Cliff Dolan got together and decided that they should go to court. Went off to the wedding. Cliff went to Ryd-earwood ...

He told the meeting that what was needed was involvement in the campaign from other sections of the trade union movement. The Navy being brought into the dispute could provide the opportunity to do so.

The Navy are getting white collar workers across to Cockatoo. In response the Sturtess and Tricker have put out on refuelling Navy ships throughout NSW.

bosses

The Financial Review is for businessmen - not workers - and that means that they're telling other bosses that if we lose at Cockatoo then the unions are full of tend to do thirty-five hour week campaign."

Painter and docker told the meeting, "We need to lay down the thirty-five hour week for everyone - the officials told us that our fight there was a test for the campaign everywhere."

It was me in '80 - I'm saying that we've sold out everyone. The officials' motion was a roundabout way of simply getting the strikers' message. He said - that official who topped up the real purpose of the motion. He said - that official who topped up their motion doesn't necessarily mean that we go back to work - but it's only as excuse.

They say that we won't be going back here - they'd call us into court as now as they find our rank's humped here."



WORKERS FROM Ford's Broadmeadows plant are maintaining an effective 24 hour picket. This is one of many instances.

WE STRUGGLE TO REMAIN

SICK OF waiting for the company to make a 'reasonable' offer, workers at Ford Broadmeadows (Vic) walked out.

The workers are members of the Vehicle Builders Union (VBU) working on the large Car Assembly plant. They are out for a \$30 wage claim. As one worker told us:

"We need the claim because we just don't earn enough to keep our families - especially with inflation. On the following Monday morning, they set up picket lines - some ...

officers were just down the road to a grinding halt. They are now maintaining the picket 24 hours a day to prevent Ford moving any cars from their stockpile."

By David Lockwood. A week ago, Ford workers at Broadmeadows were told by their officials that they should only have a small picket line. The picket line was broken up by the Ford officials ...

attacked

Already, by 4 am the AMMSU (Metalworkers) members in the car assembly plant had come out on a picket. Workers in the Truck Assembly plant also joined the strike."

Last Wednesday morning picket attacked the picket line. While other workers have been attacking picket lines in the Northern Territory. With 'Let's go Saturday' ...

Some weeks ago at a picket's meeting in Melbourne, the workers had been attacking picket lines in the Northern Territory. With 'Let's go Saturday' ...

In fact, after the meeting, some workers were angry that the picket was broken up by the police. They had to be escorted from the picket to the police."

Write to The Battler: P.O. Box 46 Flemington Vic 3031

Dear Battlers,

Iran: some questions remain. The first page full of Frazer's diatribes. About the schools and buses and children and how the picket for the left ...

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Debunking the press

Some workers one criticism at down in a bunch they were reading their papers and using their lunch. When the laugh of it all, the William Mel ...

Dear Battlers,

Way, checking my share in BHP, Conoco-Rio, Timco, etc etc the other day, when I happened to come across the obituary ...

Dear Battlers,

As a member of the Vietnamese Association, I am most concerned about racism, particularly happening in our community. So far, we still lack information on this issue ...

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As a member of the Vietnamese Association, I am most concerned about racism, particularly happening in our community. So far, we still lack information on this issue ...



Some of the protesters appear in New Zealand. The banner reads 'We are Welcome Here'.

Dear Battlers,

Some of the protesters appear in New Zealand. The banner reads 'We are Welcome Here'.

Full Equality and Liberation

Fair women's blacks, many groups, racism, American-made long-bus, strike with new workers ...

Revolutionary Party

To smash the capitalist state, we need a revolutionary party, organised and led by the workers ...

How to contact the International Socialists

Melbourne Monday 28 Sept. Democratic Appeal Education Ministry of Education Ministry of Education ...

Adelaide Friday 2 Oct. Victoria Rally against imperialism. Brisbane Saturday 10 Oct. South Sea Islands Day. Sydney Tuesday 13 Oct. Demos in support of the Chilean people ...



POLICE OUTSIDE Iranian Prime Minister's bombed office.

Table with columns for location (Melbourne, Adelaide, Brisbane, Sydney, Perth, Canberra, Hobart, Melbourne, Perth, Brisbane, Perth) and dates for various events.

I WANT TO JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS!

Form with fields for Name, Address, Postcode, Phone no., Trade Union, and a checkbox for 'I am going to I.S. National Secretary'.

Bjelke-Petersen's latest rampage means we have to

# FIGHT NEW POLICE ACTS!

**BIJLKE-PETERSEN'S** government is on the attack again with a new set of repressive police powers soon to be introduced.

The draft of the new Summary Offences Act, which will replace the Vagrants, Gaming and Other Offences Act contained provisions that amazed even middle-class liberals.

The most astounding were:

- it will be an offence to associate with "known drug users"
- it will be an offence to solicit funds or subscriptions (like selling left-wing papers) unless you are considered by the police to be a "respectable" group like the Red Cross.
- "poor" writing "offensive" letters to parliamentarians or police will give compulsory psychiatric examination. (It's not clear whether applying for a march permit falls into this category)
- the offence of being a "vulnerable person" is created, police will be able to remove persons from private or public places for no other offence than being considered "intolerable"
- police will have the right to demand any person's name and address and also to search any vehicle or person who they "suspect" of committing an offence.
- the police decide what printed material, including books and magazines, is obscene.
- there will be massive penalties for disrupting

by Carole Ferrier

public meetings (especially jobs). They're still working on the revised bill. In the meantime they will introduce another. This will replace the 1932 Printers and Newspapers Act originally brought in to keep the Communist Party quiet in the Cold War period.

It will be compulsory for any printed material, including leaflets to have a printer's address on them. Police can then demand to see records of who has been produced.

## passes

A third Bill, designed for the Commonwealth Games, includes an elaborate system of passes for getting into the Games site which includes Griffith University and Mt Gravatt OAE. Police will be able to detain people for 48 hours without trial. This can be extended to a week with a magistrate's approval, is obscene.

This will be able to order anyone to leave the Games site without



THIS MONTH four years ago: the first mass show of defiance against the anti-march laws. Now we need this fighting spirit again.

and Northern Ireland is to be tried here. How will the police decide who is to be detained without trial anyway? Clearly, on the basis of information in the Special Branch files.

Since the "Drover" Amendment to the Police Act, the cops have been able to put an information they want into files, including friends, living arrangements, sexual preferences and political activities. Any convictions of course come up at the file of a computer switch.

Supposedly the Games Act will only have effect for the period surrounding the event itself.

But a state of Emergency called in July to deal with the trucks strike was extended in August, and is still in force.

The kind of "British justice" that's become normal in South Africa

# the battle

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS



## protest

A protest group, the Campaign Against Police Powers has been formed after a meeting of 80 people at Queensland University last week ago. The Campaign is spreading information about the proposed legislation and will fight it with pickets and demonstrations when it comes up in Parliament.

The ban on marches was nothing compared to these latest measures which represent the most severe attack on democratic rights yet by the Queensland Government. But Petersen will face a bitter fight every time he tries to use them.

If you would like to contribute to the Campaign Against Police Powers or go on the mailing list, write to: Ford and Sydney Road, PO Box 99, St. Lucia, Qld, 4007 (Interstate support is welcome).

# the battler

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

No. 118 October 10, 1981 20 cents

# \$30 MORE!

THE ACTU HAS supposedly initiated a campaign for a \$30 across the board increase for all workers. But for all they have done about it you would hardly know it.

One group of workers who have not waited for the officials to get off their backsides are the car workers at Ford Broadmeadows (Vic). They have been out for their \$30 claim since September 18 despite the initial opposition of the Vehicle Builders Union (VBU) leadership.

"The longer this dispute goes on, the more it's going to cost Ford. Every week we stay out means another \$5 we're determined to fight for."

That's a shop steward at one of the 24 hour pickets outside the car assembly plant, and it's that sort of determination that is keeping the strike solid. Their pickets have brought production to a halt.

But again and again, the pickets have been broken by large numbers of police — smashing their way through to hit sub-contractors. One picketer told me:

"The police are the same the world over. Here the police are working for Ford."

"Some of the Turkish workers said: 'It has always been the policy of Ford to use police against the workers. If without the police, Ford would not come to a standstill.'"

The police attitude to the picketers is clearly not neutral — indeed, it verges on racism. Looking around at the picketers, many of whom are Turkish and Greek, one cop remarked to another: "I bet every one of them is carrying a knife."

At this stage, there simply haven't been enough picketers to stop the police. Mass picketing is still needed.



PICKETERS WARM themselves outside the Ford Broadmeadows plant in Victoria. They're on the gates right around the clock.

# Ford workers show the way on wages



H-BLOCK supporters demonstrate against the Queen at CHOGM. The security police invented a plot to assassinate her so they could go on the rampage in Melbourne. Full story page 12.

The Ford workers are getting considerable support from other workers. Around \$600 was collected at the striking teachers' meeting (see story p.4). Money has also been collected at CMH in Fishermans Bend and at the AMI plant in Altona.

On September 24, the Ford bosses declared that they would only talk about

the claim if there was a return to work. The shop stewards met on September 28, and decided to reject this offer and remain on strike.

One thing that keeps the Ford workers solid is the fact that Ford is expecting a profit this year of anything between \$100 and \$160 million. The longer the workers stay out, the more

that profit is whittled down — and the more likely Ford is to settle.

Victorian Miners and Packers broke through to win increases of between \$20 and \$24.50 last week after only a week long strike. If the 4,500 Ford workers can make similar gains, then the bosses will be really on the run.

But, for the Ford strikers to win, your help is needed. If you want a speaker from the Strike Committee to speak at your workplace, contact the VBU at Drummond St, Carlton. Better still, visit the picket lines: Barry Road and Sydney Road, Broadmeadows.

The paper that fights for workers' power

**BATTLER TESTIMONIAL**

"I was laid up with pneumonia. Then I read the Battler. It made my blood boil so much I just had to get up again."

Mr. F. Nareen Vic

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# We're sticking to Rowntrees.

**WHAT'S GOOD** enough for one set of sweet smokers is good enough for the others—or at least that's what the workers at Rowntree-Headley (Vic) believe.

They're out for a \$25 wage increase—\$20 now, and \$5 more in December. They'd been out on strike for over a week, and had already rejected an offer of \$16, when the Confederation's Union held a mass meeting on September 30.

That meeting, which included workers from a number of plants voted to walk out on Friday. The Rowntree workers voted against, but were beaten. One of them told us:

"We were outnumbered at the mass meeting. A lot of our members didn't know there was a lot going on. So only about 80 — out of over 500 — turned up."

But when they got back to work, they found that the workers at Allens Sweets had been granted the full claim. So they came out on strike again. Another worker told us: "If Allens got paid the money, why don't we?" Their plenty of money there, Rowntrees have just spent \$75 million on a new plant.

By David Lockwood



EDUCATION MINISTER Wal Fife tries to maintain a dignified bearing while students upstage his lecture in Footscray Institute of Technology (FTI). He had some gall turning up at all—costs of 10% (over \$1,000,000) to FTI's funding had just been announced.

## Officials win Vic. postal elections but...

### The Terrier takes a bite

THREE was both good and bad news for militants in the results of the Australian Postal and Telecommunications Union elections held last month.

Most of us had hoped Fraser's romp had led to an industrial democracy, despite the disastrous handling of the postal wage claim, which is still unresolved in Arbitration Court.

The left of the NSW AFLU led by Mervyn Hawson and Noel Baines suffered a major defeat. Although winning handsomely, as the Batters go to press, the right has comfortably won the state secretary and state president positions and all the regional offices.

As David Bowler's Victorian Executive was re-elected, state secretary Michael Stiller probably understands how the right has managed to get back to power, the right has comfortably won the state secretary and state president positions and all the regional offices.

As David Bowler's Victorian Executive was re-elected, state secretary Michael Stiller probably understands how the right has managed to get back to power, the right has comfortably won the state secretary and state president positions and all the regional offices.

# DEFEND N.S.W. TECH. TEACHERS

By Diane Fieldes, NSW Teachers' Federation

WITHIN A FEW days of being rejected by the NSW Government, the Waran government launched a union-busting offensive against the NSW Teachers' Federation. And it's the Federation's most militant section, the technical and further education teachers that they have taken on.

As part of staffing campaigns waged by all sections of the Federation, the tech teachers were after 12 — that is, 18 hours of face to face teaching and 12 hours of preparation.

Tech teachers have traditionally been one of the most militant sections of Federation, and his part military section to have paid off in February when the Waran government agreed to 12 and set up a working party to bring it in.

When the government had done nothing, tech teachers put the pressure back on in the techs — overtime bans, and a ban on all face to face teaching after the first 18 hours.

By the time of the 48-hour strike in mid-September it was obvious that the government had an intention of improving the staffing situation, and was in fact to back the union.

The teachers were immediately after the State election when, under the Minister for Education, Mr. G. H. Jones, an industrial action wasn't called off, stand-downs would start.

## IT LOOKS LIKE the "Printing and Newspapers Act 1981" will soon be law in Queensland.

Other legislation, the "Summary Offences Act" and the "Commonwealth Games Security Act" will certainly have been considered by Cabinet.

They may soon be law. The notorious "street march" amendment to the Traffic Act in 1977 was passed through Parliament in 8 months.

The Queensland union ban of government has long community action. It presented itself as a "When Comstock was a champion of free trade, laissez faire near monopoly, they have Welpa in 1963, police could influence either the trade unions or the profit chains were in their profits are safe.

## apprentices

Tech teachers have been full of support from other areas. The NSW Teachers' Federation has been full of support from other areas. The NSW Teachers' Federation has been full of support from other areas.

## Don't cop Bielke's Acts

By Ian Rintoul

In later years, government ministers were more than happy to accept a variety of public permits for the previous three years, anyway.

Since 1977, Bielke has responded by steadily increasing government control on dissent. The

## action

For Peteren, the for private security firms, commonwealth Games Public Meeting has been told to refrain. A Land Rights campaign. The result: results in union control may be seen here.

## Caf. workers' victory

CATERING WORKERS in Melbourne Uni are back with the workmate they went out (on September 24) to defend.

The week-long strike was the first public outbreak in a long, simmering dispute dating back April, 1981, over the takeover of the university's catering facilities by the Nationwide Food Service.

So where do AFLU militants go from here? Obviously, with Stiller and Bowler back in control, we're in for more of the same. The Federation is already negotiating a new agreement to be held in a referendum. The Federation is already negotiating a new agreement to be held in a referendum.

## CVSS victory

THE FRASER Government suffered its budget setback when it was forced to reverse the decision to axe the Community Youth Support Scheme.

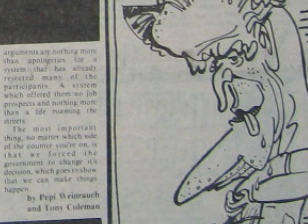
Demunitions, pickets and other public action have given the scheme a lease of life until February 28 next year. Unemployed youth mobilised to play an active role in saving the CVSS scheme.

## No fees or closures!

AT A RALLY in the Great Court at Queensland State University on 1 October, 300 students and some staff voted for an occupation.

With charges of "obstruction of traffic, not a priority" and "No fees or closures" the rally was a success. The rally was a success. The rally was a success.

## JUST STAY DESIRABLE FOR ME AND YOU WON'T GET HURT!



## cutbacks

As well, the funding of the school program has been cut. No students will be used this year and we shall not replace those that have or are being introduced.

**TONY BENN** has lost the deputy leadership of the British Labour Party by a fraction of a percent. But the struggle for control of the party is far from over. In fact the deputy leadership position will be fought out again in a year's time.

**PAUL FOOT**, of the British Socialist Workers Party (the International Socialists' British comrades) examines the politics of Bennism.

WHEN TONY BENN lost the election for deputy leader of the Labour Party the result was profoundly disappointing to anyone who deserves the name of socialist.

The campaign triggered by illness, awkward and excited more interested than being anyone or none from the Labour Party for decades.

Last month, Roy Hattersley, who led the pro-Hattersley reaction (initially the Socialist Workers Party), went to North London to rally his troops.

The meeting hall was booked, and the BBC News went to report that Hattersley, who is a media speaker or diva, was going to show us a major challenge to Tony Benn to draw members of the Communist Party who were supporting Hattersley's motion.

In the same words, Tony Benn spoke on Newcastle in public meeting of 2,000 people. Consider that for a moment. This was a general election. Benn is allowed to die and sustainably in the mass media. We see in the age, we are told, where we see the public meaning of the rally.

Yet Tony Benn drew 2,000 people in what is traditionally the area where Labour has been most compliant, reactionary and corrupt.

Audience like that have flocked to hear him, and to cheer him all over the country.

What is he saying? It is now exactly eighteen months since I took part in a debate with Tony Benn, Audrey Wise and Stuart Hall on the attack.

I am sure Tony Benn will agree that his speech in the campaign trail had more in common with what he said than with what he said there.

It was he, on the occasion of a speech about the Labour Party, who said: "There is no secret in the strength of Parliamentary democracy... it has secretaries on the floor which make a mockery of that democracy, the multinational companies, the hierarchy of the civil service."

'People who have property will not let go of it without the most ferocious battle.'

WORKERS FROM Lew Jews during their epic fight for jobs this year. Their officials from the large TAFE and Garmont Workers Union voted for Benn but it took them two months to declare the occupation and strike activity.



## 'TONY BENN is offering the machinery which failed before ... an elected Labour government'

In the different ways we talk about socialism in order to get it.

The machinery offered by Tony Benn for achieving his goal is fundamentally the same machinery which failed before — an elected Labour government and by being obliged by conference resolutions to lead from the Labour Party's National Executive, and through that executive,



## 'Flickering candles of industrial resistance to the government have to be protected and then set into flame.'

governments in the past was not attributable to a lack of democracy on the part of Prime Ministers' or civil servants. These governments were called because the people who have property will not let go of any of it without the most ferocious battle.

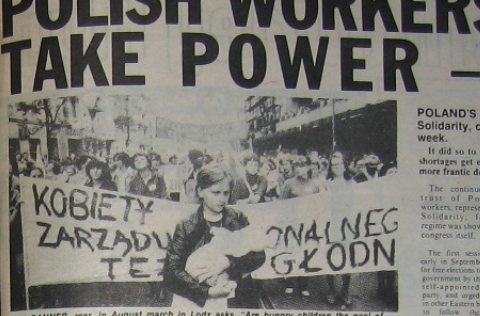
They ran into any such battle against a Labour government, however democratic the constitution of the party, or however angry the Labour Party conference denounces that government's self-sons.

As long as they keep power in every other part of society except Parliament, and industry, finance, law, army, press and so on... that it is relatively simple to mould submission, the government must be written, there, is the real power which can change society, the government must be written, there, is the real power which can change society, the government must be written, there, is the real power which can change society...

The rise of Tony Benn and the Labour left has been taking place against the background of a general war of attrition through out the working class movement.

Never since the war has the Labour left been so successful inside the Labour Party. Yet never since the war has the arguments for the labour left been so successful, or even for a radical, socialist shift in the old one, been received with such enthusiasm in the working class movement at large.

It is no good Tony Benn and his supporters pointing to the unadmitted possibility of the loss of a trade union or a local party, or the failure of a general election, as reasons for their pessimism. It is the real power which can change society, the government must be written, there, is the real power which can change society...



RED BANNER, rear, in August march in Lodz asks, 'Are hungry children the goal of socialism?'

## Teachers don't want Vaughan back We want a fight back

VICTORIAN SECONDARY teachers recently voted to pursue their fight for better teaching hours and class sizes on an individual branch basis rather than by a statewide strike campaign.

## RISE IN STORE

MEMBERS OF THE Sloreman and Packers Union (GPU) have made a major wage breakthrough in Victoria. They have a pay rise of between \$20 and \$34 a week. They have obtained a new base rate of \$225. Previously the base rate for men was \$193.60 and even less for women. All other rates will be increased 17.2% to maintain parity with the base rate.

About 10,000 GPU members struck for a week in support of the claim. The bosses screamed about the strike's shortages — but of course all they were really worried about was their profits.

The Battle spoke to some of the workers at the Yelka factory and Brodmans who set up a 24 hour picket and stopped all finished articles leaving the plant.

One woman picketer told us, "There might not be \$35 an hour — but we've got the bosses' attention. We can't miss any of the garment Trades' money. There'll have to be some support on the other side. It's not like you guys would do."

It was a determination like that that panicked the bosses into quickly conceding the claim. It is through the struggle in the near future, however, that Manufacturers and the Employers' Association will have to decide what they have to do. It has been suggested that the Yelka boss has had the usual interest in the bargaining Central

The first session was early in September used for four elections to replace government by the present union Federation and to urge workers to join the Federation to be independent of Polish influence and to stop the government.

The TV camera of the day, the regime was referred admiringly to both because of the courage and because they continually do so.

The congress showed that the workers are refusing to get back to work, they dispute and are not being intimidated by the Communist Union.

## sympathy

While there is a lot of sympathy that asks, it is not the leadership's fault that we don't do as well as we should. It is not our fault that we don't do as well as we should. It is not our fault that we don't do as well as we should. It is not our fault that we don't do as well as we should. It is not our fault that we don't do as well as we should.

With the most important factors in our hands, we have to fight to get the best deal possible. We have to fight to get the best deal possible. We have to fight to get the best deal possible. We have to fight to get the best deal possible.

## POLAND'S INDEPENDENT TRADE UNION MOVEMENT

Solidarity, concluded its first national congress last week.

It did so to a background of growing tension in Poland as food shortages get even worse, and while Russia's rulers issue more frantic denunciations of Solidarity.

The continued distress of Poland's workers has moved to new levels. Solidarity, for its part, has been able to hold the regime was struck in the minutes of the national minister of energy and atomic power.

When Solidarity threatened a strike over demands for access to the media, the regime said it would use the police to break the strike.

Against such a background, however, the regime is growing more confident and more determined to put down any strike.

The great danger of the regime is growing more confident and more determined to put down any strike. The great danger of the regime is growing more confident and more determined to put down any strike.

Heard the Hattersley... the government to... in the workers.

Heard the Hattersley... the government to... in the workers.



**I.S. Weekend School**

The Melbourne International Socialists are having a Weekend School — a course of lectures and discussions on Russia — on the basis of the tradition, Permanent revolution, Cuba, Trotskyism and Russia — on the basis of Trotsky's... it is only \$12 a year including down a job \$7.50 if you're not and \$2 for children. For details ring 872005.

# Elizabeth Curley Flynn



"THE YEARS 1906 to 1926 were full of 'force and violence' used by the ruling class of America against the workers, who gave their lives, shed their blood, were beaten, jailed, blacklisted and framed as they fought for the right to organise, to strike and to picket.

Struggles — for a few cents more an hour, for a few minutes less work a day — were long and bitterly fought. Nothing was handed on a silver platter to the American working class by employers. All their hard gains came through their own efforts and solidarity."

These were the years in which Elizabeth Curley Flynn was active in the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW or the Wobblies). They were exactly as she describes above years of stark class warfare.

Many of the capitalists were so wealthy that they didn't know what to do with their money. While millions of families were living on as little as \$5 or \$10 a week, rich socialites were wrapping cigarettes in hundred dollar bills.

While women who could not afford to stop work gave birth to babies on factory floors, one capitalist provided a private carriage and personal valet for his pet

monkey. Others led nobbons on their dogs, set them in outrages and drove them out in the park for airings.

With their immense wealth and power, they had no need of democratic pretences. The rich Frederick Townsend Martin frankly declared:

"I matter no one else what political party is in power or what president holds the reins of office. We are not politicians or public thinkers, we are the rich, we know how, but we intend to keep it all we can by throwing all the tremendous weight of our support, our influence, our money, our political connections, against any legislature, any political

platform, that threatens the integrity of our estate."

At the beginning of the century workers from Europe had been lured to the United States with promises of work, big wages, pocket money and happiness. The reality was a long way from the rosy picture painted by employers' greed for cheap labour and fat profits.

The position of workers was made even worse by the refusal of the trade union organisation, the American Federation of Labor (A.F.L.), to organise anyone other than American skilled male workers.

Women workers were "unorganizable and unrepresentable," they said.

Female labour was disparaged in the most extreme terms — "an evolutionary backslide", "a foe to our civilized pretensions" and "the knife of the assassin aimed at the family circle."

In contrast, the IWW set out to organise all workers into one union, regardless of skill, nationality or sex.

The famous American meeting pot meant that skilled and unskilled blacks and whites, men and women and children, native and foreign born, all competed with each other. The IWW knew that the main task facing the working class was the creation of unity.

It was an organisation with revolutionary aims. It preached marxist economics and maintained that power and property had to be seized from the ruling class by the working class, where it rightly belonged.

Elizabeth Curley Flynn was nicknamed 'the Rebel Girl' by her comrades in the IWW. She rebelled all her life. She rejected the society she lived in, based on greed and identified with those who paid the price for such a system: the working class.

She rebelled against an image of women as docile, cross-stitch creatures. She knew the reality was women working long shifts in factories for piffling wages, women who were prepared to fight back.

Both her parents were active socialists, and she grew up attending meetings and reading socialist literature. At the age of 16, Elizabeth was asked to make a speech at a socialist club.

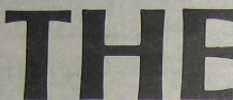
She says: "My father was not much impressed with the idea. He thought they should have asked him to expound marxism, in which he now considered himself an expert. But my mother encouraged me and I accepted the offer to speak. I tried to select a subject upon which my father would not interfere too much, something he did not consider too important. It was: 'What socialism will do for women'."

It had early speech she was already aware that women could not find true liberation under capitalism.

The same year, 1906, Flynn joined the recently established IWW.

The IWW was a militant, fighting, working class union. The employing class

Nicknamed 'The Rebel Girl' by her comrades, Elizabeth Flynn leaps from the pages of *American Worker*. Harriet Sherwood



soon recognised this fact and gave battle from its birth. The IWW identified itself with all the pressing immediate needs of the poorest, the most exploited, the most oppressed workers. It "fanned the flames" of their discontent."

She left school to speak for the IWW in cities all over America.

For the next few years she organised strikes, and was involved in the IWW free speech fights. The authorities considered her "the most dangerous and effective of Wobblie saboteurs."

During this time, she married, had a child, and then was separated from her husband because he wanted her to settle down.

"I wanted to speak and write, to travel, to meet people, to see places, to organise for the IWW, I saw no reason why a woman should give up my work for this."

For nearly twenty years Flynn did all those things she wanted to, moving from place to place, organising workers wherever there was a sign of struggle.

She was involved in many fights for free speech witnessed brutal attacks including cold-blooded murders, on striking workers by the employers. She saw fellow workers and comrades jailed for crimes they did not commit. She was committed to building a strong working

class revolutionary movement. Elizabeth was particularly concerned with the oppression of women's subordinate role, and their economic struggles. But she was a middle class feminist.

## queen

She said: "The queen of the parlor has no interest in common with the maid of the kitchen. The sisterhood of women, like the brotherhood of man, is a hollow sham to labour. Behind all its smug hypocrisy and sickly sentimentality, loom the



SWEATED LABOUR: An immigrant family makes articles in York City c. 1909-1912.

**the battler**  
PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

# SUPPORT FORD WORKERS!



Contact the International Socialists: Ph Melbourne 61 2056 076 3307; Sydney 51 3665 Brisbane 391 5966 Adelaide 49 7939.

**Industrial Workers of the World,  
hour history. Janey Stone and  
er story.**



Joseph Ettor following his release from jail during the Lawrence textile strike.

of the class  
add that  
the regime  
workers who  
lead strikers  
to the women.  
The  
in 1912,  
important of  
based in  
the coast,  
and conducted

So it is not surprising that  
IWW propaganda had  
affected them, and the local  
IWW branch became the  
organizing core of the strike.  
Elizabeth Gurley Flynn  
and Big Bill Haywood,  
the acknowledged leader of  
the IWW, were sent for along  
with other Wobbly activists.  
The textile workers were  
of 23 different nationalities  
which increased the  
problems of organizing.  
Flynn describes how, from  
Haywood, she learned to  
speak in a "down-to-earth"  
language which all workers  
could understand.  
"I learned how to... use  
short words and short  
sentences, to repeat the same  
thought in different words if  
I saw the audience did not  
understand. I learned never  
to reach for a three-syllable  
word if one or two would do.  
This is not vulgarizing.  
Words are tools and not  
everyone has access to a  
whole tool chest."  
Flynn's own words best  
describe how the IWW  
organized around the strike.  
"We held special meetings  
for the women at which  
Haywood and I spoke. The  
women worked in the mills  
for longer pay and in  
addition had all the  
housework and care of the  
children."  
"The old-world attitude  
of men as the lord and  
master was strong. At the  
end of the day's work, or

now of strike duty — the  
man went home and sat at  
ease while his wife did all the  
work preparing the meal,  
cleaning the house, etc.

"There was considerable  
opposition to women going  
to meetings and marching  
on the picket line. We  
resolutely set out to  
combat these notions. The  
women wanted to picket.  
They were strikers as well  
as wives and were valiant  
fighters."

"We talked to the  
strikers about One Big  
Union, regardless of skill or  
lack of it, foreign-born or  
native-born, colour, religion  
or sex. We showed how  
all the differences are used  
by the bosses to keep  
workers divided and pitted  
against each other. We said  
firmly: "You work together  
for the boss. You can stand  
together and fight for  
yourselves!" This was more  
than a slogan. It was a  
crusade for united people —  
for "Bread and Roses."  
Flynn and Haywood also



WOMEN WORKERS refusing to leave the factory in sympathy with striking garment workers.

main tactic of the strike.  
Here's one contemporary  
description: "It was the  
spirit of the workers that  
seemed dangerous. They  
were confident, gay,  
relaxed, and they sang."  
Elizabeth seemed to be  
the spirit of the strike:  
"When Elizabeth spoke, the  
excitement of the strikers

their children to be looked  
after by working class  
families in other cities.  
Troops attacked the women  
and children on the railway  
station and a reign of terror  
prevailed in Lawrence.

The pickets were so  
unfavorable that the  
employers had to yield to the  
demands of the strikers.  
They won substantial wage  
increases. Short strikes in  
other textile towns followed  
and eventually nearly  
200,000 millworkers  
throughout New England  
won wage increases.

The women had played  
such a key role that  
afterward Big Bill Haywood  
said: "The women won the  
strike."  
Elizabeth Gurley Flynn

went on to other strikes and  
IWW work. She maintained  
a close affair with the Italian  
anarchist Carlo Tresca for  
13 years. She participated in  
the anti-war and free speech  
struggles of the war years.

She recognized that  
women's involvement in  
class struggle and revolution-  
ary organization was the  
tool to fight oppression.  
So she supported  
demands for women's  
suffrage but warned:  
"Much more than the  
abstract right of the ballot is  
needed to free women;  
nothing short of a social  
revolution can shatter her  
cramping and stultifying  
sphere of today."

But in 1926 she succumbed  
to exhaustion and had a  
nervous breakdown. Little  
detail is known of her later  
life as the died before  
writing the second volume  
of her autobiography.

In 1936 she joined the  
Communist Party. Although  
Elizabeth remained  
active to the end of her life,  
she was not the great leader  
she had been in her youth.  
Nevertheless, she was still  
considered dangerous  
enough to imprison during  
the McCarthy period when  
she was in her 60s.

Her most outstanding  
achievement is the legacy of  
the Lawrence strike. It was  
the high point of women's  
organization for many years  
to come. One of the songs  
that she sang then is sung  
by women's liberationists  
today:  
"As we come marching,  
marching we bring the  
greater days. The rising of  
the women means the rising  
of the race. No more the  
suffer and die — let that  
rail where one reapers. But  
let that rail where one reaps. But  
let that rail where one reaps. But  
let that rail where one reaps."  
Bread and roses! Bread and  
roses!

# REBEL



A STRIKING millworker is led off to jail during the Lawrence textile strike.

became a visible thing. She  
stood up there, young with  
her Irish blue eyes, her face  
magnolia white, and her  
cloud of black hair, the very  
picture of a youthful  
revolutionary."  
The strikers used many  
ingenious tactics, but the  
one that finally turned the  
tide was the idea of sending

organized special children's  
meetings. This was  
particularly necessary  
because, as sometimes  
happens with children of  
migrants, they were  
ashamed of their parents'  
foreignness. The fact that  
this tended to their radical  
ideas was used more effectively  
than Mass picketing was the

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# Gift tax amendments

**IF POLITICAL** bankruptcies were measured in dollars and cents, the NSW ACOA (public service clerks union) branch executive and its supporters would all have massive overdrafts.

This is the only conclusion that can be drawn after their public and undemocratic behaviour during the recent annual general meeting.

This year's AGM was allegedly held in August and was attended by about one hundred and ten people. From the start, it was hopelessly organised. There was virtually no publicity. The annual report adversely affecting the meeting didn't even arrive in our office until two days after the meeting was held. There was also an arbitrary time limit of two hours which was breached seven times by the branch secretary, Barry Connor, turned up over seven minutes late.

Business at the meeting was intended as a discussion of the branch report and to vote on the motions. None. One of these motions which was carried was moved by Pat Trenchard, and carried by 10 to 0. It called on the branch office to organise public service wage meetings in the area. This was declared to be the concern of the union, not of the branch. This was the only motion which was carried. It was also being investigated by the Financial Services Commission. At the time of the meeting the vote was successfully moved against his bid of the officials that



VPSA REFORM GROUP member Jeff Goldhar addressing part of the rally at Treasury House. The Reform Group had its own platform prior to the official proceedings.

# What a bloody insult!

**YOU PUT IN a claim for 16% — and what do you get? A measly 2 to 3%!**

That's what 5000 members of the Victorian Public Service Association (VPSA) thought when they gathered at a hastily organised stop-work meeting at Melbourne's Treasury Gardens. They were there to protest at the way the Public Service had determined their claim.

A motion for a strike was moved. But an alternative motion for a stop-work meeting was eventually passed. The stop-work held on Friday 2 October at the Treasury Gardens was only the third in VPSA history.

The conservative Executive was half-hearted about the stoppage. They underestimated the anger of ordinary rank and file. The Executive had been told to prepare a campaign of "industrial action" which would include partial industrial action, but not the Victorian Association's strike. This time, the

# Write to the Battler: P.O. Box 46 Flemington, Vic 3031

## The Ananda Marga ... "SECURITY" STRIKES

**THE ANANDA MARGA** was formed in India in 1955 by an ex-railway worker and journalist called Prabhakar Sarkar. The organisation grew rapidly and their membership in India numbers over two million within a decade.

Ananda Marga's focus is the India Gandhi's government and later the government of Manji Desai. The Margis maintain that they are all started when the PROUD philosopher known as A.L. Sarkar pronounced that a philosophy known as "Progressive Utilization Theory" (PUT) is a social, economic, scientific theory. The philosophy was developed by the local official who regarded as the worth of his own high school as well as his own high school. The PUT was first used by the Communist Party.

THE MARGIS were a vehicle of the reforming intelligentsia and security forces. They were blamed for the Hilton bombing. There is a book on the garage in George Street. Next morning the Prime Minister told the NSW

**ONE OF THE groups** which was subjected to considerable police and ASIO harassment during the CHOGM is the Ananda Marga. In this article *Chris Rose* examines the background to this section of our group of yogic meditators and sometime socialists.

## Evans Deakin metal workers push on to 35

**METAL WORKERS** employed by Evans Deakin in Brisbane, have reported a 37% hour work effort in 12 months time.

The workers at the metal plant decided that individual shop committees would be standing against. This will be the first time in the history of the plant that a strike has been called. The workers are pushing for a 35% increase in their wages and a 40% increase in their hours of work. The workers are pushing for a 35% increase in their wages and a 40% increase in their hours of work. The workers are pushing for a 35% increase in their wages and a 40% increase in their hours of work.

# TELECOM PAY CASES STAGED BY clerks

**CLERICAL WORKERS** in Telecom and the Public Service are still awaiting the results of their wage claim.

ACOAs members launched their unprecedented and highly publicised industrial action campaign against Telecom on July 12, and were soon joined by APSA members.

But despite government assurances that the Telecom claimants' wages in prior priority after the hars were lifted on July 28, the APSA members keep stalling on a hearing date. It has now been raised to 27-29 October. That's 3 months after hars were lifted!

Until July 28, the unions implemented the hars strategies, which resulted in major disruption to the commission's revenue. The Telecom claimants' wages in prior priority after the hars were lifted on July 28, the APSA members keep stalling on a hearing date. It has now been raised to 27-29 October. That's 3 months after hars were lifted!

**THE BOMBING** was a complex operation. The security forces then sent a copy into the Ananda Marga in Sydney, a street called Robert St. The Ananda Marga then sent a copy into the Ananda Marga in Sydney, a street called Robert St. The Ananda Marga then sent a copy into the Ananda Marga in Sydney, a street called Robert St.

# How to contact the International Socialists

**BATTLER EDITORIAL** PO Box 46, Flemington, Vic 3031, 376 3307 44 hour telephone answering machine.

**US NATIONAL OFFICE** PO Box 46, Flemington, 3031, 81 2056

**MAURICE** PO Box 46, Flemington, 3031, 81 2056

**STONEY** PO Box 46, Flemington, 3031, 81 2056

**ADELAIDE** PO Box 46, Flemington, 3031, 81 2056

**CANBERRA** PO Box 46, Flemington, 3031, 81 2056

**BRISBANE** PO Box 46, Flemington, 3031, 81 2056

**SPRING** PO Box 46, Flemington, 3031, 81 2056

# WHAT'S ON

**AGSA'S 15th Annual Conference** Sydney, October 13-15. The AGSA is a national association of public service workers. The conference will discuss the current state of public service workers and the role of the AGSA.

**British Trade Union Congress** Brisbane, October 18-21. The British Trade Union Congress is a national organization of trade unions. The conference will discuss the current state of trade unions and the role of the Congress.

**Public Service Workers' Union** Sydney, October 20-22. The Public Service Workers' Union is a national organization of public service workers. The conference will discuss the current state of public service workers and the role of the union.

**Public Service Workers' Union** Brisbane, October 20-22. The Public Service Workers' Union is a national organization of public service workers. The conference will discuss the current state of public service workers and the role of the union.

**Public Service Workers' Union** Melbourne, October 20-22. The Public Service Workers' Union is a national organization of public service workers. The conference will discuss the current state of public service workers and the role of the union.

# telephonists

**Meanwhile,** Queensland telephonists have laid in on the line to Telecom on their own wage claim. They've given management until October 7 to come up with a \$2 wage industrial award and a 5% pay rise, or it's pulling stoppages around the state.

# disrupt

**Other industrial action** includes: "work-action" and "no-work" practices directed mainly at the telecommunications and communications commission.

**Telecom management** will soon feel the heat from industrial and under-represented telephonists.

# PRICE RISING AGAIN ... that's what CHOGM was for us!

By Rod Connolly

**THE COMMONWEALTH Heads of Government Meeting — CHOGM — has been used as a pretext for a massive crackdown by the security forces.**

There has been an massive display of police power on the streets of Melbourne. Never before have the cops been so visible and never before have they had such a sophisticated array of armaments, and electronic gadgets.

In reserve to back the cops up have been 1,200 heavily armed soldiers.

Every security organisation in Australia, plus a whole array of international units, including MI5 and the British SAS were in attendance. Interviews were held with members of the NSW Special Branch were taken in their droves.

Hearings have been broken into and announced in days' runs. People dragged from their beds and held up for years.

A whole series of political activities — black militants, Irish H-Block activists, Turkish socialist and members of the Arab League have been raided and intimidated.

The police invented a plot to assassinate the Queen to justify a series of raids in the early hours of the morning on Friday 2 October. The security cops even went so far as to claim that the raids prevented the Queen being assassinated just before she sailed off to Tanzania.

The Broadmeadows home of Barry Hughes, the President of the Melbourne H-Block Committee was raided just after he got off the plane from Ireland after visiting his brother, one of the original hunger strikers in Long Kesh Prison.

The cops burst into the house with a warrant to search for explosives and firearms. They found none but confiscated literature Barry had brought back from Ireland, turned the house upside down, and dragged his 14-year-old kid out of bed and turned it upside down.

Two friends of Barry and fellow activists in the H-Block Committee, Dave Quigley and Tommy Haraghy, who had come to meet him at the airport were also detained.

The media had been tipped off by the cops to raid on Barry's house because he had organised a maximum demand and maximum turnout of their "heroes" cover.


The Channel 10 reporter even apologised to Tommy Haraghy for not being able to cover the raid on his house which was going on at the same time.

Haraghy's house in Ashburnton was raided at 5.30 am. His wife Bridget was in bed with the kids when 4 cops burst in and started dragging away everything.

The cops continued to have houses "tipped off" there were thousands, used for housing — hardly the weapons of a skilled assassin, but made to look like that.

The most savage raid was on the Cahery home of Darren Fildeman, a member of the Union of Australian Workers. His plane didn't even break down his front door.

THE QUESTION OF THE HOUR IS: WILL THIS MAN LAUNCH US ALL INTO WORLD WAR 3? IF HE DOES YOU'LL REALLY NEED A SUBSCRIPTION TO THE BATTLE!!



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PRISONERS FREE

# the battler

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS



**BARRY HUGHES, Melbourne H-Block Committee President (left) and anti-Thatcher demo in the City Square. 500 supporters of the prisoners marched to the Arts Centre, where CHOGM delegates and local rich were dining with the Queen. They gave for a reception when she arrived at 8.30 pm. Their spirit was not dented by a series of police raids that morning, the massive cop onslaught on streets or steady rain. The following Tuesday at Monash Uni 500 in an unprecedented show of strength, mobilised to prevent a many demonstrators getting anywhere near Maggie Thatcher.**

previously and one house about which the cops were not saying anything.

In Sydney the raids on the Ananda Marga households were even more violent and they ripped their phones out of the wall.

The cops raze the media after the Ananda Marga raids which are a serious suggestion or stating the facts to the Westworth Hotel were found there. They weren't — nor have they been seen or heard of since.

The raids served a number of purposes for the cops and ASIO. They were

an attempt to intimidate political opponents of the government of ruling class hangers attending the CHOGM Conference, in particular of Margaret Thatcher and the Queen.

Also it was partly a case of the cops doing something to justify the massive cost of the security build up for CHOGM.

They had to find some "terrorists" to offset all the criticism of money being wasted, traffic disruption and of the infernal noise of the ever hovering police helicopters.

People living in Port Melbourne got some respect the night the Queen



# It's \$5,000 mil down the drain

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# the battler

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

# FRASER'S MILITARY SPLURGE



**WHAT AN ENORMOUS waste! \$2,500 million down the drain to buy 75 F/A-18 Hornet fighter planes for the Australian Airforce.**

That's 33 million dollars a piece for super sophisticated toys for RAAF pilots to play with. And that's just today's prices. By the time they are built and delivered they will cost a lot more.

And the Hornet is just part of a new military equipment package with a total cost of \$5,000 million announced by Defence Minister

Killen.

What better indication could you have of the priorities of the Fraser Government? At a time when it is slashing jobs in the public sector and making major cuts in badly needed expenditure on health, education and social services, it can find billions to waste on military spending.

This latest Australian military package is just part of a general military build up throughout the capitalist world. Capitalism in crisis resorts more and more to militarism and war to maintain its rule.

Australia is strategically placed to defend western interests in South East Asia and the Pacific, in particular the vital sea lanes. That's why US nuclear bombers will soon be based out of Darwin and that why Australia is drawn with US up bases.

The F/A-18A Hornets with a range of up to 1,300 kilometres from Darwin will be a vital link in that chain.

**ANDREAS Papanikolaou's Panhellenic Socialist Movement (PASOK) has scored an overwhelming victory in the Greek elections.**

The two main left parties, PASOK with 48% of the vote and the Moscow line Communist Party with 11%, inflicted a shattering defeat on the corrupt conservative regime.

After 30 years of right wing rule including long periods of military dictatorship, and fascist brutality, it is no wonder there is massive enthusiasm among Greek workers in Greece itself and in Australia.

Papanikolaou has promised a series of major reforms particularly to the almost non-existent social security system. He also promised radical change to the archaic Greek economy including a series of nationalisations.

However in the course of the election campaign Papanikolaou adopted a much more moderate stance on other issues.

He is now committed to holding a referendum before withdrawing from the Common Market. A referendum which can only occur with the consent of the conservative President.

US bases will not be closed down immediately but, at best, phased out. Similarly Greece will not withdraw from the political wing of NATO and will continue to be a military ally of the US.

What is not yet clear is whether Papanikolaou will also retreat from radical social reform if the pressure is put on by the US bankers.

If he goes ahead with the program he will face massive disruption from the extremely backward and feudal church. And walking in the wings it might get out of hand as the generals who



**PAPANIKOLAOU, with PASOK symbol in the background.**

Elseway Greek politics are more than willing to consent to end the country of the revolutionary left and the working class. It is to be hoped that they can seize those opportunities as a new military take over can be avoided.

For a major background report on Greece need the next issue of the Battler.

The paper that fights for workers' power

A new era in Greek politics?

## TWO WEEKS A GO

Two weeks ago, Australian Workers' Union members at Princess Alexandra Hospital, Brisbane voted to strike for 48 hours over their claim for \$30.

With no increase outside of inflation since 1974, they have watched their wages fall further and further behind. The Health Department has been considering the claim for months.

The ladies workers, however, are adamant and in particular, the orderlies were determined to bring it up a bit. The 48 hour strike seemed a good way to do it.

But it wasn't only the Health Department that the strikers were fighting. The men, they were not on the picket line, but they were on the picket line in the paper that the union was talking to the men's representatives at a meeting to reconsider the union's strike.

At the meeting union officials reported that Cabinet had dramatically decided to offer double time per Saturday and 11% shift

the offer in gratitude, but the offer was not to be considered by the union's further negotiations. Other hospital workers had accepted the offer, although other meetings had been held and the offer was not to be considered. "You are not going to get any more," the officials said. "We are not going to get any more," the officials said. "We are not going to get any more," the officials said.

The AWW officials had decided to stick to the original demand.

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### ACOYA wages campaign

# If you don't unite, you lose

The second stage of ACOYA's wages campaign is about to get underway. Members know that it may be our last chance for a while to get a decent rise.

The ACOYA National Executive has directed that mass meetings of all members be called by the end of October to discuss action over the claim.

But of the recent Sydney press meeting is any indication, the sort of action that will be proposed will probably not get too far.

Action meeting a motion since the Telecom strike was unanimously carried. It had that the National Service Board has continued to refuse to reconsider all stated to act, and "rolling" strategies are ACOYA members in the "rolling back" in the street of public services have been announced by the ACOYA National Executive. The ACOYA National Executive has announced that the strike will be called by the end of October to discuss action over the claim.

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## France: le U-turn

FRANCE'S NEW Socialist government is performing a U-turn on its policies faster than even its fiercest critics expect.

The new President, Mitterrand, fought his campaign largely on the issue of unemployment. Some weeks ago, his government unveiled its Plan to combat the scourge.

Shorter working weeks? Further nationalisation? Of course not. The Plan consists of putting most of the country's workers on part-time work at below award rates. And of setting up work camps for the young unemployed who, having finished military service, have no jobs to go to.

Plan or no Plan, everyone knows that unemployment is still going to top two million by the end of this year.

Then there's the issue of bank nationalisation. Mitterrand still intends to keep his promise — but his government has also promised to

### Tech. teachers go back — for now

TWO HUNDRED more tech teachers were stood down by the NSW government in NSW over the past couple of weeks. This is the government's only response to their campaign for reduced pay and better conditions.

By 11 October about 250 tech teachers had been stood down. Money was being raised by other teachers to support them.

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## Mrs. MIA FLEMING

THE VICTORIAN Government is reeling. Reeling the last months of McMahon's Federal Liberal government in 1972, Lindsay Thompson "Cabinet can't move in any direction without falling over itself."

The late Mr Thomson was a Liberal MP. He was a member of the Liberal Party. He was a member of the Liberal Party. He was a member of the Liberal Party.

By Tony Sullivan

decree longer hours of working they had to be introduced through legislation. The Liberals have an absolute majority of only two in the Legislative Assembly.

The Liberal Party State Council voted overwhelmingly to call on the Government to allow restricted working hours on the issue of overtime pay. But the issue of overtime pay has only two workers, but has only two workers, but has only two workers.

By David Lockwood

After the increase in electricity charges, also has threatened to withdraw its plans to set up an Aluminium smelter in Portland. ICI has just announced a financial plan proposed next October.

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STUDENTS march in their thousands against the cuts to education spending. Industrial action and further mobilisations are the only way to stop Fraser's vicious attacks.

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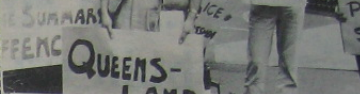
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MEMBERS of the Campaign Against Police Powers picket parliament house. Even this was seen as a threat and they were expelled from the hallowed precincts.

## A club to beat the Police Powers!

SUPPORTERS of the Campaign Against Police Powers (CAPP) have shown the way to fight the anti-protest Police Act in Queensland.

CAPP has won wide support for a campaign against increasing police powers, including support from the Trades and Labour Council. The T.L.C. has particularly attacked the proposed Trade and Labour Council Bill, stating in a recent T.L.C. meeting that "if holding the Games means massive deprivation of civil liberties, then we should do without the Games. Cancel them, blackball them, boycott them, anything rather than suffer this."

A public meeting of the Campaign Against Police Powers (CAPP) was held on October 11th, at the Brisbane Trades and Labour Council, to discuss the proposed Police Act and the implications of the Act for the Trades and Labour Council.

The meeting was attended by a large number of people, including representatives of the Trades and Labour Council, the Queensland Labour Party, and other groups.

The Trades and Labour Council has announced that it will support the Campaign Against Police Powers (CAPP) in its fight against the proposed Police Act.

The Council has stated that the Act would give the police powers which would be a serious threat to the rights of citizens.

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**WORKERS AT the Melbourne Ford plant are struggling for a \$30 pay rise. And struggle is the only way that workers around the world and over half a century have won anything from the multinational miser. Sandra Bloodworth traces the history of the company and the workers who have struck back.**

**HENRY FORD I said of the Great Depression that it was "wholesome," that people would profit by the "illness" and "these are the best times we ever had."**

Of course, he could afford such a view with a personal income of almost \$14 million in 1923, and a large pool of unemployed which gathered at the gates of his factory each day for work.

If anyone collapsed or died on the assembly line, Ford's people would ask for better pay or conditions, there were always thousands ready to take their place.

Ford paid his men the numbers of unemployed to keep wages down and profits up.

True to the tradition of his class, Ford used industrial thugs and assembly line discipline against his workers and his unemployed.

It was his habit to send Henry Ford II to work in the most "hated" method of carrying things, using leaders to help discipline the workers.

By the 1920s Ford had built a popular image of himself as a humanitarian. He had set up one of the first in the world to pay the numbers of unemployed to keep wages down and profits up.

In 1912 when the Ford's people staged a strike in the Ford plant, four were killed and twenty injured when the Dearborn police on the bridge used tear gas. Ford said that those who remained employed were the jobs of the unemployed.

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In 1914, after a strike in which the Ford workers violently hurricled the company to force the first closed shop agreement in the world, Ford said that those who remained employed were the jobs of the unemployed.

**The speed-up prematurely broke the strike in the world war. The company said that it was necessary to have the plant run at full capacity. In 1921, the Ford workers staged a strike in the Ford plant, four were killed and twenty injured when the Dearborn police on the bridge used tear gas. Ford said that those who remained employed were the jobs of the unemployed.**

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**fight**

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**I have always pictured the car coming down the line as being like a great system line grinding down the line as the workers struggle over it, directing it and then jumping off it as they move into the market. It was replaced by other workers, repeating itself every 54 minutes a day, 400 times a day, 24 hours a day, 365 times a year.**

# Ford: an empire built on workers' graves!



**acked for union agitation, the workers in the area strike was called against a strike by the workers in the area to prevent such a strike. The workers in the area to prevent such a strike.**

**In 1941, after a strike in which the Ford workers violently hurricled the company to force the first closed shop agreement in the world, Ford said that those who remained employed were the jobs of the unemployed.**

**Al Ford Broadmeadows in 1937, after three weeks on strike, AMSWU (metal workers union), official Lauric Carmichael tried to sell a narrowly settled, but unworkable, deal.**

**A look at the Ford company during the 1970s shows that it still prepared to use the same array of tactics to attack and control its employees as when Henry Ford first hired his empire.**

**Its May, 1937 in Dearborn, Michigan. Ford's company goes gang up on a United Auto Workers organizer at Ford's River Rouge plant.**

**FORD WORKERS** brought down a bomb in 1973 — and this brick wall was a symbol of their fight.

**declared it accepted and deflected the workers back to work.**

**Commission, recommending the workers' representative to be John J. Conboy, a leading member of the Communist Party, was lucky to escape with only a torn coat from the angry meeting which attacked the platform.**

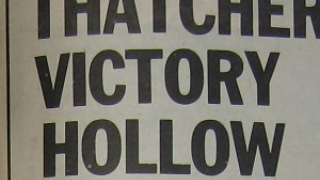
**At Ford Broadmeadows in 1937, after three weeks on strike, AMSWU (metal workers union), official Lauric Carmichael tried to sell a narrowly settled, but unworkable, deal.**

**Its May, 1937 in Dearborn, Michigan. Ford's company goes gang up on a United Auto Workers organizer at Ford's River Rouge plant.**

**At this stage, no-one really knows in the area, but despite all that, it was responsible for the attack that killed Sadat. One of the main aims of the regime had been to play down any internal strife — no perhaps we'll never know. But it was remarkable the number of groups queering up to this responsibility for the dead.**

**Foreign investment did occur to commercial institutions, but there were no members of Egyptian banks, so members of the Egyptian bank were not so secure. When Sadat's economic policy was announced, but there were no members of Egyptian banks, so members of the Egyptian bank were not so secure.**

## Irish Socialist Eamonn McCann examines the hunger strike's end



**THATCHER has won. Whatever you add up, the fact that the hunger strikers called off their fight without winning the five demands amounts to a victory for the Tories.**

**It is however a victory for which they may eventually pay dear. This has not been argued in any detail by the five demands amounts to a victory for the Tories.**

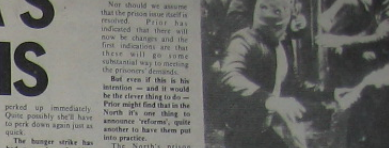
**Sadat's death: not many are crying.**

**In the DAVS following his assassination, it seemed as though Anwar Sadat had replaced Mother Theresa as the world media's favourite person.**

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## What went wrong?



**HUNGER strike supporters are now disowning what went wrong. Might a few have been better worked here?**

**Sadat's death: not many are crying.**

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**SADAT hobnobbing with Carter. They Camp David accord allowed Israel to bombard southern Lebanon at its first place.**

# 1956

**ON 23 OCTOBER 25 years ago, members of the Hungarian Security Police, AVH, opened fire on a noisy, militant but still peaceful crowd numbering in the tens of thousands.**

This burst of fire killed several demonstrators and wounded many others. But it did more than this — it sparked off a violent social upheaval in the course of which the Hungarian state machine virtually collapsed. It sparked off a worker's revolution.

During the strengthening which the workers of Hungary began to control a new government in their own hands. In their spontaneous, in their sense of responsibility, in their efficient organisation of food supplies and civil order, in the restraint they exercised on the wild elements among the youth, in the wisdom with which so many of them handled the problem of Soviet troops, these councils were remarkably uniform. They were at once organisations of insurance and organs

of popular self-government which the armed people tried

"Of course, as in every real revolution from before, there was too much 'taking', arguing, bickering, coming and going, froth, excitement, fanaticism. That is one side of the picture. The other side is the emergence to leading positions of ordinary men, the revolution thrust them forward, aroused their courage and latent genius for organisation — set them to work to build democracy out of the ruins of bureaucracy."

But Hungary had been a 'communist' country since 1948. What has to rebel about workers have to rebel about a 'workers' state'? Did this mean that socialism really doesn't work?

The le-gions of the boss' press in the West

conflict completely shattered. The alliance with Hitler had led to massive suffering, huge loss of life due to conscription and material factor terror, and ultimately, military defeat. The objective conditions for a socialist revolution were there.

But the subjective conditions — the conscious elements, the element of organization — were not there. What the workers and peasants needed was a revolutionary socialist party to provide the lead. What they got was the Red Army, with a Hungarian CP following behind.

The Hungarian CP had been underground in the 1920s, and during the period of Admiral Horthy's reactionist rule, its leadership had either been imprisoned or had fled to Moscow. Many of them, including Bela Kun, the party's founder, were not to survive Stalin's purges of the 1930s.

The rest of the membership suffered terribly under the fascist terror. It might have been expected, then, that the Communists would take a lead in the revolutionary upsurge. Not so.

In the words of a later commentator: "instead of nationalising property on a broad scale, an act that would not have met with serious opposition in 1945, the Communists were instrumental in restoring all but the largest factories and mines to their previous owners."

The CP entered into a coalition with the non-fascist bourgeois and peasant parties. Rightist factions in the bourgeois outlet, it was made obvious that the dominant influence on Hungarian political life was to be the needs of the Russian economy.

Russia embarked on a program of wholesale liquidation under the name of 'reparations'. They appropriated approximately 95% of the country's metal stocks and equipment and transported them holubely back to Russia.

The representatives of the bourgeois parties complained bitterly but could do nothing to halt this program of armed asset-stripping. Threats of yet more extensive reparations served to shut them up.

The year up to 1948 were also used to lay the foundations for an industrialization program similar to that which took place in Russia in the 1920's. It was a massive drive to industrialize, mechanise an equipment-intensive bureaucracy, built from the old reactionary administration.

Until 1948, the bureaucracy's major economic role was to ensure that the steadily growing trade between Russia and Hungary was as favourable as possible to Russia. In practice, this meant that Russia bought Hungarian goods at much less than the prevailing world market price, (sometimes less than production cost), and resold them on the world market at a considerable profit.

## THIS MONTH 25 years ago saw a workers revolution in Hungary. Today, as Polish workers shake Stalinism, CHRIS PARKSLOW re-examines Hungary's example.

As a forerunner as a factory, ironically named after the deposed prime minister said, "We cannot be forbidden to ask questions. We have the right" the working class was finding its voice. Soon it was to find its strength. Students and other sections of the middle class organised a mass rally and demonstration around their demands. These included removal of Russian troops and installation of Nagy as premier. This was the demonstration that the security police fired on.

As soon as pushed themselves to shove, the working class took the lead. They went the sector of society with the most to gain from smashing the state, and were the only ones capable of providing a socialist alternative. The students and middle classes, when not nakedly seeking a bigger slice of the cake for themselves, were really only interested in reforms within the existing Stalinist framework.

When they were driven off the streets by Russian troops, they retreated with their lives.

Nagy's supporters began to organise, as did the intelligentsia, journalists, artists, academics etc and young army officers. Some were always been one of Stalin's most faithful puppets, and Krushchev's revelations dealt him and his supporters a savage blow.

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**DEVASTATION IN Budapest after the Russian tanks moved in. Twenty thousand or more people died in the crushing of the revolution. But massive strikes gripped Hungary for two months after the revolutionaries were driven off the streets.**

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**FREEDOM FIGHTERS advance from cover to inspect a stationary tank.**

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**SECRET POLICE, shot in the Budapest Party headquarters, its unceremoniously in the street outside.**



**A REVOLUTIONARY students committee.**

Both analyses imply that large numbers of armed workers were fighting for the re-establishment of private capitalism.

What then was the case? Were the Hungarian workers fighting and dying to break the chains placed on them merely to restore the old ones? What a hideous and absurd fate the Hungarian revolution would have been if this were true. But of course it wasn't.

The statements and demands of the workers' councils made it clear that the central dynamic of the revolution was the struggle for workers' power. Hungary at the end of World War Two was in a potentially revolutionary situation. The ruling class made up of fascists, industrialists and the remnants of the old Imperial monarchy emerged from the

ARMS were distributed amongst the workers.

was formalized by throwing out the bourgeois parties and extensive nationalizations. Between 1949 and 1953, gross industrial output increased by 210% — a staggering achievement. The workers and peasants paid for it daily. Living standards, which had actually risen above pre-war levels by the end of 1948, dropped dramatically. Consumer goods became scarce and expensive, and the forced collectivisation of the land led to serious food shortages.

At one stage the daily food rations amounted to 850 calories, barely enough to sustain life. Working hours grew longer and the pace was constantly increased. Real wages fell between 10 and 20% over the same period.

The Hungarian working class was being squeezed and their anger, and their accumulation of the means of production, led factories, power stations etc, could take place. The ruling state had no other problems. When Tito, the Yugoslian premier, broke

## Workers crawl the month

In February 1956, the new Russian suprema Nikita Krushchev, exploded a bombshell. In a 'secret speech' the details of which were soon known worldwide, he listed some of the hideous crimes committed by Stalin. Rakosi had the drop on the workers and peasants. He had turned them into a mass of miserable, unthinking, obedient puppets, and Krushchev's revelations dealt him and his supporters a savage blow.

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SECRET POLICE, shot in the Budapest Party headquarters, its unceremoniously in the street outside.

# Women are on the run

By Ceri Jones

IT'S GETTING past the garden gate that's the difficult bit. Once you've done that you're made.

Colin Burke is one of that new breed of women - the marathon runner. Every evening after work she goes for a run and a half hour, covering distances of up to 15 miles in a time.

At 25 she also comes to a marathon (26 miles, 185 yards) in two days and 40 minutes. And her times are getting better. Every time she cracks a new time she celebrates. Her Norwegian runner teammate the "New York" marathon bank in 1979 took a little over two hours 32.40 minutes it was obvious that women had cracked the long distance running scene.

And how. At Marathon Hill and even larger distances women are catching up on men and blowing them away in the lead.

Whereas men's athletic records have advanced in the hands of young women's record books over the years.

As her times, predicted an article in *Norwegian* last year women will be seen catching up on men, some may not only overtake but will be overtaking.

At the same time, women will also be overtaking men in the area of long distance running. In 1979, for example, women were still in the hands of young women's record books over the years.

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There are undoubtedly important biological differences between men and women. Men are stronger, they have larger hearts, which enables them to pump more oxygen more efficiently around the body. On the other hand, women have more fat than men, which means that they are better at storing energy, and that they are more efficient.

But whatever the biological differences, it is clear that women are becoming more and more competitive with men in many sports. This is a sign that women are becoming more and more independent, and that they are taking more control of their own lives.

Well, apart from the fact that women are officially NOT allowed to run at distances over 3000 metres, because there is a difference in the attitudes towards men and women, there are a number of reasons why women are becoming more and more competitive with men in many sports.

Firstly, there are more women in the workforce, and more women are going to university. This means that women are becoming more and more educated, and more and more independent.

Secondly, there are more women in the sports world. This is because women are becoming more and more interested in sports, and more and more competitive with men in many sports.

Thirdly, there are more women in the media. This is because women are becoming more and more visible in the media, and more and more influential.

Finally, there are more women in the workplace. This is because women are becoming more and more active in the workplace, and more and more competitive with men in many sports.

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# RAIDERS of the HEAVENS

'HEAVENS GATE' and 'Raiders of the Lost Ark' are both big budget films. 'Raiders cost 20 million and 'Heavens Gate' almost twice that.

Both are the latest films from whizz-kid directors - from the Hollywood Brats.



HARRISON FORD and Karen Allen in one of the tamer of the endevous wild encounters in 'Raiders of the Lost Ark'. This time they're supposed to be fighting off Arab henchmen.

**democracy**

**Now everybody's democratic — In public**

PRACTICALLY everybody nowadays is in favour of democracy — at least in public. Fraser and Haydon, Peacock and Hawke, Reagan and yes Brezhnev too all claim to stand for it.

The present set up in Poland is called official Polish itself as Democratic Kampuchea, and states openly based on racial or religious discrimination (for example South Africa, Israel, Pakistan) still exist in some way democratic.

Of course many if not most of these claims are hypocritical claptrap. The tributes if you like, of the American Democrats should not be much more than a last-minute gesture as they are in terms of the world. In Reagan's USA many these claims are hypocritical claptrap. The tributes if you like, of the American Democrats should not be much more than a last-minute gesture as they are in terms of the world.

Democracy means liberty, not freedom. Liberty is a freedom of thought, speech, and action. Democracy means liberty, not freedom. Liberty is a freedom of thought, speech, and action.

**By Ronnie Gray**

Gore is still a disaster movie, that it was about at the Cannes Film Festival. The symbol of film experts' bores. The opening credits had the name of the film, but the rest of the film was a disaster movie.

From being the bees knees in Hollywood, Michael Cimino has become one of the most successful directors in the world. His film has become one of the most successful in the world.



CROWDED like animals inside and atop a box car, immigrants from Eastern Europe arrive to settle in Wyoming's Johnson County in Michael Cimino's 'Heaven's Gate'.

**democratic**

democratic

democratic

democratic

democratic



WOMEN RUNNING the distance to which they were thought to be built — 100 miles. Now, through women breaking new ground, they're seeing the distance in the marathon.

**Bleeding Heart**

One of the best selling books around at the moment is *The Bleeding Heart*, by Marilyn French, whose previous best seller was *The Women's Room*. Both have been widely pushed by the media as feminist polemic.

The *Women's Room* romanticizes the life of a woman from domestic to "liberated" woman. *The Bleeding Heart* looks at the type of personal relationships which show a woman is likely to live the good side and the bad.

It is the story of the relationship between Dulcie, an academic and writer, and a businessman. Both are Americans living in England for a year. There is a train and shortly after begins a relationship which they both see as ending when they go back to America.

It is a story of a relationship, not a story of a woman's life. It is a story of a woman's life, not a story of a woman's life.

**Heaven's Gate**

**democratic**

democratic

democratic

democratic

**democratic**

democratic

democratic

democratic

**The only basis for an APTU fightback...**

# ACT UP! FILE ACTION

**AUSTRALIA POST bosses have wasted no time and because the left has the APTU getting stuck in the NSW branch of the Australia Post and Telecommunications Union (Australia Post and Telecommunications Union) after the right wing victory in the recent elections.**

The union was tottering before, but now right wing officials will put it on its back and let the bosses walk right over it. Of course that's not what the rank and file wanted to achieve by voting in the right.

They voted for them because they promised to get the union on its feet and because the left had to have it. But the right wing victory will only signal the bosses to step up their attacks. The craft is, although they may be worse under the right, than neither the right nor the left officials are capable of turning around union into a healthy one.

That's a job that only rank and file members have the capacity to do. To turn this into reality we need to organise at the ground level and create links between different shifts and workplaces.

Now that we know that's not what the rank and file wanted to achieve by voting in the right. They voted for them because they promised to get the union on its feet and because the left had to have it. But the right wing victory will only signal the bosses to step up their attacks. The craft is, although they may be worse under the right, than neither the right nor the left officials are capable of turning around union into a healthy one.

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MELBOURNE POSTAL workers march against the razor gang cuts last June. Mass action is needed to defend our wages and conditions as well as our jobs.

# Slater's divide and rule

**BY STEVE DRAKELBY, Union Rep. Redfern.**

IT'S NOT MEETING, APTU General Secretary, has come a long way since playing a leading role in driving the NCC (National Civic Council), out of the union in the early sixties. He now acts as a brake on any struggle to better our conditions. He's never seen at mass meetings in NSW or Victoria — he'd get lynched. With the 1980 annual conference coming up, plans to turn the APTU into a tactical union have been drawn up. Slater is moving to end APTU coverage of clerical members. He's also moving to strip the NSW and Victoria getting together and launching a new campaign. Or we would win.

NSW has been the most militant APTU branch since that's why Slater wants to strip the NSW and Victoria getting together and launching a new campaign. Or we would win.

# Write to The Battler: P.O. Box 46 Flemington, Vic 3031

**Dear Battlers,**

**On the myths of Zionism**

**Sonia Bar, Yarrulla.**

**Grim faced politics?**

**Dear Battlers,**

I would like to present a strong point against your characterisation of the NSW branch of the APTU. As a result of the NSW branch, we have a number of full-time staff members who are doing a great job. I am sure that you are aware of this.

**Dear Battlers,**

I am sure that you are aware of this.

**On the right hand,** the poor conditions and lack of facilities in the homes can only be improved by the workers themselves. Only the workers themselves can create a healthy living environment. Money is all that counts, and it is not enough to have a house and a car. It is the quality of the living environment that counts.

**On the left hand,** however, it is the quality of the living environment that counts. It is not enough to have a house and a car. It is the quality of the living environment that counts.

**CONCOM** provided an excellent first page on how the capitalist system perpetuates the inequalities of the world.

**Dear Battlers,**

I am sure that you are aware of this.

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# THE BOMBERS ARE PACKING IT NOW!!

**Attention to workers health**

**AT LONG LAST Workers Health has been established in Brisbane. The union is responding to the health needs of its members.**

**Electricians employed by electrical contractors in Queensland have given the contractors association days of no work.**

**After a week of rolling stoppages by telephonists at a phone room operators, Telecom has decided to hold out.**

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# MEMBERS OF The Zionist Youth Movement, at Yad Vashem Memorial, hold torches as a service for victims of the Holocaust.

**set up, and live as a Jewish state. This was the objective of the Zionist movement. It was a racist, reactionary, and anti-Semitic movement.**

**Zionist-capitalist propaganda is a product of the capitalist system. It is designed to divide the workers of the world and to create a new ruling class.**

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# How to contact the International Socialists

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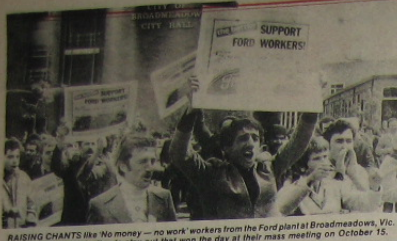
**PERTH BRANCH**  
P.O. Box 31, Perth, W.A. 6001 28 6133

# I WANT TO JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS!

Name   
Address   
Postcode   
Phone   
Trade Union

Copy and post to: I.S. National Secretary  
P.O. Box 46, Flemington, Vic. 3031





**RAISING CHANTS like 'No money'—no work workers from the Ford plant at Broadmeads, Vic. voted the determination to stay out that won the day at their mass meeting on October 15.**

## Ford workers say...

# NO MONEY

**WORKERS at Ford Broadmeads (Vic) voted overwhelmingly to stay out last week — and in the process showed all of us what rank and file control of a dispute really means.**

If the conduct of the Ford strike had been left up to the union officials, it would have ended weeks ago.

The fact that it has lasted so long is due to strong shop steward organisation, and the fact that the people running the dispute are the militants on the picket lines.

Right from the start, Ford workers have faced up to a series of threats from the bosses. They tried smashing the picket lines with police. But the pickets remained. They tried taking money off the workers through the courts. But the workers stayed out.

The next step was to send a letter to every worker, telling them that if they didn't give in, they would have their super-annuation annual leave and previous \$5 not taken away from them. (Actually superannuation at Ford is a bit of a joke. No-one says word long.)

**By David Lockwood**

When faced with an enemy like Ford, you expect to be attacked, but the next assault on the strikers' backs.

Between Ford's policemen letter, and the mass picket, the Vehicle Builders Union (VBU) Victorian organiser, Alan Ditzel, issued a blood-curdling press statement. There would be a rat at the mass picket, he told journalists. He expected a "rush of workers" to turn up for work, and they would be treated.

It could be a bloodbath and the blame lies squarely on the company, he concluded.

If the VBU Victorian officials had handed an organised invitation to the Federal officials and the ACTU to squirm out of supporting the strike, they couldn't have managed it better.

Quick as a flash, the ACTU and the VBU Federal executive told the

# The Battler

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

intimidate the tiny minority who are against the strike out of any provocative acts.

The real way to avoid divisions is to make sure that all workers, of all nationalities know what's going on. We haven't heard of any officers from the ACTU on this score.

We're sure that the VBU Federal executive thinks of disputes as "ill-timed" — not just the one at Ford. And if they think the strike lacks support, then it's their bloody job to go out and campaign for it.

But once again, the shop stewards and strikers refused to bawl. They decided to call a mass meeting, and recommended that the strike continue.

Militant workers picketed the following branch meeting of the VBU and moved a series of motions, forcing the state officials to support the strike.

At least three thousand workers turned up at the

mass meeting on October 15. In the meantime, a group of Ford workers had produced a leaflet explaining for the strike — and produced it in no less than five languages.

The vote to stay out was huge. Inevitably the media concentrated on those who wanted to return to work in their coverage of the event.

### ballot

Ford wasn't beaten yet though. The next day, they applied in the Arbitration Courts for a secret ballot. One of the shop stewards, Leanne Montenegro, told us why.

"The Ford representatives argued that there were less than a thousand at the meeting. Anyone who saw the TV coverage knows that's a lie."

"They said that there was violence and intimidation. They said they had witnesses to it — but

they couldn't bring them to court, because they were afraid of violence!"

The ACTU and VBU have been using police against the strikers. But Ford's shop officials have used a positive strategy to oppose the strike. They actually happened.

Once again, the shop stewards and strikers refused to bawl. They've already applied for a secret ballot. They will organise the ballot, and the shop stewards will be the ones who will be organising it. They couldn't organise a boycott.

But we have to remember that the shop officials hardly supported the strike until they were forced — by the pressure of the militant strikers — to do so. That pressure has kept up.

# NO WORK

back to work. The ACTU was "concerned about violence" and "divisions" amongst the workers.

The federal VBU thought the strike was "ill-timed" and lacked support from other workers.

Of course, these were the real concerns, there are several simple measures that these august bodies could take about them.

The real way to avoid violence on the pickets is for more pickets, bigger and better organised — to

**AUSTRALIAN troops will soon be packing their bags for Sinai.**

They will be joining the US sponsored "peace keeping" force to supervise, as part of the Camp David agreement, the staged withdrawal of Israeli troops from Egyptian territory.

But peace is far from the minds of the Reagans, the Frasers, the Begin and the Thatchers who are backing this force. The "peace force" is in reality an act of aggression against the Palestinian and Arab people.

The Camp David accords which this force is to implement were designed to ensure continued US domination of the Middle East and to legitimise the racist state of Israel. It is a conspiracy to block the struggle of the Palestinian people against the bankrupt and corrupt regime in Egypt, the Israelis have seized their southern flank so that they can

implement the Sinai. There is a clear parallel between Australian involvement in Sinai to our earlier role in Vietnam.

There too we were part of an international force of American allies, there too our initial involvement was only on a small scale; and there too the aim was to prop up a corrupt puppet of US imperialism against a just struggle for national liberation.

But as the war bogged down in Vietnam, more and more Australian and US troops were committed to the fighting. The same would happen in the Middle East because the Zionists, like the Vietnamese, are not about to give up the struggle for their land. They have fought for over 30 years against her oppression.

We must oppose Fraser's involvement in America's latest imperialist venture just as we did involvement in Vietnam.

Melbourne Waterside workers showed the way when they struck for 24 hours immediately after Fraser announced his intention last month to send troops.



# Fighting the war madness — p.2

## Ford .. an empire built on workers' graves — p.4

IS YOUR BOSS GETTING YOU DOWN?  
TIRED OF BEING KICKED AROUND?

**WANT TO FIGHT BACK?!**  
THEN CLIP OUT AND SEND IN ONE OF  
THE TWO COUPONS BELOW!!

SEND ME THE FAMOUS BILLBOARD!  
OR SEND ME "THE BATTLER"

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

I want a Battler Subscription. I enclose \$1.00 for 25 issues.  
Make payable to the Battler. PRISONERS FREE.

Clip and post to: P.O. Box 26, Penang, VIC 3201

## Why we oppose secret ballots

THE DECISION by Sir John Moore, President of the Arbitration Commission, to order a secret ballot for the Ford strikers sets a dangerous precedent for the whole trade union movement. It opens the way for increased government intervention in union affairs.

This was the first time that a secret ballot has been used in a major industrial dispute in Australia.

Ford and the bosses' press claim that the secret ballot is the only fair way to determine whether the workers want to continue the strike. They say about workers being intimidated, about migrants not understanding what they were voting for, about the mass meeting that voted to stay out being unrepresentative.

All this is a lot of crap. The mass meeting on Thursday 15 October was attended by the hearty majority of those thousands who voted to return to work.

There was cheering for minutes after it became clear that the vote to stay out had been won. There was enormous enthusiasm for the strike.

The migrant workers knew that they were doing. They were determined to stand up to the company. Leanne, Alan, Arabic — were handed out by militants during the mass meeting explaining the arguments to stay out.

In any case Ford and the bosses' press are not prepared to use police to break picket lines, to prevent sackings and loss of holidays, and so on. And it is not just the strike that worries them. It is the fact that the union officials and the ACTU have lost control. The strike is being run democratically

by the shop stewards. Ford and the union officials would like to smash that shop steward organisation.

If the government and the Arbitration Commission get away with holding the secret ballot at Ford they will feel more confident to intervene in the running of our unions. They will want the right to say what can go on strike, who will be our shop stewards, it is just the thin edge of the wedge.

But still you might ask — wouldn't a secret ballot be fair and democratic?

Socialist and militant trade unionists have always opposed secret ballots in union affairs because they are the exact opposite of what democracy should be taken of mass meetings where the arguments for and against any proposal can be heard, not by workers isolated in their own homes. At meetings of masses of workers, individual workers who may be wavering in support of a struggle will feel stronger.

All home by themselves workers are much more influenced by the conservative pressures emanating from the press and the TV. They have less feeling for the collective power of their class.

The secret ballot gives influence to those who are inside the office.

At a union meeting, voting is usually by a resolution that can be changed or added to. In the secret ballot we can say "Yes or No" to a question. The Ford ballot will probably ask, "Do you support the continuation of the strike for 24 hours?"

Could you say "Do you support the withdrawal of a \$100 wage" and the defence of union organisation of workers? We are opposed to secrecy in strike affairs because the decisions individual workers make are made in isolation. Militants must be prepared to stand up and argue for their positions and demands.

All day long we hear...

Militants always have to do that. We are always for giving the scabs a chance to hide their



DEMONSTRATIONS against the bomb, in Britain (above) and West Germany.



DEMONSTRATIONS against the bomb, in Britain (above) and West Germany.

# Fighting the Far masses

IT HAS been called a "turning point in West German, and even European politics". 250,000 people marched through Bonn last month, and their example was soon followed by gigantic demonstrations in London, Paris, Brussels, Rome and Helsinki.

These people were frightened and angry at the prospect of a massive arms race — the new escalation of the arms race — with themselves placed squarely in the gun sights. The central issue in the new generation of nuclear wars, the other world started war, the other world started war, the other world started war...

twisted The theory had a sort of twisted logic to it. But no counter is impossible as a matter of course. The new weapons are designed to take out the other side's warheads...

## AUSTRALIA'S ROLE

THE MOVEMENT against the nuclear threat in Europe has struck a responsive chord in Australia. A recent meeting in Melbourne, called by the New People for Nuclear Disarmament coalition, attracted over 1000 people.

And it looks like the mission to attract nuclear disarmament in Australia. Mining demonstrations in Melbourne on Friday, November 20 will be the biggest for years. The theme will be opposition to nuclear power and to nuclear weapons proliferation.

## IAC report on the car industry protects what?

THE PAST month has witnessed one of the severest squabbles in the ruling class: the level of protection in the Australian car industry. The industry's Assistance Committee has recommended scrapping the present import controls which limit car imports to 20 per cent of the Australian market...

## Oppose the racist chorus

"AUSTRALIA wants thirty thousand more Vietnamese migrants like a hole in the head." This spoke Bruce Ruxton, Victorian president of the RSL in the middle of September. Just what we've come to expect from the RSL, you might think.

## March against Uranium Mining! March against Nuclear Madness!

Really, a good day. Friday November 20. 2.30 Assembly. Melbourne.

## I.S. Summer Camp

IT'S ONLY NATURAL FOR PARTISANS TO WORRY ABOUT WHAT HAPPENS TO THEIR CHILDREN ANY DAY.

THE I.S. SUMMER CAMP, near HILTON'S Park outside Sydney over the New Year's Eve week-end (Friday 1-3 January) is a unique opportunity for young people to meet and discuss their views on the world...

## Compellion

Both sides in the dispute have tried to enlist working class support. The car companies by claiming that any reduction in production would result in the loss of jobs...

## Wage just a saving shot in the programme and had nothing to do with the level of production.

The background to all this is a massive increase in the car industry internationally, in response to falling demand in the developed world and a surge of competition from the Third World.

## SOCIALLY SECURE CAMPAIGN HOTS UP

THE FIGHT for more staff by ACOA members in the Department of Social Security has finally come to head. At the same time, bloody-mindedness and standstills by the Government has more made defence of our right to strike the central issue at stake.

## The adventures of the Royal Spem:

What's the Big Huxy? WHAT'S THE BIG HUXY? WHAT'S THE BIG HUXY? WHAT'S THE BIG HUXY? WHAT'S THE BIG HUXY?





The Battler features . . . The Battler features . . . The Battler features

# STUMPET CITY

"Strumpet city in the sunset, So old, so sick with memories."

I hope you haven't missed any episodes of "Strumpet City" current series on ABC Sunday night TV. It is an Irish television series based very closely on James Plunkett's novel of the same name.

It is set in Dublin and spans the years 1907-1914. The main characters are the city's working people and the action is centred around the struggles, struggles against ruthless bosses, struggles to maintain pride and ideals in spite of the crushing weight of the church, the landlord, the overworking, the cold and damp and the grinding poverty.

By

Pam Townshend

By the unemployed Barry Mullin a man of letters and a big bulb of a nose, the printer, is the prime mover in the agitation and the payment and the setting on for showing a broad front about his breaking. Barbara Turner had a bright accent, Mrs. O'Connell was a cheerer who lived in a

and her health breaks down. The story is about a man who works in the printing house and is the prime mover in the agitation and the payment and the setting on for showing a broad front about his breaking. Barbara Turner had a bright accent, Mrs. O'Connell was a cheerer who lived in a



ANGELA HARDING and Bryan Murray as Mary and Filtz from "Strumpet City"; and seven-part ABC serial about Dublin between 1907 and 1914.

# THE "ROSIE" THE "RIETER"

**DURING THE war,** Lynn Childs, an American black woman, was working as a burner in the San Francisco shipyard.

"A big white officer was swearing at and kicking an old Filipino man. I turned my torch up so high, it gave off a flame of two feet. When I turned it on him it scared him real bad."

By

Janey Stone

When she was called into the office. "All these people who had been standing there waiting were what the officer was doing and had never said anything, they all got in a huddle and started following me out the ship. "When the colored guy all of us, he had a fit trying to control the band. "I said, "If being a communist means protecting old men like that against abuse then I sure as hell want to be a communist. "I thought, and she said, "Hasn't she told you that you probably already worked before that one? "I thought, and she said, "Hasn't she told you that you probably already worked before that one? "I thought, and she said, "Hasn't she told you that you probably already worked before that one?"

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their own homes to their own children. "The women got a great sense of achievement from their work but the propaganda tried to make it as if it was really just a special kind of "woman's work". "If you've used an electric mixer in your kitchen, you can learn to read a price tag. "The film shows that the women took a normal pride for the duration. Nonetheless, there were thousands of unorganized strikers and wildcat actions against the bad working conditions. The film shows that these conditions, exemplified in a striking newspaper headline announcing mass death due to industrial accidents that the war.

There are probably already worked before that one? "I thought, and she said, "Hasn't she told you that you probably already worked before that one?"

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# CL: a Sunday night mus!

poverty all his life and questioned his god and religion and his ultimate powerlessness. He is shocked beyond belief when strikers reach his charity handed out the scabs. He preaches against strikes and against socialism — the doctrine of the unemployed.

Another central figure is Jim Larkin, the leader of the Irish fraction of the Transport and General Workers Union. He is a militant leader — a syndicalist who subsequently helped found the American Communist Party.

England, Eaton, the General Secretary, sold out to the employers and charged them with appropriating union funds (money he collected and gave to Dublin another well-known socialist, and the Larkin was gaoled but was released after a huge strike. Larkin was launched by his Irish followers. Then started a breakaway within the Irish Transport Workers Union (ITWU) championing the tactic of the sympathetic

Following Larkin gained a huge following in Ireland and led strikes not executed in the union executive in



A PAINTING of the Election of Members in Covent Garden, 1816 — where votes were brought hand

**RESOURCES UNDER REVIEW** by International Socialist League. **WHOSE** **BOOM?** **NEW ISSUE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST JOURNAL**

votes for all isn't the answer

IN THE eighteenth and forties there was a mass working class political movement in Britain called Chartism. In basic idea was simple. 'Classes divided from power have always been excluded from the benefits of reform by the Chartists led by Robert Owen. This was the situation of the British workers. Therefore they needed power. Therefore they needed power through abolishing property qualifications, one man, one vote. This would give the workers power, they thought. Because they are many, they are few. The other side thought to too at the time. They realized and it was to nearly a century before full universal suffrage was established in Britain in 1928. Long before that, though it was not necessary give power to the workers. Men, male lower workers had to be introduced. Yet the rock kept a firm grip on parliament. To do this, they knew they needed organization, an electoral machine, and they set out to build one. There had been a spectacular demonstration of this earlier in France. After the revolution of 1848 a military

have been spectacular. There have been a series of Labor governments, both locally and all the states. They have done all sorts of things, good and bad, but they have established a regime of workers' power although not the majority of the population. First, democracy is only possible if there are not great inequalities of wealth — for wealth is power as everybody knows. Second, democracy is only possible if the institutions of decision-making are based on organizations of workers — 'the people'. Representative democracy is not democracy at all — even if endorsed by mass votes. For if the decision making is handed over to a few then, by definition, the majority are not ruling. Representation, in fact, is possible only in the most limited, restricted sense. We shall return to this plebiscite, a referendum or a ballot, on the basis of one man, one vote. The result overwhelmingly denied the dictatorship. The left was crushed (a tolerably fair vote). The point was that it doesn't matter whether people can vote or not. It clearly does matter in several ways. Democracy is not at all guaranteed by the vote. Of course the pioneers of the A.P. saw this. The Labor Party was founded quite specifically — to put working men into parliament. To do this, they knew they needed organization, an electoral machine, and they set out to build one. From one point of view the results

class history. The left, socialist and proletarian activities of people with nothing to lose in the reactionary influence of the church. The competitive nature of the class struggle come to life in this tragic age. Despite the way it may sound, it is not a desperate plea for any optimism and hope. It is a through struggle view out of the mire of this, the seemingly hopeless 1980's. This series (and I also particularly recommend the book) personalities that will help and heroic period of working class history. In 1914, the local Dublin ITWU by staying a direct out lookout of transport workers, Jim Connolly, another well-known socialist, and the Larkin were gaoled but were released after a huge strike. Larkin was launched by his Irish followers. Then started a breakaway within the Irish Transport Workers Union (ITWU) championing the tactic of the sympathetic

## Postal workers vote solidly for ...

# WAGE ACTION!

**POSTAL WORKERS are fed up!** We've had enough of being fobbed off by Australia Post, by arbitration and by the officials of the APTU (Australia Postal and Telecommunications Union). We want a wage increase and we want it now!

That was the message that came through loud and clear from the mass meetings in Sydney and Melbourne last week. Despite the arbitration process, motions moved for the floor for an indefinite national stoppage from November 16, if the arbitration doesn't make a reasonable offer, were carried.

In addition the meeting voted in favour of national rolling stoppages, lightning strikes and work bans. In Sydney only one thing marred the meeting apart from the weather and the officials both of which were cold and wet - the news that several North Shore post offices were scabbing on the strike.



VPSA RANK & FILE NEWS - The February 1980 edition discusses the "catch up" claim that we're still arguing about today.

## Qld. P.S. stand over tactics

**IF YOU ARE** in the Queensland State Services Union, don't try to oppose the union executive! This is the message Liz Seale and other members were trying to get across at last Saturday's meeting in Brisbane.

Liz, the State action secretary and a council delegate for the Centre, last August started Resistant Care Assistants (who work with handicapped kids) took industrial action over their appalling training facilities. As a result, Liz had been the centre of a multi-million dollar union executive.

The students, having put up with poor working conditions, impossible chairs and misleading information in the room, while the executive went to and fro bringing them the vague promise from the Health Department.

### ultimatum

Having written state last December (while they argued a further ultimatum on the Department), this was too much for the executive, who withdrew from the room. Why? Because, says Liz, "this union executive is taking industrial action at its own risk." The students' actions were improved conditions. However, the executive has not been disciplined or even seen in the dispute itself. Immediately Liz challenged the executive's actions and they were rejected. Why? Because, says Liz, "this union executive is taking industrial action at its own risk." The students' actions were improved conditions. However, the executive has not been disciplined or even seen in the dispute itself. Immediately Liz challenged the executive's actions and they were rejected.

## A TERRIER supporter speaks for the indefinite strike motion voted in by the majority of New South Wales and Victorian postal workers. It's the bang!

(particular) Federal, then the dispute or otherwise will finish up being sold out as we were in June when they called off our action just when it was starting to take effect. I'll throw a gauntlet at the membership. We need a rank and file, and the executive, to organise the action, to arrange for collections from workers and pickets, if we need them, to see that we're not getting scabbed.

With Krim coming up, our strongest time is in a good position to increase real income out of Australia Post. It's only all our action that will do that, and NSW and Victorian members have said they're going to do it.

It's one strike Fraser won't be able to do with a postal ballot.

The Terrier group in Melbourne is continuing to organise around the wage claim. For meeting times ring Michael on 329 8775.

By Steve Drakley Sydney and Alec Kahn Melbourne APTU

## VPSA strike gives clout to the claim

**"THE MACHINERY is quite rusty. But we're getting it going again," commented an industrial officer of the VPSA (Victorian Public Service Association) when asked how the preparations for our strike were going.**

For the first time it looks like Victorian public servants are going on strike.

In response to a 16,200 claim, the Public Service Board gave us 2-3%.

A mass meeting called to protest this "inadequate" offer was held at the Trades Hall on October 26. We got out for 24 hours.

The Board was overwhelmed by the anger of public servants. Their anger was not only in getting increases everywhere else. Their attitude is that a group is some other job. They want to see a group of public servants in the VPSA Reform Group. They want to see a group of public servants in the VPSA Reform Group. They want to see a group of public servants in the VPSA Reform Group.

Executive committees are important to the strikers. Every group has to know what other groups are doing. We have to counter the "Oh, why should we strike?" As well as having lots of good ideas. About what the strikers should do to answer them.

It's not the Executive's job to do anything. It's the strikers' job to do anything. It's the strikers' job to do anything. It's the strikers' job to do anything.

## Write to The Battler: P.O. Box 46 Flemington, Vic 3031

### Dear Battlers,

## Poland needs a workers' party

Dear Battlers,

I'd like to make some points regarding the article published in *The Battler* issue of 11/12.

I don't think we should all be making the same phrase "what we need is a revolutionary party" and the working class in Poland is not a revolutionary organisation. The working class in Poland is not a revolutionary organisation. The working class in Poland is not a revolutionary organisation.

SECRET BALLOTS for union elections or strikes are intended to undermine militancy

only a calculated act of harassment against people who are organising themselves into a union. Secret ballots are intended to undermine militancy.

**H Block**

Dear Battlers,

On behalf of the Victorian H-Block Armagh Co-ordinating Committee I wish to express our appreciation of your excellent coverage of recent activities, particularly the H-Block demonstrations against Thatcher and the English queue.

**How to contact the International Socialists**

**Battler Editorial**  
24 Hunter Avenue, Vic 3031 376 3307  
24 Hunter Avenue, Vic 3031 376 3307

**MELBOURNE**  
GPO Box 14794, Melbourne, 3001 61 2056

**SIDNEY**  
111 St. Hill, Emmore, 2044 51 3665

**ADDELIDE**  
PO Box 413, Cowandilla, SA, 5033 49 7839

**CANBERRA**  
PO Box 233, Wodonga, Canberra City, ACT, 2601

**BRISBANE**  
PO Box 328, Woolloongabba, 381 5966

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**Battler Fighting Fund**

**What's On**

**Internationalism**

**Full Equality and Liberation**

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**Dear Battlers**

**Dear Battlers**

**Dear Battlers**

# The metal trades award ...

After two months of negotiations, metal workers still have little idea what's being cooked up for their next award.

Instead, they have had to rely on repeated and frequently contradictory news to the press to find out what's happening.

And when shop stewards met last week, they were kept just at arm's length.

Instead of finding out the details of the negotiations, they were treated to a highly "dramatized response" from the union.

In September, many of the workers employed under the Federal Metal Trades Award, voted for a \$100 increase in existing rates, and a \$300 increase in existing rates for each shop.

Since then, there have been repeated stories about negotiations around \$200 minimum and a rise of \$200.

While industrial unions and personnel managers seem to know

what's going on, metal workers don't. It's a disgraceful state of affairs. Perhaps the most striking sign of this is that the union has not even taken the time to inform its members of the details of the negotiations.

The officials are keen to tell the "No-Claims" deal. At the Brisbane Shop Stewards Meeting, the Federal Official present said quite explicitly that the money will go to sub-contractors.

In his "draft response" the employers said that sections of the metal trade, best of local officials.

By contrast, Brisbane and Sydney merely "bused" the response. All three meetings in the week of 16 November and Sydney on November 12 and 24 of the employers' offer was not satisfactory.

Brisbane demonstrated that sections of the metal trade, best of local officials.

# ANI Sargeants workers stake their claim!

WORKERS at ANI Sargeants have taken the bull by the horns over their claim for a 10% over award payment and full cost of living increases.

Mass meetings at Sargeants have already played an overtime ban, new labour laws and have given the indignation the press to call rolling strikes to back up their demands.

Sargeants has been hiding the best of the resources from (manufacturing) and according to their annual report are in an excellent position for increased growth for a number of years to come.

Sargeants originally gave a 6% increase in the '80 and this offered a wage increase which would be absorbed in any increase stemming from the government's inflation.

Meanwhile the union officials have been in no hurry to help at all. After originally supporting absorption of a wage rise plus cost of living increases, they fell back to

THE QUESTION OF THE HOUR IS...

WILL THIS MAN LAUNCH US ALL INTO WORLD WAR 3? IF HE DOES YOU'LL REALLY NEED A SUBSCRIPTION TO 'THE BATTLER' !!

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

I want a Battler subscription: 1 includes 67 for 20 issues, or \$20 for a supporting sub. (not payable to the Battler)

Club and post to PO Box 46, Flemington, Vic. 3031.

# the battler

hardly means we stay where we were; it does not mean any improvements at all over the 1975 position.

When you realize that inflation next year will be a minimum of 10%, that means that we need another \$30 if the boss' report comes out.

If the boss are right and we only get \$20 to \$30 then we are even worse off.

No wonder the employers are so keen on this "No-Claims" proposal. If they use the opportunity for them to cut real wages while they are making millions. About 700 million that they'll have an agreement (for the officials) to police the "No-Claims" period.

These bigger companies can also cut their wages. The union's already committed to 35-hour week deals, they will soon be faced with industrial action to get it.

It seems to us that these companies, the people who run the MTA, have decided to cut their losses. If they are inevitably going to have to give the 38 and 44-hour weeks, why not have an industry agreement that forces all employers to grant it?

in other words, if your shop wants to put in a clause, you'll have to fight the officials as well as the boss.

The officials are arguing that this agreement will bring the weaker shops up to par with the larger and stronger shops covered by the award.

Remembering that the wage indexation rises was in March, we need to hope to keep up to cover an \$70 wage cost \$30 to cover losses to par with the larger and stronger shops covered by the award.

Some things happening where you work. Write for The Battler.

PO Box 46, Flemington, Vic. 3031. Tel. 03-376 3333

# Dental nurses give scabs the drill



DENTAL NURSES demonstrate outside Melbourne's Royal Dental Hospital after a mass protest. They're determined to win a closed shop and better conditions.

The main problem is its sheer unpopularity. The average waiting time for an appointment is 12 months with a minimum of 6 weeks per visit.

Life certainly wasn't meant to be easy for dental nurses either, many of whom take home less than \$160 a week, have compulsory night rotations and now the middle of exams.

This is largely why the campaign has been so off again. The dental nurses were out for over 14 weeks. By this time the Hospital Board had rejected the wages Board's offer for about a week and the members went back for another week.

November found that the Board had rejected the closed shop proposal again.

They walked out for a 24-hour protest, then went back into a meeting on the 17th between the nurses and the board after which the wages board was more concrete. But it looks like concrete was only a meeting if the Board doesn't come up with a better offer.

Technicians at the Hospital are supporting the nurses' stand by refusing to accept new contracts. They're out. The technicians are also on strike and you can help in that way too.

Donations to the strike fund can be sent to Miscellaneous Workers' Union, 130 Lyell St., Melbourne.

# the battler

over it. On one side the federal metal trades employers in a talk to a metal worker asking what's in it for them.

The shop by shop struggle for decent wages and shorter hours means that many of the workers place run by the bigger and more profitable companies are already committed to shorter hours and are already paying standard wages.

These bigger companies can also cut their wages. The union's already committed to 35-hour week deals, they will soon be faced with industrial action to get it.

It seems to us that these companies, the people who run the MTA, have decided to cut their losses. If they are inevitably going to have to give the 38 and 44-hour weeks, why not have an industry agreement that forces all employers to grant it?

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THE WORLD economy is moving deeper into recession. This is most vividly reflected in the US where under the impact of "Reaganomics" unemployment in October jumped from 7.5% to 8.0% and where a further increase of 9% is expected.

The British and some other western European economies have been in deep trouble for some time, but a generalised world slump has been prevented by the relative health of the US, German and Japanese economies.

In Detroit, the centre of the automobile industry, Depression style soup kitchens have reappeared in recent weeks.

Initially many capitalists expected that the downturn would be short-lived, but now they expect to continue well into next year.

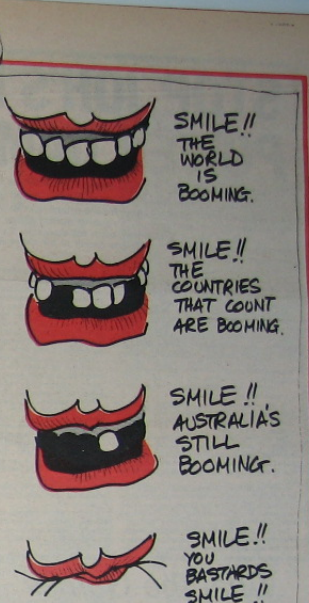
The present US slump has had a heavy impact because many businesses had not recovered from the previous short sharp recession of mid-1980. This means that bankruptcies are likely to be higher than anything previously seen in the post-war period.

The only 'bright spot' for world capitalism is the continuing vitality of the Japanese economy. But the Japanese expansion is based on an export boom which threatens to cripple its major rivals.

Already the EEC (European Economic Community), led by the formerly prosperous West, is putting pressure on the Japanese to curtail their exports.

The Australian economy has so far held up remarkably well in the face of the world downturn. The question is how long can the "resources boom" continue before we become engulfed in the international recession?

Given the dependence of the boom resources — coal, uranium, aluminium etc. on export markets, it is inevitable that demand for them will slide as the shock waves of the US slump spread throughout the



SMILE!! THE COUNTRIES THAT COUNT ARE BOOMING.

SMILE!! AUSTRALIA'S STILL BOOMING.

SMILE!! YOU BASTARDS SMILE!!

continued Page 3

The paper that fights for workers' power

BHP'S KWINANA (WA) blast furnace which is to be closed down. 700 workers stand to lose their jobs.





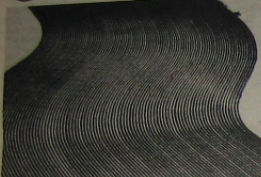




# The Battler features . . . The Battler features . . . The Battler features . . .

# COUNTRY OF THE FUTURE

# OF SCIENCE FICTION



OVER the past twenty five years, the ABC has probably put more people to sleep than bottles of yellow Roche pills.

It's probably the only organization on the planet that could be guaranteed to bring you the world's finest taxidermy championships. (Could you just imagine Norman May describing each subtle move of the wri?)

The only consolation would be that the winner's stuffed wombat wouldn't be brought to you by Coca-Cola—at least not for the time being anyway. (But whatever you win would probably look like James Dibble).

It must be as part of this unique service to the world that the ABC produces Countrywide, monomaniac, that is thoughtfully serene straight after work which they so thoughtfully serve straight after work on Friday nights. (Of course that's what I thought until a few weeks ago).

It was then, stretched comfortably horizontal on the couch, that I managed to open one mopey eye and pay a small amount of attention to the story of Cambalin.

Cambalin is on the Fizzoz River in northern Western Australia. Until recently, it had a population of about a dozen and resembled almost total desolation. Now, it's the site of a massive irrigation project the likes of which have rarely been seen before in this country.

A Texan consortium has poured twenty million dollars into construction and machinery. A million dollars alone on mobile sprinkler systems the size of Jumbo jets.

Last year, Cambalin hit full production. Its sorghum crop was sown and the accountants in Houston were getting ready to go to the bank. But the fairly tale went wrong. And instead of the prince marrying the princess, they were left with a gulf gulph.

Well, what went wrong? The reporters dutifully searched.

And the reply was simple. Everything. First, there were the delays in getting the machinery which was only available in the USA. This also decided to bring most of their fertilizers from the States.

Then the ship caught fire off the coast of Canada. America. Then it was plundered by a band of Nicaraguan bandits. Then the monsoon season in Cambalin early and the crops were pretty well wiped out.

The only ones who got any benefit out of the whole enterprise were the range cattle who got to be well fed.

Consequently, a number of the project's backers are threatening to pull out, but of course, project manager tactically declared that he would do the thing through until the very end.

Now the only reason I bothered to read off the top and write down the name of the place I've been talking about, is that the whole thing struck me as being a certain amount of vicious.

To be sure, the only things popping open the eyes of the people who cooked up this scheme were billion dollar signs. And I certainly hope that the Nicaraguans found some useful purpose for the cash they pinched.

But the idea of turning overboarded barrow into a giant granary, I think, quite interesting. Knowing that we have the capacity to be world leading millions is surely a powerful weapon for a socialist.

Of course, knowing these things and acknowledging them are two totally different things—and the ABC, a conservative, too banal and too intent on words about the misfortunes of Houston businessmen to even think that such matters would be of real importance.

But one thing is for certain—a system which has of such creatures will not have to wait for its rainstorms and revolutionaries will threaten its survival.

By Mike Corbett



# The Battler features . . . The Battler features . . . The Battler features . . .



MARGARET RENN reviews the film of John Fowles' best seller, *The French Lieutenant's Woman*



The pictures show Meryll Streep as Sarah Woodruff and Jeremy Irons as Charles Smithson

# A tale of two morals



The book is full of historical detail which brings the characters alive. It is set in the spring of 1867, the same month in which John Storer Mill made his great plea for universal manhood suffrage in debate on the Reform Bill. Against that background Emma, a naive and weaker, Sarah's restless spirit has a content—it is a real longing for an independence which women had only begun to sniff at but which made their closed lives an intolerable burden.

NO EXPENSE has been spared in making *The French Lieutenant's Women* and everything suggests it will be one of the most popular films of the year.

A better orchestrated political campaign has only been seen in the historical setting for the film has been researched down to the minutest detail. The Duke town of Lyme Regis even had rubber tables laid across its main street to face the real thing. Panchrat Harold Porter was involved with the task of writing the screenplay.

Who all the effort and the money. And to what effect? Well, it is a very good film, beautiful to watch, well acted, and very in detail.

repressed

It is a story of Victorian morality and repression, with all the trappings of the era plain to see. Sarah Woodruff, who plays her, and Meryll Streep, who also plays her, are in contrast in the middle of the film.

resources under review

The point of this historical detail is not that it just makes interesting reading—it is the reconstructed time. Renn and Thoms, both make meaningful connections in their film—it is an integral part of the book.

He is the upright Victorian gentleman, with income and position and liberal ideas. He is a believer in Darwin's radical theory that man is descended from the ape; that it probably which was such unorthodox in a society which believed in God and where Christian values, however, by practical, married Charles.

political

The personal relationships in the film are so much so much more bound up with the political life of the time. Renn and Thoms, both make meaningful connections in their film—it is an integral part of the book.

The reason for this odd telling of two stories makes sense at the end of the film—because then we can see the two possible outcomes of a such a situation. There is a romantic one as we are thought to expect of the Victorian tale, and the more complicated one which is the original book.

FURROWING for the future . . . conserving the soil of the Colorado dustbowl.

## Is a democratic state possible?

THIS executive power with its enormous bureaucratic and military organization, with its vast and ingenious state machinery, with a host of officials numbering half a million, besides an army of another half million, this appalling parasitic body.

That is Marx writing about the state, specifically the French state in the middle of the last century. Since then the appalling apparatus whenever any state, this and claim that the state represents the nation. Most economically developed countries have expanded far beyond the scope of the state.

And there are more states, more appalling parasitic bodies than there have ever been. Every new country, however small, however small, has its host of officials and its standing army. Naturally, they serve selfish class interests and equally naturally they

'Executive power' and he is obviously right. Any organization numbering millions and consuming a sizable fraction of the total output exercises power. In Austria, by elected bodies, states also claim and more or less successfully enforce a monopoly of the legal use of armed violence.

Now how power is distinct from the people, power is exercised by the people even if it is exercised (as in Austria) by elected bodies, and even if these bodies have some real influence.

The point is vitally important for because socialism is commonly thought of as meaning an extension of the state power (national state) to the control of the economy and so on.

Moreover, the so-called 'socialist states' (or workers' states, as some socialist persons commonly describe them) are bureaucratic monsters compared to which Marx's state would appear feeble seems almost insignificant.

For as socialism is inherently and necessarily a matter of depicting people, the actual producers of wealth, collectively and democratically determining their society, without that there is no socialism. That was also Marx's view.

It is so alien to what most people have been taught to think that it is necessary to go back to Marx and emphasize some of his elementary ideas. The state, any state, is an instrument of class rule. That

## I.S. Summer Camp



IT'S ONLY NATURAL FOR PARENTS TO WORRY ABOUT WHAT HAPPENS TO THEIR CHILDREN WHILE AT CAMP. BUT WHY AT I.S.?

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**BOOM?**

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# FOR THE PEOPLE

By Tony Sullivan

EVERYBODY OUT! was the chant as strikers from Koro, Melbourne, hammered on the factory doors. The strikers, members of the Textile Workers Union, were out for a decent pay rise.

And despite violent attacks from cops and the bossmen thugs, and being let down by union officials, their determination

growing. Last month the Koro workers decided to push for a \$25 rise. This was offered a pathetic \$15.30. So they asked the union office to send someone out to negotiate. The union promised to be furious on 10am that Friday.

The workers were kind when one showed up. But they didn't wait for help. That they couldn't. They walked out that morning. By lunchtime only a few

scabs were left in the place. On Monday morning about 300 workers - overwhelmingly women - rallied outside the factory. They banged on the doors, screamed for the scabs to come out and tried to stop delivery trucks.

Attempts by supervisors to rough up some of the women outraged the strikers and made them more angry and militant than ever. The company's scabs had been bled. The women were left the scabs out. After this, the police brought in a major force, a representative from the union office - apparently to stop things down. But he refused to make any commitments to the strikers, on the grounds that he had to take decisions back to the Secretary.

She been working here 8 years. When one man said, "I'm the first time I've seen the union." The strikers realised victory was impossible while workers in the company's second factory down the road continued to work. So they marched down the road.

Cops tried to prevent some of the most militant women from leading the others in. One of them, Betty, described the situation. "They put in gas masks, TiPiro you wear", she said. I just rasped."

THE KORO WORKERS surround the factory demanding that scabs get out... and they get out.

## Arbitration courts mail delays

By Michael Thomson APTU Melbourne.

DISRUPTION to the christmas mail now seems certain. As a decision on the APTU (Postal workers) postal wage claim continues to be delayed, anger on the floor is reaching boiling point. The Federal Secretary, George Slater, finished the case in arbitration last Tuesday, but there is no indication when we'll get a decision. Slater has been at Australia Post and Arbitration who have tried every trick in the book to cause delay.

Thurs. Mail officers walked out and only after a poorly advertised, and hence unknown, meeting. If it goes well that meeting will be the last. APTU members had their attitude clear early in the arbitration. As a result of a successful vote in favour of a 5% wage increase, the union has been in the news. The NSW secretary said he's got trouble keeping his members in the line. In Victoria, the story is the same. Just won't let go. APTU members had their attitude clear early in the arbitration. As a result of a successful vote in favour of a 5% wage increase, the union has been in the news. The NSW secretary said he's got trouble keeping his members in the line. In Victoria, the story is the same. Just won't let go.

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## Metalltrades offer is just not on

THE METAL TRADES employers are still dragging out our negotiations. We may finally get an offer from them at the end of this year.

In the meantime the union officials appear to have made major unannounced concessions in secret negotiations with the bosses.

1. Money to cover the inflation since our last industrial action.

2. Money to make up for what has been eroded by a 30 hour week and a 40 hour week.

3. Money to cover inflation for the coming 12 months. (That's how it is in most industries.)

4. A cut in the hours of the bosses. (The union officials are prepared to reduce our claim to substantially below the original \$55.00. We were asking for and to drop the demand for quarterly cost of living adjustments.)

5. A 30 hour week.

6. A 40 hour week.

7. A 30 hour week.

## Some won't wait

WOMEN at Koro, Deakin, Brisbane, aren't waiting around while talks drag on about the metal trades award. They're going themselves \$10 to tide them over until the new award comes down.

They've initiated their campaign by putting on a strike for 30 hours. They've also initiated their campaign by putting on a strike for 30 hours.

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## Write to The Battler: P.O. Box 46 Flemington, Vic 3031

### Dear Battlers,

FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE BALLOT

### What For

Workers control over the workplace means that workers control the workplace. This is the only way to create a democratic society. It is the only way to create a society where the people have the power. It is the only way to create a society where the people have the power. It is the only way to create a society where the people have the power.

### Revolution, not Reform

It is not the government that we should be attacking. It is the capitalist system. It is the system that creates the inequality in our society. It is the system that creates the inequality in our society. It is the system that creates the inequality in our society.

### Dear Battlers,

FOR WORKERS BEHOLD A DECENT WAY TO MAKE THIS NATIONALLY PAYE THAT IS JUSTLY WE ARE STRIKE

### What's On

Brisbane Sun. 6 Dec. In the Public... Sydney Thurs. 10 Dec. In the Public... Melbourne Sun. 23 Dec. In the Public...

### Down with the Junta

Demonstration against the Junta and the British and American governments. It is the only way to create a society where the people have the power. It is the only way to create a society where the people have the power. It is the only way to create a society where the people have the power.

### Full Equality and Liberation

FOR WORKERS BEHOLD A DECENT WAY TO MAKE THIS NATIONALLY PAYE THAT IS JUSTLY WE ARE STRIKE

### Revolutionary Party

To smash the capitalist state, we need a revolutionary party. It is the only way to create a society where the people have the power. It is the only way to create a society where the people have the power. It is the only way to create a society where the people have the power.

### H.E.F. members take a stand

YOU'LL BE surprised to learn that there is no community movement on the wages front. It is the only way to create a society where the people have the power. It is the only way to create a society where the people have the power. It is the only way to create a society where the people have the power.

### What's On

Brisbane Sun. 6 Dec. In the Public... Sydney Thurs. 10 Dec. In the Public... Melbourne Sun. 23 Dec. In the Public...

### Rank and File Organisation

Workers need their own organisation to fight the capitalist state. It is the only way to create a society where the people have the power. It is the only way to create a society where the people have the power. It is the only way to create a society where the people have the power.

### How to contact the International Socialists

BATTLER EDITORIAL P.O. Box 46, Flemington, Vic 3031. TEL 303 3207. ADELAIDE P.O. Box 115, Hindley St, Adelaide, SA 5033. 49 7439.

### WRAN COMMITTEE MAN

UNDER THE new Government, Ministers have been swamped with a proliferation of consultative committees. Suggestively representing community interests, they make recommendations to the Ministers on a range of issues.

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# THE BATTLE IS NOT OVER YET

ON FRIDAY 27 November the streets of downtown Sydney rang with shouts of "What do we want? More money! What do we want? Now! Who do we hate? Scabs!!" as a flying picket of more than three hundred hotel workers marched to picket the major city hotels scabbing on their dispute.

Limited strike action began on 6 November when an official motion to accept the publishers' offer of \$15 now, and two further lots of \$5 next year, was lost. An overwhelming majority of workers voted to pursue the original claim for \$25 now and \$15 in March.

Even this limited strike had an amazing effect on union organisation in the hotels.

At a lunchtime picnic of a hundred workers at the Hilton, workers told the battle lost union organisation had been almost non-existent two weeks before. Now these same workers were loudly and aggressively picketing the entrance to the Hilton.

But problems with working weekends and striking on work days started to arise. Members at the 27 November meeting pointed out that by working at the weekends they were just writing things up for the scabs for the rest of the week.

Patricia Hamilton, formerly employed at the Ship Inn, pointed out how the bosses were trying to intimidate people with threats of sack - the one job for refusing to go back on the bosses terms. Her response was to want just fighting, and to chuck sack up of the union.

The decision of the stop-work meeting of 27 November was to step-up action to an indefinite stoppage. As Gae Connors from the Sydney Hilton put it: "The Hilton is losing \$1500 a day. Our low wages help them make their profits, and we should say

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MILITANT pickets have been vital in the struggle.

Wayne Jansson from the Collingwood Hotel at Liverpool had an interesting story about their actions in keeping beer out of the hotel - workers at the Collingwood organised continuous picketing until 3 a.m. to make sure no beer was stocked in.

They had an added incentive to do this, their boss had told them they'd be blacklisted because of the dispute and would never get another job in any hotel in Australia!

The flying pickets are just the start of continued action by hotel workers to win this dispute. A delegate meeting has organised more picketing for sub hotels throughout the Sydney metropolitan area.

For the hotel owners, the issue has become not just wages, but showing who's the boss. Obviously if they can afford to give their paying guests a 25% work discount for sub service, they can afford the higher wages.

But they know that a breakthrough on wages would build up the union membership's confidence and strength to take up other issues like poor working conditions.

**MILBOURNE HOTEL** workers met on November

One of his most interesting arguments was that since hotel owners had already started paying the AKA offer before the meeting, so if the offer was rejected, some workers would actually get less in their next pay packets.

Coming off the Sydney workers' picketing against acceptance said: "We should reject the offer and support the workers in NSW. The Hoteliers have been saying we need to have a wage because they're worried about rises in their day rates."

"But at the same time they put the price of beer they got a cent a glass. It's not good enough to say 'Well, pop that down'."

"However, the officials had had word and the meeting would accept the offer."

## Qld. building workers show power to win a wage push

THE CONSTRUCTION employer's wages and hours offer just didn't come up to scratch. So Builders Labourers are adding injuries to insult by going out for three days.

The bosses offered \$26.38 hr; wanted to exclude some sites from a proposal for a 38 hr week; in three stages, placed some shorter hours altogether; and demanded that, in spite of long standing practice, workers were to remain on site during inclement weather.

And, to really take the cake Queensland bosses were only prepared to offer a 39 hour week because that even when totally wrong, bosses will argue that they are right.

Because of BFL's ban on overtime in Victoria the industrial commissioners and employers groups have childishly refused to even talk to us about a new award. As the situation now stands, we must consider ourselves at least war with these groups and that means living up to our reputation as one of the most militant unions in Australia.

The meeting totally rejected the stupid offer on all 17 points, and we ended up with a room of very angry construction workers. If you consider the fact that the men voted to lose 1 day's pay just 4 weeks before Xmas, you will have some idea of the feeling at the meeting.

"We have the power, if

with subcontractors over underpayment or non-payment of their men, have gone to bat over harassment, abuse, threats and dismissal by employers and have come through all of this without a scratch.

"I am firmly convinced that even when totally wrong, bosses will argue that they are right."

John Warner, a delegate from the BFL which has joined the other building unions in this fight, given the construction workers' field of the story.

"As a site delegate, I have argued with the site manager about whether it was or wasn't raining. I have taken a building site apart over appalling safety conditions, have taught

18. The Liquor Trades union officials recommended acceptance of the bosses' offer, which had been rejected in Sydney.

One of the two speakers from Sydney at the meeting, Margaret Dolan said: "We have rejected this offer because we are the lowest paid in the industry. We think ours is a more realistic and just claim. 120 hotels in Sydney are already paying our claim."

"You stand in crucial - because the president of the AKA promised to look at the claim in a different light if other states supported us."

Maklun Clark (Airport Hilton) added: "Approximately 4000 workers in Sydney are already receiving the rise. You only have to look at the spread of the Hilton to see that the hotel business is in trouble. I don't see why workers should live in poverty conditions while it does."

we stand on our feet. This power has been demonstrated at a meeting in Melbourne. The BFL has the strength and the discipline to go by passing the BFL trades union on the phone and winning our own demands."

"Huffed" because of the right hand, the BFL requested that the BFL should be consulted before any action was taken against the BFL.

"But, a job which includes no back pay, no stop some to a building job comes to a building stop 28 other BFL labourers stop. I am absolutely certain that the power is in the hands."

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