

UNITE TO DEFEAT MENZIES FASCIST LEGISLATION

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The so-called Communist Party Dissolution Bill introduced in the Federal Parliament by the Menzies Government is the most far-reaching attack on the Australian working class movement in Australian history. The Australian ruling class—the monopoly capitalists of Collins House, Melbourne—and their mouthpiece, the Menzies Government, are frantically stepping up their drive to bind our country and our people to the war chariot of Wall Street and Washington; they are carrying out the orders of American imperialism to drag Australia into the war against the Malayan people and to conscript Australian youth for this purpose.

The ruling class and their Federal Government aim to make the working people of Australia not only give their blood and their lives in these criminal war plans, but also carry the whole financial burden of war preparations. To this end the monopolists aim at a vicious onslaught against the wages and living standards of the workers and the people generally.

To make the carrying out of this reactionary programme easier they want to disarm the working class, deprive the workers of even the most elementary democratic liberty and so prevent the Labour movement from offering any organised resistance to the attack of the employing class and the Menzies Government.

That is the real purpose of the fascist bill of the Menzies Government.

In giving support to this fascist legislation the Right wing leaders of the A.L.P. and the majority of Labour Party politicians in the Federal caucuses are perpetrating one of the worst betrayals of the Australian workers in the history of our labour movement.

It is no accident that the majority of Federal Labour Party politicians act in this treacherous way. They are ardent defenders of the capitalist system in Australia; this is borne out by the fact that for some time after the war the Labour Party had a majority in both Houses of the Federal Parliament and controlled the government in five of the six Australian States, yet capitalism was not

interfered with in any way; on the contrary the position of the capitalists and their profits was strengthened during this time.

Moreover it was Labour governments which initiated anti-working class laws, froze union funds and gaoled trade union leaders and thereby showed the way to Menzies for his vicious onslaught against the working class.

The amendments to Menzies' Bill proposed by the Labour Party do not alter the basic anti-working class essence of the legislation.

For example, Clause 7 of the Bill provides that any person who in any way takes part "in any activity of an unlawful association or carries on, in the direct or indirect interest of an unlawful association, any activity in which the unlawful association was engaged, or could have engaged, at the time when it became an unlawful association" is guilty of an offence.

This clause means that any worker saying or doing anything about wages, prices, housing, peace, democratic liberty or a dozen and one other matters on which the Communist Party is active, could be sentenced to five years' gaol.

Any worker in any trade union whom the government does not like could be "declared," thrown out of his union, his job and imprisoned for five years.

None of these vicious fascist measures against the working class, and there are many others in the Bill, is in any way touched by the Labour Party amendments.

The answer of the working class to this fascist legislation must be the uniting of their forces more strongly than ever to defend their rights—defeat the legislation and defeat the Menzies Government.

This fight will be waged before the legislation is made law, and if in spite of all efforts the Bill becomes law the fight will go on with ever increasing vigour. Menzies and his colleagues will meet the same fate as their mentors—Hitler, Mussolini and Tojo. Nothing can prevent the victory of the working people.

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