# MIRET ACTION

A FORTNIGHTLY SOCIALIST NEWSPAPER NO 29 OCT 27 1972 10 CENTS

# Labor Fowers

Fight for Socialist Policies!

By Miles Stuart

A national conference of antiwar organisations and activists held in Melbourne on 14-15 October issued a call for a series of Australia wide demonstrations to be organised in solidarity with those planned for the United States and Europe on November 18.

The conference, convened under the auspices of the Australian Union of Students, was attended by over seventy persons from all states except Western Australia. It was the largest and broadest such meeting held for some time, and showed all the signs of providing a reasonable basis for a regeneration of the antiwar movement in response to Nixon's continued escalation of the aggression in Indochina.

After considerable debate the conference adopted the following set of demands around which to organise the November

1. Immediate withdrawal of all U.S. troops and equipment from Indochina, and the immediate cessation of all military operations by the U.S. against the people of Indochina.

2. Immediate cessation of Australian assistance to the Thieu and Lon Nol dict-

3. Immediate end to conscription, 4. An end to the U.S. - Australian alliance and particularly to the continuation of U.S. military bases on Australian

5. The Australian government's recognition of the Democratic Republic of



Effects of defoliation methods of US in Vietnam

6. That we publicise and popularise the seven-point peace plan of the PRG.

The original motion included in Point Five a further demand that the movement recognise the seven-point peace plan of the PRG as the only valid way of settling the Indochina conflict". However, object- treaty because the Bolsheviks had signed it. ions were raised that this demand, because the seven-point peace plan called for the Likewise, the Vietnamese have every implied that the U.S. had a right to be in or will not make to end the destruction Indochina. It was therefore held to be of their country. But there is no reason

It is probably worthwhile to go into the issues involved in this debate in some detail here, because the question of the PRG peace plan is continually raised at discussions of strategy for the antiwar movement.

The seven-point peace programme is the negotiating position of the Vietnamese liberation forces in the Paris peace talks a position the Vietnamese believe offers

CONFERENCE SETS ANTI air armada since World War Two, Our demand must be that the U.S. has no right to be in Vietnam in the first place, and it has to get out now.

After arguments had been raised at the conference on the question of the sevenpoint programme, the mover withdrew the clause calling for its support in favour of a more acceptable proposal, Point Six: no-one could have any objection to the PRG's programme gaining at least equal

If you want to find out details of the actions planned in your state or help build them you can contact your state antiwar coalition through the following: Melbourne - CICD, 208 Little Lonsdale St.; Sydney - ring 520870 (Lindy) or 5606346 (Col); Adelaide - ring 234539 (Graeme); Hobart - ring 252563 (Alban).

## ALL U.S. FORCES OUT OF INDOCHINA NOW! END AUSTRALIAN COMPLICITY! REPEAL THE NATIONAL SERVICE ACT!

enough concessions to possibly convince the U.S. to withdraw its forces.

In return for U.S. agreement to "set a terminal date" for the withdrawal of all U.S. forces, the seven-point peace programme offers arrangements for a ceasefire, reciprocal release of prisoners, and a prohibition of "reprisals and discrimination" drift when they called for the antiwar against collaborators with "one or the other movement to adopt as its central strategy party". It also provides for a new administration to replace the Thieu regime in Saigon, one "favouring peace, independence, neutrality, and democracy".

The PRG, the seven-point programme says, will then enter into talks with this new Saigon regime to form "a broad threesegment government of national concord" that will organise "genuinely free, democratic, and fair general elections." The seven-point programme also projects a South Vietnam which, "in keeping with ... the 1954 Geneva agreements, "will "refrain from joining any military alliance with foreign countries,"

It is not a service to the Vietnamese liberation forces to base the political position iduals, was organised to protest the of the antiwar movement on the Vietnam- continuing repression in Ceylon, At ese negotiating position in Paris. Such positions - and even the fact that the Viet- strikes, has abrogated civil rights and namese engage in negotiations at all are based on the fact that Vietnam is under concentration camps without trial. attack from the U.S.

If the Vietnamese are forced to make con- an ex-member of Mrs. Bandaranaike's cessions, or even offer them, the antiwar movement must not welcome this fact. It must point out that such concessions are being forced by the armed intervention of the mightiest military power in the world.

a parallel presents itself from the history of the Russian revolution: in 1918 the new Bolshevik regime, under the leadership of Lenin and Trotsky, concluded the Brest-Litovsk treaty with Germany, ceding a large part of Russia to German occupation. In fact it can be implemented anywhere. Vietnam and the Provisional Revolutionary While the Bolsheviks thought that this agreement was forced upon them by the exhaust- Anybody, whether young or old, male or ion of Russia after four years of war, they fully expected that German socialists and antiwar fighters would oppose Germany's imposition of the unjust accord. Those who did not do so Lenin characterised as "scoundrels". It was no excuse, Lenin said, for German socialists to support the

United States to set a date for withdrawals, right to decide what concessions they will contradictory to Point One of the demands, for the international antiwar movement to the demand for immediate withdrawal of consider making concessions. We are not

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publicity to the lies and deception of the

The conference was also marked by the considerable presence of Australia's new super-patriots, the Worker-Student Alliance. These pathetic Maoists gave further evidence of their rapid rightward the opposition to the United States' domination of Australia. They argued that it November.

On Wednesday October 18 actions in

solidarity with a mass hunger strike in

Ceylon were held in three cities. The

hunger strike, sponsored in Ceylon by

anisation, five trade union bodies and

numerous other organisations and indiv-

present the Bandaranaike regime bans

is holding 11,060 people in gaols and

In a leaflet signed by Prins Gunasekera,

government, and five leaders of the

workers' movement in Ceylon, the

sponsors of the strike declared:" The

hunger strike is a form of protest that

can be implemented on a nation-wide

homes, in schools, in the fields, in

plantations, in factories, in shops and

female, employed or unemployed, at

work or on strike, healthy or sick, free

or unfree, can join on that day in this

conscious act of protest against injustice

in this country, and in personal dedicat-

ion to the defence of human liberty and

the democratic rights of our people."

In Melbourne, Sydney, and Adelaide

to express solidarity with the hunger

Centre was also picketed and in Melb-

strikers. In Sydney the Ceylon Tea

public meetings were held at the head-

quarters of the Socialist Workers League

to publicise the repression in Ceylon and

offices, in ports and in various other

basis - in towns and villages - in private

types of establishments, such as hospitals

the Human and Democratic Rights Org-

BY STEVE PAINTER

Nixon administration.

**CEYLON SOLIDARITY ACTIONS** ourne a small rally was held in the City Square. A petition of protest to the Bandaranaike regime was circulated and names are still being collected. Letters of protest to the Bandaranaike regime may be forwarded via DIRECT ACTION P.O. Box 160, Glebe, NSW 2037.

was the Number One Enemy and

campaign around this demand would un

"broad" layers of Australian society

capitalists and workers alike - in a

struggle against the common "foreign"

enemy. They were, however, unconvi-

ing when they attempted to explain just what Australian workers and Australian

capitalists had in common, and why II

imperialism was somehow a greater en

of the Australian working class than wa

the Australian capitalist class. After

lengthy debate, the conference soundly

chauvinist strategies of the Maoists in

George Crawford, President of the Vict.

and General Secretary of the Victorian

Plumbers Union, reported on his recent

trip to the DRV, as did Harry van Moore

of the Radical Action Movement in Vic-

toria. They stressed that the Vietnamese

were preparing for at least another for

whatever that the United States was pre-

paring for a withdrawal. In fact it is

quite obvious that the U.S. is gradually

re-escalating the war in the south, as

well as stepping up its murderous bombles

of the north. The Vietnamese wged upon

the Australian visitors and their respective

organisations to prepare for more and more

of the massive mobilisations that were so

Despite differences on the strategic level.

those present at the conference were all

aware of the absolute necessity to mount

large campaigns in support of the Viet-

and even years. With no end or no major

change in the war in sight, there can be

no alternative but for all supporters of

the Vietnamese to double their efforts to

launch a new antiwar offensive on 18

namese people over the next months.

successful in the past.

years of war, as they had no illusions

orian branch of the Australian Labor Party

rejected the petty-bourgeois national.

favour of the above demands.

BY JOHN KROWICKY

A small solidarity demonstration was held in the City Square at 5,00 p.m, lt was a fair success with a considerable number of passers-by stopping to ask about the exact nature of the demonstration. A couple of speakers addressed the crowds as they moved past,

This type of demonstration in solidarity with various oppressed peoples whose plight has been concealed by the bougeois press is an important tactic for all left groups who believe in, and fight for, the victory of socialism. It demosstrates an awareness: of a world perspecive in which socialism cannot be achleved in isolation from the tremendous and courts of law, and even in the prisons. upheavals that are occurring in the imperialist dominated Third World.

> The situation in Ceylon is becoming critical as the present regime stamps out all resistance, and the people of Australia must rally in full support of the oppressed.

After the rally a forum on Ceylon was held. Dave Riley of SYA presented a detailed history of Ceylon giving an analysis of the roots of the present crisis and the prospects. The speech was well received by all those present. Towards the end of the meeting it was decided unanimously that steps should be taken to develop the Ceylon Defense Committee.

## SPECIAL DRIVE FOR 500 NEW SUBS

Our special drive for 500 new subs by the new year is on schedule, Good returns from Melbourne and Sydney nade a good start possible.

Our special offer of 15 issues for \$1.00 available to all new subscribers if the DIRECT ACTION office receives the sub form (or letter) by the end of the year. (See form in middle pages.)

Our progress so far is as follows: AREA QUOTA NEW SUBS SHOULD B Melbourne 150 38 Adelaide 40 Brisbane 40 Canberra 15 Hobart General TOTAL

By Ian Norman

The entire construction work-force of about 1200 workers was sacked by Queensland Alumina Ltd., following a mass meeting and strike. The men are involved in a \$125 million expansion project at the Gladstone alumina plant 356 miles north of Brisbane. The company closed down construction at the site after the strike on October 18 in support of a log of claims which was served last month on the company and the main contractor. Kaiser Engineers & Contractors.

The workers are demanding a new agreement to cover the five remaining months of work on the project. Their present agreement with the company expires at the end of this month. The demands include a 45 per cent wage rise, a 35-hour week and an extra week's annual leave.

At another mass meeting on October 19. the 1200 workers decided to demonstrate their anger at the lockout by marching down the main street of Gladstone and registering as unemployed at the town's Labour Exchange.

The construction site has been the scene of considerable industrial turmoil over the past two years. According to a statement by the company there have been "900 unauthorised stoppages" over that period. Sounding a warning to the workers, the Finance Editor of the Brisbane "Courier Mail" said on October 19:

The consortium attitude appears to be that work could resume within a month if reasonable industrial peace is assured ... ' Furthermore, it has been reported that the company is in no great hurry to complete the project which will increase yearly output at the plant from 1.5 million tons to over 2 million tons of alumina, because the world market is already oversupplied.

However the workers already face an insecure future with construction work due to cease in five months time. In the meantime they face high rents and prices and continual inflation. Many of them are forced to live in poor accomodation (caravans etc.) and the town has inadequate hospital and school facilities. On top of this they work on a site that has about 30 sub-contractors, all of whom have their own ideas on industrial relations.

If the workers and their families are forced to leave Gladstone in search of work, it will have a profound affect on the ference of the Victorian Young Labor life of the town. The local mayor estimated that the workers and their families make up 3500 of the town's population of 15,500 and the Gladstone Chamber of Commerce is worried that the men's pay will no longer find its way into businessmen's hands.

"WHITE ANTS" AT WORK

Of course the initiative for the strike came from the men on site and it was reported that the log of claims "was served What is sure is that the election period without the knowledge or approval of union leaders in Brisbane" ("Courier Mail", October 19). The strike action was decided on at a mass meeting of the 1200 workers, but there have been attempts to place the blame for the strike on "a small group of militant unionists working on the site" by the Premier (Bjelke-Peterson).

This sort of thing we have learned to expect from Bjelke-Peterson and his cohorts, but when it also comes from union leaderships it must be strongly condemned, and only serves to demonst-The Brisbane "Telegraph" reported on October 19 that union leaders considered one of the reasons for the unrest at the

'A high level of Trotskyite-inspired revolutionaries on the job who have tended to cause disruption for its own sake.'

some impact on the workers, the men obviously consider their demands to be valid and would reject out of hand any suggestion that their actions are the result of "saboteurs" or "conspirators". Rather, the blame for the situation at the site can only be placed squarely on the shoulders of the company which takes enormous profits from the alumina plant but allows its workers to live in shocking conditions. The union leaders must come out strongly against the lockout and not to try to shift any of the blame for it to the workers themselves.

Lamenting the actions of "disruptive

once again appealed to the working class leaderships to toe the line. In an article headed "White Ants on Job" he was reported as follows:

'Surely it's time that responsible trade unionists, Trades Hall officials and Parliamentary members of the Australian Labor Party spoke out" ("Courier Mail" October 19). We agree; but instead of crawling to the employers with apologies or speaking out against the workers, it's time these leaders spoke out in support of the actions of the workers and began to publicise and organise support for their

If the employers respond to the workers

demands by mass dismissals then the union leaderships should respond by organising solidarity actions in other plants and at other sites - after all there are 14 unions involved in the dispute and they cover a pretty wide spectrum of industry, Since the completed sections of the alumina plant are still operating, the union leaders should appeal to plant workers to strike in solidarity with the dismissed construction workers and thus strike a blow at the profits of the employers. If the union and Labor Party leaderships are incapable of carrying out these basic acts of defence then they should be replaced by rank and filers who will act in the interests of

Gladstone workers march to (un)employment exchange

By Jamie Doughney

A maximum of about 200 young supporters of the ALP gathered at Melbourne's Trades Hall on October 7-8 for the October Con-Association. They came from all over the state with the objective of debating policy and charting the course of the YLA for the intervening three month period until its next conference. Coming as it did during an election period, the conference to some degree, reflected an increased sense of "politics" and gave rise to some pointed argument about socialism and the policies of the present ALP leadership.

provides excellent opportunities for the YLA to extend its influence among young people attracted to the ALP as the working class alternative to the Liberals. With the current radicalisation of youth being a prominent feature of present day political reality, the YLAs are in a position to absorb the lessons of wider social struggles and their relationship to the ALP and readily draw radical conclusions.

This has certainly been the situation. Although still under strong conservative control, the YLA under the impact of this radicalising process has found itself in a position generally to the left albeit moderately - of the established ALP leadership.

Socialists in the YLA in recognising this, can utilise the opportunity provided by the elections to reach out to the new

forces in the YLA attracted to a socialist programme. A programme of active participation in the ongoing struggles of the youth radicalisation, and which points the way toward a socialist transformation of society - a programme aimed at the mass mobilisation of working people for the overthrow of the capitalist order.

Reflecting a growing political awareness

and the influence of radical ideas within the YLA, motions were passed pledging active support for the November 18 antiwar actions, the Women's Abortion Action key political differences at questions. Coalition and its demands, and the Education Action Group and its campaign for student rights. It is interesting to note that on the abortion issue the YLA went all the way in supporting the demand "Abortion on Demand - a Woman's Right to Choose" by an almost unanimous vote. All that remains now is for the YLA to enact its conference resolutions and become really active in these campaigns, as the YLA. And further, to take advantage of the election period to place the demands of these movements (and others) upon the ALP itself.

Surprisingly enough, everybody in the YLA calls themselves socialist - an extraordinary proposition considering the policies of the right wing leadership. It could be asked, if everyone was socialist why do the right find it necessary The way forward for the YLA is to become to drag in their forces from the branches for one particular period - the election of office bearers? It is quite clear though that the word isn't always equal to the deed. To have any justification in claiming to be a socialist one must have the backing of a truly socialist programme ent in the youth radicalisation in this and a conception of how to implement it. country.

One important aspect of the conference proceedings that deserves mention is when a motion to suspend standing orders to discuss the state of the YLA was passed, debate polarised clearly about the differences between the right wing leadership and supporters of the Socialist Left, In this debate the Socialist Left supporters were able to demonstrate the superiority of their ideas and elaborate further on the principles and methods of socialism. The right not atypically reacted with apolitical arguments, avoiding for the major part

With this in mind the socialists in the YLA presented their programme for the present period, vigorously calling for: - Labor to Power in this contest fighting

for socialist policies. - Active support and participation in the mass anti-capitalist movements. - Active support for workers demands - An aggressive recruiting campaign

for the YLA.

It was on such a programme that socialists were able to make gains at the conference. Both in terms of election to official YLA positions and importantly by introducing many people to the ideas of socialism.

active in all of the ongoing anti-capitalist struggles as they are thrust forward in this period of youth radicalisation - and above all adopt a revolutionary socialist programme. The YLA can, and should, become an important force and compon-

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## S.A. to Repeal Anti-Gay Laws

BY JAMIE DOUGHNEY In the intervening period between the publishing of the last issue of DIRECT ACTION and this one the South Australian Government has made moves to legalise homosexuality. In the last issue of DIRECT ACTION, in referring to the ALP



attitude to homosexuals I said that the Dunstan government had hedged over this question, preferring to avoid a decision. Indeed, Dunstan himself at an ALP State Conference stated that decision on the issue would best be put off. This situation has changed now to the introduction of of a Bill, almost certainly to be endorsed by the SA parliament,

The bill introduced initially in the Upper House, provides for legalisation of homosexual acts between consenting adults over twenty-one (!) in private. This step, although vastly inadequate even within its narrow terms of reference, provides an example for a Federal ALP Government and other State ALP governments. What now must be done in South Australia is extend that legislation to prevent any legal discrimination against gays. Further it should provide resources to the gay movement in its efforts to break loose from the oppression inherent in capitalist societies.

Repeal of anti-homosexual legislation represents an important victory for all gays and further extensions should be fought for vigorously - even though legalisation may be introduced for the abhorent reason that homosexuality is regarded by some as a "sickness" and not to be treated as a crime. Repeal of anti-homosexual legislation will not end this form of oppression but can make thelives of gays much easier and give the inspiration to take further action aimed at ending their oppression.

## Labor's Health Program Falls Short of Needs of Workers

BY GORDON ADLER

findustrial development or to the productivity of workers. Responsibility for the cost of sickness and the burden of the associated loss of wages falls heavily on the shoulders of the individual. This individual responsibility for social welfare is extolled as a virtue by defenders of the capitalist system, and the payment of a

fee by the patient to the doctor is considered indispensable to good medical Social services in the advanced capitalist practice. In reality, however, few workcountries bear little relation to the level ers can meet the sudden and large drain on their wages imposed by the economic effects of major illness, and health insurance has become a political issue in the last two federal elections.

> Social organisation of health services varies considerably in the different capitalist countries depending on the

extent to which workers have won concessions from the capitalist class through organised struggle. But even in those countries where some social services exist these are being constantly eroded by governments serving the interests of capitalism. One of the great contradictions of modern capitalist society is the enormous disparity between the rapid growth in the technological achievements of medicine, and the availability of the fruits of these achievements to the masses of workers. In the United States, where the productivity of workers is the highest in the world, social services are almost non-existent The proposals of the ALP represent and advance on the present and and workers and even relatively prosperous members of the professional and middle classes live in constant dread of the disastrous financial effects of illness.

In Australia after the second world war the Chifley Labor government attempted to introduce very modest changes in health services. The Australian section of the British Medical Association conducted a massive propaganda campaign against the proposed health scheme, and achieved considerable success in generating widespread fear of socialised medicine. Nationalisation of the medical profession and bureaucratic government control of health services would deprive people of their freedom to choose their own doctor, the standards of medicine would degenerate, and enormous inefficiency and waste of public money would result. Since those days the Australian Medical Association has been an implacable enemy of socialised medicine, and has consistently fought against every challenge to private practice in this country.

Recently however, medical costs have increased so much that health insurance has become essential, and a crop of private insurance companies has entered the

field of health, underwriting doctors Gross anomalies and large overhead gave the Labor Party the opportunity 1969 to propose a comprehensive health scheme designed to centralis administration and reduce inefficiency without interfering with the basic str of private practice. The Gorton ge ment replied with a gesture in the of increased rebates on doctors fe did nothing to interfere with priva trol of health funds or the basic can the grave deficiencies in the health

advance on the present system, but the scheme would still be financed on the basis of a poll tax in which the greaten burden would still fall on the lowest poly

What is needed is a completely free comprehensive health service finances entirely from income tax, the abolition of private practice altogether, the into duction of a salaried medical service, great expansion of the number of home beds, ambulance services, home number convalescent hospitals, the nationalis of drug companies and elimination of profiteering in drugs, and the replace of existing boards of management of he pitals by workers' committees having he control over major decisions concerhospital policy. Distinctions between private and public hospitals should be abolished, and teaching of medical students should be spread over all hose al patients and not limited to pension and public hospital patients as at present None of these aims will be achieved with out overcoming stiff opposition from powerful vested interests within the medical profession, but they are necessary measures if workers are to enjoy the full benefits that medical service have made

## Qld. Power Strike

A one day strike by 600 workers at four Queensland power stations occurred on October 16 as a result of the breakdown in wage increase negotiations. Four unions were involved: the Amalgamated Metal Workers Union, the Electrical Trades Union, the Federated Engine Drivers' and Firemen's Association and the Federated Ironworkers' Association.

The unions lodged a letter of demand on September 15 and negotiations on the claim began and ended on October 13. The pay rise demanded was \$18.84 per week for tradesmen and \$14, 10 per week for labourers. This would give tradesmen a base rate of \$100 per week. The claim is but another episode in the continuing

fight by workers against the erosion, by inflation, of the buying power of their pay-packets.

Separate meetings of the workers at the Swanbank, Callide, Tennyson, and Northgate power stations voted to return to work as recommended by Industrial Commissioner G. W. Pont. However workers at Callide, about 60 miles west of Gladstone, decided to ban overtime in support of a claim by the ETU for a base the power station.

The strike has not resulted in any power supply losses. Union leaders are meeting with employer representatives under the control of the State Industrial Commissioner as DIRECT ACTION goes to press.

## Oil Strike Exposes Bosses' Sabotage

A meeting on October 14 of 85 of the 107 striking members of the Australian Workers Union employed at the Ampoloil refinery at Lytton, Brisbane, voted 71 to 14 to accept the settlement offer negotiated by union officials with the oil company. The negotiations were for a new two year agreement containing improved wages and conditions. The vote prought to a close the four day strike by refinery workers which began after a hop-work meeting on October 9. The strike led to a fuel supply crisis that affected a large area of south-eastern Queensland and north-eastern NSW, At one stage it was reported that only a handful of Brisbane's 650 service stations

The strike produced a hysterical reaction from sections of employers and their government. For instance, the Queensland action of course exacerbated the supply Automotive Chamber of Commerce wrote to the Premier (Bjelke-Petersen) asking him to declare a state of emergency. In the characteristic style that has gained him notoriety, Bjelke-Petersen responded by asking the Prime Minister to call in

the Army to operate the refinery. However this course of action was decided to be impracticable. As the ALP State President Jack Egerton observed:"It's obvious that certain interests deliberately fomented the dispute for political reasons."

He went on to say:"With a Federal election due on December 2 every pretext is being employed in an attempt to embarrass the ALP and the trade union movement," ("Courier-Mail",

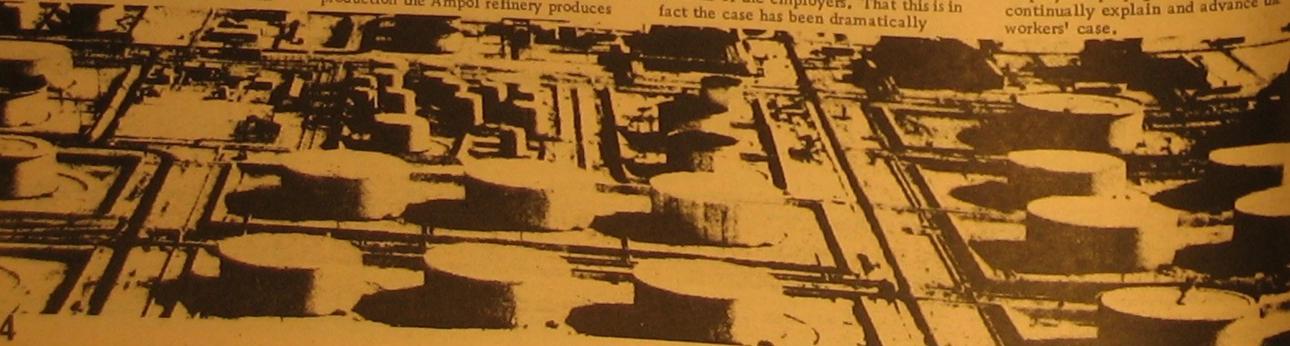
The oil companies undoubtedly tried to stir up public resentment against the refinery workers. During the strike the Ampol refinery held 3 million gallons of petrol in storage tanks and refused to release it for distribution until the men went back to work. This crisis. Throughout the dispute at the Ampol refinery, another refinery in Brisbane, owned by Amoco, was in full operation. This refinery was producing about 350,000 gallons per day. At full production the Ampol refinery produces

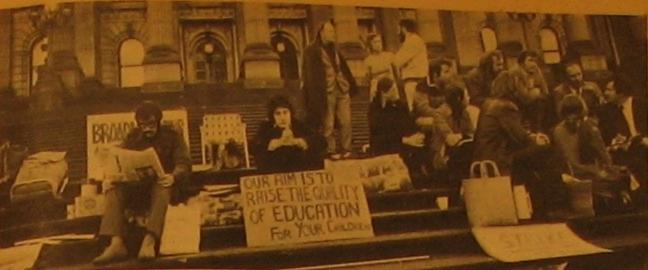
900,000 gallons per day, so presumably the Amoco refinery produces nearly one third of the area's requirements and yet it was virtually impossible for motorists to get petrol at the height of the crisis. This could be explained by the fact that the distribution of the petrol is in the hands of a "rationalisation committee" made up of representatives of all the oil companies. Of course it is needless to say that the news media pipers were more than willing to play the employers'

However, implicit in Mr. Egerton's statement is the thought that the ALP leadership can be embarrassed by the actions of the workers; that it is necessary for workers to curb militancy and wait till after the elections when a Labor government will solve all their problems. If it is possible for the Labor leadership to be embarrassed by worker militancy, then it can only be because its policies are not aimed against the employers but rather they are aimed at wooing the support of significant sections of the employers. That this is in

demonstrated by the now infamous "Cameron proposals" and the more recent Dunstan anti-labour laws ( see DIRECT ACTION No. 28). Demonstrating that any support from

the employers is conditional on the All behaving itself, the Brisbane "Courier-Mail", as a daily paper that reflects the viewpoint of the employers, issued a warning to the Labor Party to pull in industrial wing into line in an editorial on October 12. In the editorial headed 'How to Lose Votes", the paper said in part: "Industrial peace already is likely to be an important issue at the forthcoming federal election. It will be even more important if unions make it so by creating industrial upheaval". However, as the party of the Australian workers, it is necessary for the ALP to reject policies acceptable to the employers and take up the active defence of the interests of the unions, fastead of quaking in its boots about losing the votes of those people taken in by the employers' propaganda, the ALP should continually explain and advance the





Teachers Urge VSTA to Fight Liberals

All around Australia teachers are looking towards the ALP for a solution to the crisis in education. Teachers are beginning to move into political action as they realise the intransigence of Liberal governments, and their reactionary policies of fostering a class system of education. The response of the ALP leadership to this broad pressure for radical change is far from satisfactory, as the analysis in DA No. 28 shows. The policies put forward by Labor hardly begin to tackle basic problems. Despite a number of opinion polls showing education as the No. 1 issue in the minds of the electorate, Whitlam and his co-spokesmen have evaded the real issues and put forward half hearted solutions. This attitude is certainly not going to satisfy the teachers, students and parents who are crying out for action.

In response to pressure from their rank and file, many Australian teacher unions are mounting massive campaigns to oust the Liberals in the election. These campaigns were strongly supported at annual general meetings and by rank and file sentiments. The Australian Teachers' Federation is laying out \$90,000 in a campaign "urging voters to support candidates who would do most for education" In practice, this must mean support for Labor. In Victoria, the Technical Teachers' Association of Victoria (TTAV) is spending \$19,000 on its campaign, centred on the expected swinging seats. However the Victorian Secondary Teachers! Association (VSTA) is outlaying none of its own finances, but has set up a voluntary fund to support an Electoral Action Campaign aimed at unseating the government. In practice, this has torpedoed an effective campaign. Most people would prefer to put their money straight into ALP hands.

But the whole project is indicative of the attitude of the VSTA leadership. Very little has been done to publicise the campaign, and build widespread support for it amongst teachers. The leadership absolutely refuses to take a political stand in support of the ALP, and to realise the importance of building a really massive campaign to pressurise the Labor leadership into facing up to real questions. This can only play into the hands of the Liberals.

"Teacher Action" a group of militants within the VSTA has taken a firm stand on building a campaign for Labor amongst teachers, while reserving the right to criticise ALP policies." A meeting was held on October 12 with representatives of the TTAV, VSTA and ALP to discuss prospects for electoral action, and to "conduct a thorough examination of ALP Education Policy", One ALP representative was rather put out by strong criticism of Labor's education policies, and eventually retorted: There it is: you can take or leave it. Teachers want to work for a Labor government, but if Labor is to gain their full support it must be on the basis of aggressive, radical policies which challenge the status quo - not, "a bit more of the same thing". It is essential to

keep pushing for socialist solutions, for these are the only real answers to the questions which millions of Australians are posing right now.

'Teacher Action" also sees as part of its task building support for united action by by all teachers in support of those victimised by the Education Department. As the Department believes itself closer to its goal of having enough teachers (on its own reckoning, not anyone else's), it will feel able to cull out political and educational radicals. In the current atmosphere of reaction, the next few years should see an increase in the number of sackings and "transferrals" aimed at silencing dissent. This is particularly so for "temporaries" who have no rights at all at present. If the VSTA is to be able to stand up to the power of the government and the education bureaucracy it must be able to take effective, state wide strike action. Geoff Reid, president of the VSTA has admitted the weakness of the position in the "Secondary Teacher" (August 72, reprinted in "Teacher Action" No. 3): "One thing is certain... If you are a temporary teacher unjustly accused of incompetence and you have not the support of a strong VSTA Branch, your prospects look bleak".

This situation cannot be accepted by any union. A start must be made right now to build strong sentiment in the branches for the principle of strike action in support of victimised colleagues, wherever they are. This is absolutely essential if the VSTA is to win victories and go forward as a strong and progressive union. A big campaign around this issue could be the way towards breaking out of the present low in rank and file morale, and developing a solidarity between teachers which goes beyond a narrow "professional ism" towards a fundamental break with the status quo.

"Teacher Action" believes that only a

militant, socially-conscious union will grow and achieve real change in the sitnation of teachers, in work conditions as well as all other aspects in the schools. The group is conducting a recruitment campaign for the VSTA in the Secondary Teachers' Colleges and University Educat ion Schools. Teacher trainees will only be recruited on the basis of a fighting and progressive union. Only by being persuad ed to look beyond the negative aspects of unionism (bureaucracy etc) towards its role in struggling for basic change in society will young teachers be brought in as active union militants at this stage. This makes it all the more important to work around all the important political questions which are throwing masses of young people into political activity, such as the antiwar andwomen's liberation movements. "Teacher Action" intends to help organise a teacher contingent for the coming November 18 National Antiwar Actions. It will also publicise women's liberation activities amongst teachers. Through this sort of activity a new role for teacher unions can be forged - as organisations committed to a new education in

# Women in Revolt

OCKING THE BOAT

The furore surrounding the publication of Jim Staples'article entitled "Abortion Earlier in the day on the 31st, a funeral and Votes" (see DIRECT ACTION No. 28) in a suburban newspaper in the Bennelong electorate again reveals the ALP's lack of clear policy on abortion, Previously this article had only been published in a local Labor Party journal, in his article, Jim Staples comes out trongly in favour of freely available bortions performed by a registered nedical practitioner.

Its publication angered some sections of the ALP including Mr. N. Russell, the federal candidate for Bennelong. He demanded that Mr. Staples resign as his campaign manager. Which Staples of course refused to do. The "Australian' of 13, 10, 72 reports that senior Labor members in Canberra "are concerned at the electoral ammunition the incident could give government MPs in the election". Apparently these men are more concerned with horse trading for votes than taking a clear principled stand in favour of women's fundamental right to control their own bodies.

Labor branches in Bennelong are divided on whether Staples should resign or not. fr. Staples reports that he has received o family planning and another on the life over 100 telegrams in support of his state- of Margaret Sanger, the famous ploneer ment. It can be said that Jim Staples was only following the dictates of his 'conscience" in line with Federal ALP uling on the abortion issue. Thousands of women, however, will be guided by more than their conscience in the comng elections. They will be looking for political leadership that stands uncontionally for their basic democratic right The abortion issue is bound to assume ino abortion on demand.

TAX CLAIM REJECTED FOR CHILD CARE EXPENSES

an unmarried mother from Melbourne is Ann Lodge recently lost on her claim o have the cost of her young daughter's sursery fees as a tax deduction. Ms odge took her claim to the High Court after having lost several appeals to a ower court.

The Taxation Commissioner had formerly Official attitudes to birth control in the isallowed it as "a private or domestic

Is Lodge claimed that it was necessary or her to place her daughter in a day sursery, in order for her to earn her livng. Ms Lodge is considering now, aking the matter to the full High Court. sensitive" to print in her newspaper at

The hypocrisy of the law and the way it unctions in the interests of the rich, is made very apparent in this case. The l'axation Department accepts as tax deuctible, enormous expense accounts for usinessmen, but refuses to allow tax eductions for a service, necessary to the ly reliable. ivelihood of a woman.

BORTION DEMONSTRATION

Vomen will demonstrate outside Parliaent House in Sydney on the 31st Octber at 5.30 pm to protest the resumption o State Parliament stating that abortions itions of the Russian Revolution of 1917

An earlier demonstration was held on ctober 3rd to protest the introduction

of this motion in the House. Approximately 80 women attended.

procession will be held to commemorate the deaths of women who died through the existing abortion laws,

WOMEN'S "SPEAK -OUT"

On 21st October, a women's "Speak-Out" for abortion was held in Sydney. During the course of the day approximately fifty women attended. Discussion focused around abortion as a woman's right and the opposition and role of reactionary forces like the Catholic Church. Women also spoke of their own experiences under the present harsh and punitive laws, and the humiliation they suffered trying to obtain abortions.

A councillor from the Family Planning Association spoke about various methods of contraception and of the role of their clinics in helping give women the ability to control their bodies. A woman doctor also came, in order to answer any medical questions women had on methods of abortion and contraception,

Two films were shown during the day one on methods of contraception and and advocate of birth control.

Although the "Speak-Out" was not big, it played a useful role in giving women the opportunity to talk together about abortion and about ways of winning the

creasing importance in the coming months as the trials and prosecutions of doctors continue, as reactionaries like Mr. Cameron continue to move their motions in Parliament, and more importantly, as women become more conscious about their right to control their

BIRTH CONTROL IN THE SOVIET

Soviet Union are apparently as backward as those anywhere in the world. This was shown by an interview with a Soviet woman journalist printed in the September 3 New Zealand's "Sunday Herald" The journalist said that a discussion of contraception and abortion was still "too this time. "I think my editor really wanted to write something about this but was told by someone higher up that it was impossible..."

"Diaphragms, if you can believe it, only come in two sizes. So they aren't exact-

"Our health authorities consider the birth control pill unsafe. A few gynaecologists have access to birth-control pills for their patients - I use them - but they can only accomodate a tiny percentage of people."

f discussion over Jim Cameron's motion Such attitudes are a far cry from the tradvere "...repugnant to human dignity"etc. when, under the leadership of the Bolshe vik Party the Soviet Union led the world in introducing progressive legislation of

## High School Activists Set Conference for Sydney, January

BY KEN DAVIS

Plans are being made for a national conlerence of secondary student activists, to be held in Sydney on Friday, Jan. 12 through to Monday, Jan. 14. Basically, the conference will serve to clarify action perspectives for 1973. It will probably include regional and convenors' reports from the groups involved in the recent national high school strike, and papers will be delivered on topics related, for

example, to the need for independent mass action, the need for co-operation with other student and teacher groups, and the role of high schools in society.

More important however, will be the discussion of aims and plans for 1973, specifically the potential for a campaign in First Term will be considered. The sig- All those interested in attending should nificance of this conference in the orientation and co-ordination of the high school movement should be obvious, and

representation of all individuals and groups concerned.

Recognising the difficulties for rural and interstate delegates, possibilities of cheaper (or even free) transport and accommodation are being investigated. contact the NSW Education Action Group (c/o Dennis Garnsey, 57 Kenneth Street, Longueville, 2066),

A woman's right to control her life

Abortion Action Campaign

New badge .

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Vomen's

/- 25 Alberta St., Sydney or Box 249, P.O. Leichhardt 2040. Badges are 20 cents, and a 25% discoun is available to all orders of 10 or more badges.

# LABOR MUST FIGHT THE PENAL POWERS AND COMPULSORY ARBITRATION DUNSTAN TRIES TO DO BOSSES' JOR

## BY GRAHAME TUBBENHAUER

Since the inception of the compulsory arbitration system in 1904, Australian trade unions have had their right to exist and freedom to organise severely harrassed by the restriction and sanctions of the penal powers.

It is during times of capitalist crisis however, that the true class basis of the arbitration system is seen most clearly. The bourgeoisie allows unions the right to exist, but in return, effectively regulates their wages and conditions of work through the medium of so called independent tribunals. This facade was cast aside during the Great Depression of the 1930s, "Law" came to mean nothing. Dismissals and cut rates crushed the workers' rights to a decent existence. The role that the Liberal and Country Parties play in fighting the working class through repressive anti-union laws is fairly well known. These capitalist parties must be fought vigorously on every front, However it is also necessary to fight those who do the bosses' job inside the Labor Party itself. These misleaders of the working class, the Whitlams, Camerons etc, must be thoroughly exposed, and while fighting for a Labor victory, we must also fight for policies inside the Labor Party that will be in the real interests of the working class.

With the coming to power of Chifley's Labor government after the war there also came a tightening of arbitration and even more stringent penal powers. This betrayal of working people was reflected in a general rise of rank and file militancy which culminated in the 1949 Coal Strike, bringing the country to a halt for seven weeks. With the onset of the Cold War labour militancy receded. This Iull lasted through the 1950s and early 1960s as capitalism was able to temporarily stabilise its economy, maintain its profits and keep its control over the working class without needing to introduce new measures of repression and intimidation.

More recently, however, the workers have had their eyes opened to the realities of capitalism. More and more sections of the working class are being forced into the realisation that they have to stand and fight any attempt by the capitalists to curtail their rights and whittle away their standard of living through inflation, unemployment, speed ups, price rises etc. Thus the attempts in recent years by the capitalists to sharpen up the legal weapons it has to use against the labour movement must be seen in this light. The crunch against the penal powers came in May 1969. The secretary of the Tramways Union in Victoria, Clarrie O'Shea, was gaoled for contempt of court for refusing to pay fines imposed on his union strike (section 148) for an "illegal" strike. There was an imm- (a) Strikes by employees of the state are ediate upsurge by the working class in protest. The outcome showed that arbitration was a giant with feet of clay. Since that time the bourgeoisie has been attempting to work out a formula in cooperation with the right wing of the labour movement, to get some semblance of the old system back into working order.

Then came the Cameron proposals of \$500 a day fines for illegal strikes. In September 1971, the talk of \$20 fines on individual unionists violating agreements came as a low murmur from Brisbane. Then a week later Cameron announced blandly, yes it's true. \$20 is on.

The Federal Caucus of the Labor Party panicked and declared its opposition to any kind of legal sanction against unionists and unions, Whitlam and Cameron conceded the point, afraid of the impend--ing fight with the unions and the party's rank and file if the statement was not

On September 26 this year the South Australian Labor Government led by Don Dunstan, tabled the "Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act". The Act replaces the old Industrial code for South Australia.

Early drafts of the document created a stir in the Trades and Labor Council (TLC) when Barry Cavanagh of the Miscellaneous Workers Union and Bob Giles of the Plumbers and Gasfitters Union submitted letters to the Trades and Labor Council executive protesting sections of the proposed legislation stating that various sections of the draft were "anti-union".

After talks between the Minister of Labour and Industry (Mr. McKee), members of the Trades and Labour Council executive, the Trades and Labour Councils Industrial Code revision sub-committee and the Parliamentary Labor Party's industrial committee, Jim Shannon (secretary of the South Australian TLC) said:"It was agreed that there had been some misunderstanding of the Government's intentions relative to certain provisions of the proposed Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act. The parties believe that generally speaking the proposed legislation will be of tremendous benefit to workers throughout the state," After discussions a "compromise" was reached between the TLC and the State Government. It was agreed that the fine for an illegal strike in South Australia be only \$500 and not the original \$1,000 as proposed in the early drafts!

The Act (now in its ninth draft) is 99 pages long and contains penalties more stringent than the penal clauses of the Commonwealth Arbitration Act. The South Australian Bill is viewed by many as a trial run for industrial relations legislation by a Federal Labor Government. The right wing Federal ALP leadership would no doubt like to legislate provisions similar to those in the

The bill has some positive features such as: no wage discrimination between males and females, provisions to protect the right of workers to annual and sick leave, and the prevention of the use of civil courts in settling disputes.

The use of civil courts in industrial disputes has been an important consideration for the Trade Union movement in South Australia. In the Kangaroo Island case this year, farmers resisted the efforts of the AWU to force two non-union shearers to join the Union, (One of the shearers had broken award conditions elsewhere by working on a Saturday morning. ) The AWU referred the case to the TLC and a black ban was placed on the transport of wool operty where the shearers had worked. The farmers took the AWU secretary Jim Dunford to the civil court where he was billed for \$10,000 costs. He refused to pay so the South Australian Labor Government paid the amount so as to avoid any mass confrontation with the Trade Union movement.

This whole issue raised the use of civil courts so that under pressure the SA government was forced to include a provision whereby such cases would not be dealt with in civil courts.

Some of the more blatantly anti-working class legislation in this Act includes: 1. The section which defines an illegal tralian Railways, Public Service Board, Fire Brigades, Savings Bank of South Australia and the Electricity Trust of South Australia. As there are about 77,000 workers in this category, the legislation effectively bans strike action by about 28 % of the workforce. (b) A strike is deemed illegal if 14 days notice of the strike is not given to the Minister. This virtually makes all

strikes illegal. (c) A strike which commences or continues after the Industrial Court gives an order to workers to return to work is

deemed illegal. 2. Once a strike is declared illegal for any of the above reasons, unions or unionists are liable to a fine of \$500 a

3. A penalty of \$500 a day is imposed for a union or unionists disobeying a court injunction.

4. All political strikes are outlawed. Examples of political strikes are: the bans imposed by unions against the South African Rugby tour and the strikes called in solidarity with antiwar actions. 5. A worker or union official can be fined \$100 or gaoled for three months for failure to answer a summons, failure to reply to questions, act as a witness or produce documents as required.

A meeting was held on September 29 by people interested in forming a committee to fight the penal powers. The committee, known as the Committee for Industrial Democracy, consists of trade unionists and individuals.

At present the trade union movement and rank and file workers believe that the new legislation contains only slight amendments to the old Industrial Code. This illusion has been fostered by Jim Shannon, secretary of the TLC, and right wing ALP members. The committee sees its first task as being to inform unions and workers of the dangers involved in the legislation by a mass leafleting of all factories. So far this has been relatively successful. At the meeting of the TLC of October 6, the committee organised the distribution of leaflets informing the TLC delegates of the dangers behind the Act. The vote on whether to support the legislation was won 81 votes for, to 41 against, reflecting a sizeable increase in the opposition of trade unions to the Bill.

The whole issue of the penal powers exposes the real nature of the trade union bureaucrats and the ALP leadership. The Labor bureaucracy is a conservative petit bourgeois social layer encrusted on the unions. Far from mobilising union power against the penal powers, the Labor officialdom does everything in its power to keep the workers tied to as narrow and reformist a social programme as possible. The

in the rights of organised trade unions to strike. Congress reaffirms its opposition to continuation of penal provisions and demands the repeal of all legislation which protects employer from normal bargaining procedures, yet dis criminates against the unions". A bo statement to make! Bob Hawke said about the South Australian Arbitration and Conciliation Act that the ACTU was als the unions have opposed to penal provisions being included in industrial legislation. He wen ats made. on to say, "however I do not think there is any likelihood of conflict arising from that sort of situation in South Australia He put the conflict down to a "misunderstanding".

Both the ALP and the trade union burn crats are becoming increasingly concerns about the activities of job militants and shop stewards. Legislation such as the restricts the whole activity of working class militants, unless they are unified to fight the powers. ALP reformism will be unable to solve any of the bar ills of capitalism. The reformist leadership will attempt to stand astride the contradictory forces within the society, and attempt to confine the class struggle within the limitations acceptable to capitalism.

With the possibility of a Labor government at the end of the year, every worker must watch closely the manoeuvring of the ALP leadership. If they follow the history of the Wilson government in England, that is the holding back of improvements in real wages in the "national interest'and attempting to put things over the masses in a way that the bourgeoisie could never do, then we must fight these moves with all our resources.

This is why it is vital at this stage to involve as many rank and file workers as possible. It is time that the labour bureaucracy is exposed for their class collaborationist policies, so that the unions can fight for the real interests of the workers.

The Committee for Industrial Democracy sees its next task as making sure that the new Act will never be used against the unions. If it is used, the committee is ready to fight. It will be important to involve unions in other states if actions are taken against unions. A threat to one union threatens all unions,

If you are interested in the activity of the committee or would like to distribute leaflets at your job, then write to PO Box 65, North Adelaide, 5006.

END ALL PENAL POWERS! RANK AND FILE CONTROL OF UNION AFFAIRS! DEFEND THE RIGHT TO STRIKE!

## of the ALP as the party representing them. The links between the ALP and the present level of consciousness of the working class

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are strong and there has been no qualitative jump in the working class movement By Jenny Ferguson ive jump in the working class movement to break out of the reformism of the ALP.

> The union movement itself has very strong bonds with the ALP, reflecting the relationship of the party and the working masses. It is in these links that the union bureaucracy sees a concrete way to maintain its social position. The representatives of this social layer in the union move- abortion, childcare centres, equal pay ment, such as Hawke, call for the election and equal educational and work opportoffensive being waged by the bosses and their direct agents, the Liberal/Country Party Coalition. Seeking to restrain their own membership they attempt tochannel the rising militancy solely into the election of the ALP without the need to fight

assert their rights, and to refuse to

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parties. Women, in 1972, faced with

Liberal Party Government, which has

displayed strong opposition or else total

lack of interest in the pressing needs of

no intention of changing its attitudes to

women's issues, either. It has a vested

interest in retaining the present social

women. The Liberal Government has

But the leadership of the ALP will themselves seek to force upon the workers anti-union legislation, productivity deals etc. doing as much as they can to ape the Liberals. Dunstan's recent legislation and Cameron's proposals are striking examples of this. The tactics and tone will differ but the results basically are the same.

Unionists must fight inside the ALP as well as outside the ALP for the implement ation of workers' demands. The building of a mass class struggle left-wing inside the ALP is crucial as this force can counterpose genuine workers demands against the sell-out politics of Whitlam, Hawke, Cameron and Dunstan etc. Unionists and revolutionary socialists must fight for a shorter working week with no loss of pay, a sliding scale of wages, no antiunion laws or penal powers, nationalisation of transport, industrial and financial institutions without compensation and under workers' control.

Only a determined fight for these policies oths this year. The by the workers themselves can defeat the reject the capital- capitalist offensive against the working ward to the election class.

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suld include in against unempa massive both as means , and of building heap housing, The plight

of working people and their families must be fought by various measures to equalise incomes and share social costs. The tax system must be drastically overhauled. Labor's offer to "revise income tax deductions" is quite insufficient. No tax should be payed on weekl incomes of less than \$100, 100% tax should be paid on all incomes over \$10,000. Rents should be fixed at no health services (including legalised abortion) should be totally free through a national health scheme. Education should be free for all through to university and college level, with wages for

These demands must necessarily be linked. October 16 finds from a survey at to a defence of the workers' organisations Macquarie University that in the space and their right to strike in support of their of a few years students have swung demands (including "political" strikes). Labor must be forced to totally repeal the Lynch laws and repudiate the Cameron also hints at the reason in referring to proposals. Such a programme has not been put forward by Labor leaders who seek only to be "moderate" and fear being labelled as "socialists".

Hardly surprising for it is a programme of class struggle - a programme aimed at a basic challenge to the status quo and to the power of the employers to depress living standards and throw thousands out of work. This programme can become the focus of the hopes of many only be popularised and pressed upon the youth for solutions to a whole number

Sydney: 139 St Johns Rd, Glebe

Melbourne: 140 Queensberry St, Carlton Adelaide: 240 Rundle St, Adelaide Brisbane: 40 Union St, Spring Hill

Women's Rights, Abortion The Australian Labor Party, on the other hand is not tied to the big business inter-The Women's Liberation movement has grown, and its ideas have spread considof the needs of women. It has shown to erably over the past few years, Women a certain extent its receptivity to the in increasing numbers are beginning to

demands being put forward by women. accept their role as second class citizens It has stated its support for equal pay, low- egiance the ALP depends. If Labor is to cost child care facilities, ending discrim- really serve the interests of the class it ination against women in educational and work spheres, and setting up community clinics for pre and post natal care unities, are fast becoming popular dem- and contraceptive care. On the question ands, bringing women to an identificatof abortion however, it has called for a ion with the growing feminist movement, non-party attitude, leaving the decision about whether to reform or repeal the laws on abortion up to the "conscience" of the individual politician. This repres-In seeking ways of realizing these demands, ents a compromise on the part of the for demands using their own union strength. women look to the existing parliamentary ALP, with the most reactionary sentiments business, not in the interests of the majorthe coming elections, can only be angered in to the pressures of the Liberals who and embittered by the past record of the

> The present abortion laws strike hardest at working class women, who cannot afford a safe, illegal abortion or who don't have the contacts to get one "legally" The full liberation of women cannot be through the system. This means that women must fight within the ALP to structure where women are housecleaners change the existing policy to one of and childminders, or a cheap labour force. support of repeal of all abortion laws.

oppose the right of women to abortion.

Women can only wait to see whether Labor will, in fact, fulfill its promises n the question of childcare and equal ay and continue to press for all these rights both within and outside of the ALP. It will require the pressure of an independests which profit from the oppression of ent women's movement to keep the ALP women, and is capable of fulfilling many from backtracking on its election promises, and to force it to adopt a radical and progressive attitude towards women. Women comprise a large section of the working class, on whose support and allclaims to represent, and keep its support, it must relate to the needs of women.

Some women propose that women support all women candidates, regardless of their party affiliation. But this position will not help women to have their demands realised. The source of the oppression of women is not men as a sex but this socof sections of the party, and also a caving- ity of women or men. The women candidates of the big business parties are as incapable of action on behalf of women as the men, because their parties stand thoroughly exposed by their records as being opposed to the needs of women.

> realised short of a socialist society, because the demands of women throw into question the whole role of the family and women under capitalism. The winning of each demand of women, brings them closer to their liberation and to a realisation of the type of society capable of fulfilling all their needs. In fighting within the ALP for their demands, women will be pushing it further in the direction of a programme of socialist policies and raising the political consciousness of the masses of workers about the irreconcilable contradictions in this society, and the need for revolutionary change.

Women can only gain by joining in the campaign for the election of an ALP government, by publicising its positive policies for women's rights and ensuring that all the candidates, men and women, make these policies a prominent part of their campaign.

The active participation of women in the ALP can keep the ALP to its promises and put into power the only party which represents the majority of workers in

## Students, Teachers Reject Liberals By John Compton

Why did McMahon refuse to bring in votes at 18 for this election? After all, political scientists have been assuming of the "socialisation", vote as their parents do, and to some extent even more conservatively. However, things have changed radically in the last few years. One academic, Don Aitken writing in the 'National Times" of dramatically from Liberal-leaning to almost totally Labor-supporting, He the impact of the Vietnam war. In the years since 1966 when many young people still favoured government attitudes on Vietnam the disillusionment and accompanying radicalisation has run very deep. Now, in the wake of the Moratorium and the student upsurge, as opposition to Liberal policies has increased the ALP has gained from the widespread antiwar sentiment, and has

The broad youth base of the antiwar movement, the women's liberation movement and the student movements

The crisis in the schools is reflected in tremendous opposition to the Liberals. Hostility to Education Minister Malcolm Fraser's policy of bolstering a class education system has become intense among teachers and students. Teachers' unions throughout Australia are mounting big campaigns to get the Liberals out this year. Liberal governments have fought every demand of teachers, tried to break their unions, victimised individual teachers, neglected every need of working class schools, migrants, and female students and teachers. The campus revolt has also begun to

direct itself outside the university and into the national political arena. The gaoling of Robinson, Pola and York at La Trobe University was backed by Liberal politicians, as part of a general policy of repression. Students are realising that the same big businessmen who sit on university councils sit on the

boards of ICI etc. They understand that these men are the ones who retain close links with the Liberal Party and whose interests the Liberals directly represent.

looking towards the Labor Party as the party of all working people, and the party of radical change. The massive power of the political movements, the struggles of students for their democratic rights, and of teachers for independence in the schools are increasingly directed toward the ALP. The demands for jobs for all school leavers, for more teachers, for an end to the Indochina war, for an end to war-related university research, to inequalities in schools, to bureaucratic controls on teachers can be directed onto the ALP to create an anti-capitalist alternative of great power, and aimed at creating an educational system geared to the needs of all people - workers, youth, women, and blacks. SYA seeks to build these movements and to focus them toward building a socialist alternative in the ALP, against the present conservative leadership. Join us! Campaign for an ALP government!

### Capitalist Pollution Direct Action Forums By Geoff Payne Socialism & the ALP The entire system of capitalist product-

on on a world-wide scale has always ooked to solving those immediate problems which interfered with its quest for increased profits, without looking to the long term effects or to those methods Labor government should implement which would benefit the environment and society. For the last twenty-three years the parties of the employing class in this country have carried out policies aimed at reinforcing their social interests and have proposed measures which have been against the interests of the majority of Australian people.

ipeline across Port Phillip Bay, from the pollution of the air and the destruction of the urban environment, conservationists and unionists have begun to unite in militant actions against these vested social interests.

Right now the majority of workers are looking towards the Australian Labor Party for a solution to this among the many other threats to basic living conditions served up by the Liberal-Country Party coalition.

What would an ALP government do? It would make minor improvements but ones that only serve to gloss over the

real causes of pollution and environmental destruction - private industry and its attendant unplanned nature and in its committments has not seen the need for democratic social planning and the necessity for social ownership.

A realistic set of demands which a

1. Legislation forcing all industries to adopt the most effective methods developed at the present time to reduce polluting effects of production, a system of inspection by elected representatives of the working people and a 100% tax on the profits of offenders.

2. Divert funds from military spending From the Great Barrier Reef to the ethane into research and development of effective anti-pollution measures. 3. Existing public transport systems should be made free and should be enlarged to meet the needs of residents of every city. A drastic re-ordering of transport priorities: discrimination in favour of public and against private

> 4. Expropriation of any industries that refuse to comply with anti-pollution standards. These industries should then be run as public facilities under democratic management by those who work

Our task is to fight to make Labor adopt and carry out these policies.

## BY ANDREW JAMIESON

Following on the heels of Labor's South Australian Premier Don Dunstan's legislation to curb the rising strike wave, Clyde Cameron has outlined proposals to hold a referendum if Labor is elected, with the intention of strengthening the conciliation and arbitration system.

Addressing the General Management Club of Australia, Cameron - Labor's Shadow Minister for Industrial Relations - said the question of redrafting Section 51 of the constitution would be raised in May next year. He blamed the "conservatism" of the High Court in interpreting industrial powers, for what he claimed was the virtual wrecking of the arbitration system. Changes which he suggested would make arbitration a more workable system include covering of work categories such as firemen, teachers, nurses etc., that cannot now be covered by the commission as a result of court rulings. Other changes proposed by Cameron are: to include demarcation, victimisation, wrongful dismissals etc. under the Arbitration

Commission's control.

What these proposed changes amount to is a strong attempt to shackle the union movement to arbitration and the state, in such a way as to prevent any indep-endent decisions by rank and file unionists. Strengthening of arbitration is counter to the fundamental interests of the working class, as many workers \* have had graphically illustrated to them recently (for example, the La Trobe Valley workers).

Arbitration was set up for the primary purpose of maintaining industrial "peace" at the expense of working class militancy and rights. The allegiances of the arbitrators themselves, receiving extremely high salaries, positions and privileges, shows in which direction this system is weighted. Workers rights and increases in living standards can only be won through direct action, Strengthening the arbitration system must be opposed.

Cameron is trying to beat the Liberals to the gun in his attempts to tie the union structure more firmly to the state. The Liberals place a far higher emphasis on smashing the unions through the brutal force of the infamous Lynch Laws. McMahon acts as a direct agent for big business as they try to squeeze every last

ounce of profits from the Australian workers. However, Cameron is likely meet stiff opposition within the AIP the union movement generally as was to case when he tried to introduce his perprovisions as ALP policy late last year Unionists are awakening to the danges of arbitration and aren't about to have its powers increased. This is where the weakness of arbitration lies - not, as Cameron suggests, in the muddle heads ness of the High Court.

The fight against arbitration, pen powers and all other anti-union legisla ion must be carried on at the polls by voting the Liberals out, and fighting right wing ALP leaders both inside and outside the Labor Party. A vote for the McMahon government would guarantee an open hand to the employers in beat ing the unions into line. We must turn to the ALP and fight for an end to the system of penal powers there. The absence of a strong left wing in the Al allows Cameron to introduce his pre-posterous proposals to strengthen arbitration. Socialists must build and strengthen the mass left forces in the ALP, (forces such as the Socialist Left) as an alternative to the right wing bureaucrats who presently control the

Fri 24th Nov. 8pm at. As the available ALP tops by mass mobilisation around the key issues, and a continual fight

within and without the ALP by socialists. When a factory is threatened with closure or mass lay-offs are announced workers must be mobilised around the demands for nationalisation under workers' contro This should also be raised against firms which make unjustifiable price rises. This demand offers the only real solution to the crisis of our "free enterprise" economy. And as more and more workers begin to look beyond solutions involving change within the system this should become the central demand for a programme of class struggle for Labor.

of the big employers must be tossed out on December 2. A Labor victory is essential as an advance in the fight against the employers and their weapons of inflation and unemployment. The struggle to win the ALP to a class struggle programme through the mobilisation of thousands of militant workers in mass action around these issues will represent a significant step forward in independent political action by the workers of this

The Liberal-CP coalition, the instrument

lobs for all! An end to inflation! Labor to power on December 2!

The Socialist Workers League and the Socialist Youth Alliance, the Australian Trotskyists, are fighting for a socialist Australia in a socialist world, We want an end to the exploitation, oppression and unhappiness that is inherent in the life of the masses under capitalism. The establishment of socialism won't be achieved by a gradual evolution or by parliamentary legislation. It will come about through a revolutionary transformation of society, whereby the vast working majority and their allies mobilise in their millions in direct struggles to take collective control of the wealth of the country and to determine their own destinies.

Liberal Party and general reactionary propaganda tries to distort the meaning of socialism by pointing to the societies established in countries like the USSR. These countries have abolished capitalism and must be supported for it but have yet to complete their revolutions by securing full socialist democracy through overthrowing their bureaucratic governments. We shouldn't be misled on this question by the bosses and their hired politicians and publicists.

The Labor Party is not the party that will lead the struggle for socialsim in Australia, That party, a mass revolutionary socialist party, has yet to be built. But the ALP is a step along the road. It is based on the trade unions and represents the mass of workers, the main anticapitalist force, and their conviction that they need their own party to fight the bosses and their parties.

We unequivocally and unreservedly call for its return to power in the elections against the Liberals. But we cannot and do not support its policies. Its programme does not really challenge the power of the employers and will not solve the problems of ordinary people. Socialists must fight for socialism outside and inside the ALP. A socialist alternative to Whitlam and Co. must be built inside the Labor Party.

Whitlam's timid and conservative policies lose votes for Labor. In his recent memoirs, Arthur Calwell (putting aside for the ment his own blatant failings) corre observed that many workers vote anti-Labor (i.e., for the employers' parties) because they can't see that Labor will do anything for them. That is absolutely correct! If the ALP leadership presented a clear alternative to the Liberals and really led the working people and their allies in their various struggles, Labor would be returned and the Liberals would never get elected again. But the last thing the present Labor leaders want is to be returned to power on a surging tide of mass radicalisation and struggle. Then they would be under extreme pressure to implement radical measures against the employers. This prospect is one for which they have little enthusiasm.

Australians. The present leadership is We intend to participate fully in the incapable of providing this. struggle to build a left wing in the ALP that is a real alternative to Mr. Whitlam's conservative timidity and to the reactionary policies of the Liberals.

Such is the policy of the Australian Trotskyists on the Labor party. But not all groups

on the left see things quite the same way. In our opinion the other left forces make a a number of mistakes.

The Communist Party of Australia (CPA) is the largest organised force to the left of the ALP. It has at times led large numbers of workers in the trade unions. Yet it has always opposed itself to the majority inside for its policies the CPA chooses to side the ALP. This year it is running seven side and outside the Labor party if a socialcandidates of its own. The result is quite predictable. They'll lose their deposits and will not have participated with the workers in the experience of dumping the Liberals and putting in office a government based on the unions. They can't even see a clear difference between the liberal - capitalist Australia Party and Labor - they advise CPA supporters to direct their preferences to either one;

The forces around the paper "Labour Press" correctly call for an ALP victory and a socialist policy. But, after some equiv-

the side that they (Socialist Labour League- take the lead in building support for the SLL) can build themselves into an alternat- struggles. ive to the ALP leadership outside the party. This is a dangerous illusion for a small group. (In fact, they carry it to absurdity by pretending they are already that alternative! ) It is true that building a real mass socialist faction in the ALP won't be easy - the ALP leadership does not take kindly Rather than supporting the ALP and fighting to internal criticism of any variety - but it is necessary to eventually win over tens remain in impotent sectarian isolation out- and hundreds of thousands of workers in-

> Also, the SLL doesn't endorse and does not see the relevance to the workers and their allies of the struggles presently taking place outside the unions - the struggle of the antiwar movement, of women for an end to their oppression and control over their own lives, of black people for self determination, of gays for their liberation, of students for their rights and a decent education, etc. These issues cannot be postponed for a future socialist society to solve. The struggle

ocation, they seem to have come down on must be started now. And Labor must be started now. And Labor must be started now.

Yet other groups echo the CPA line and just don't see that socialists should con-cern themselves with the ALP. They confuse the party with the conservative policies of its leaders and fail to see the it is based on the workers. Some of these think that it is enough to work in the unions. But, as Trotsky pointed out to the small Independent Labour Party in Britain in the 1930s, "without a strong faction in the trade unions, and, consequently, in the Labour Party itself, the IIP is doomed to impotence even today" (our emphasis). This advice retains all its correctness for Australian revolutionaries in 1972.

For all these reasons we're campaignly for an ALP victory on December 2, Wel building support for Labor in our way, on the policies that in our opinion should be Labor's programme if it is to pose a real challenge to the employers and their parties in the interests of the working majority of Australia.

## CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

But it would be quite wrong to reject the greeted Labor candidates attest to this ALP because of its leadership. Many groundswell of support. The Liberals socialists, particularly amongst youth, are worried and resort to every sort of see only the negative side of the Labor hoary trick - such as "law and order" Party. They forget that the ALP is the etc. - ploys which will not influence mass party of the working class, created Australians in the new political climate by their struggles. Real change cannot of the 1970s. The changed situation of come about in this society without the a society which has experienced the conscious mobilisation of the power of Vietnam conflict, the revolt amongst the workers, and the ALP is a first step youth and the mounting industrial unrest along the road to independent political of a working class on the move offers action by the organised working class. tremendous opportunities for an aggressive The long road to socialism leads in part Labor leadership to press forward on a through the ALP as the fight for socialist clear socialist programme. But Whitlam solutions occurs inside that party, and and his colleagues are not such a leaderas more and more workers gain the expership. They have rejected socialist solutience to see beyond reformist perspectives ions - they hope to win on the basis of and seek socialist answers. There is no "moderation" and soundness". They by-passing the ALP as the focus of working present themselves as a more "modern" and "efficient" administration of the class political activity at this time. state machinery. Whitlam, Cameron and others continually play down any The deep links between Labor and the suggestion of socialism in Labor's programme. Even in taking up real problems inside the party. The ALP has been and the weaknesses of the government revived as a mass party by the mass they have failed to provide solutions in the interests of working people. In many cases, such as the "Cameron proposals" in industrial relations their solutions are

working class is reflected in the struggles protest movements (Victorian ALP membership has doubled in 18 months to over 10,500). Rank and file opinion often is in complete opposition to leadership opinion. For instance, the early development of a broad opposition to any form of Australian involvement in Indochina, the massive rejection of the Cameron proposals and the overwhelming vote in Victoria for abortion law repeal. The Victorian Socialist Left has played a vigorous role in pressing for left wing policies within the ALP. This struggle plays into the hands of the Liberals, Labor must be maintained unrelentingly, and particularly in this election period.

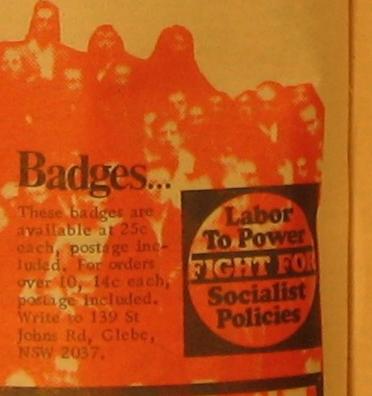
> The way forward is to develop a real Labor alternative to the Liberals in this election. Socialists should press their support for the ALP by developing a campaign for Labor around a militant class struggle programme. The ALP campaign can be a focus for all the

mass movements to project their demands to a wider audience in a period of beightened political consciousness, and to pressurise the ALP to take up real questions. The November 18 national antivar actions can be an organising point for developing the Indochina war as a central issue. Whitlam must be challenged to adopt a clear stance of opposition to this war and the cause of capitalist wars, and to refuse any political complicity in U.S. policies. Women can intervene to press for their demands.

The Socialist Workers League fully supports an ALP victory on December 2. We are working to build a vigorous socialist campaign for Labor, presenting the real issues. The whole Labor election campaign represents an important political experience for Australian workers, It can be a significant step forward in consciousness. It can provide a growing sense of self-confidence and feeling of power on the part of the working class, a sense of new possibilities and poten ialities awakening.

An ALP victory strengthens the prospects of the mass movements and provides new resources for the posing of basic questions: Workers'control? Student/staff control? Women's liberation? Self-determination for blacks? These are the real issues.

All out for an ALP victory on December 2!



## Contact Socialists in Your Area

the sympathising organisations in Austral he would Tretsky ist organisation. If you g out more about our politic owing capitalism and ridding the wor then contact us at the addresses below. DELAUDE, SWL, SYA, 136 Queensberry St., Carlton 3053; Ph 34 BRISHANE: SWL, SYA, 40 Union St., Spring Hill 4000. CANBERRA: SYA, P.O. Box 26, O'Connor. Ph 862760 (Jon) OBART: SYA, P.O. Box 1255N G.P.O. Hobart 7001. Ph 252 .I would like to get in touch with the Socialist Workers League I would like more information about the Socialist Youth Alliance . . . I would like to join the Socialist Youth Alliance

### Labor to Power in '72 by Jim McIlroy

A clear choice is being offered to voters in the elections on December 2. Either elect a Liberal government and face a further three years of the most reactionary policies on all the vital questions thich have aroused popular feeling at this time, or elect Labor and take a step towards conscious political expression of the aspirations of the working people. This is the real challenge in the elections this year.

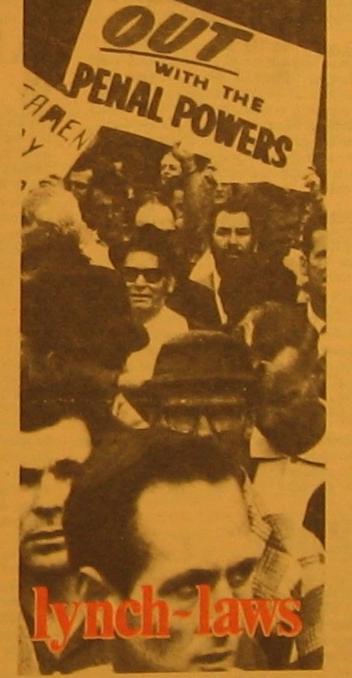
For 23 years now the Liberal-Country Party coalition under Menzies and his successors has conscientiously protected the interests of the big employers and done everything to expand their profits while fighting every attempt to raise the living and working conditions of the great majority of the population. This government, kept in power for so long only by the good fortune of the post-war boom (which is now coming to an end) represents all that is rotten, all that is exploitative, all that is reactionary in this country. It is the



direct political expression of a rapacious and implacable ruling class.

Just look at the record. The Liberals have fought every movement by the working class to extend its political rights and develop its power in the struggle for better conditions. They have pushed through the infamous Lynch laws aimed at holding down the unions and taking away the workers' most

fundamental right - the right to strike. The government has promoted unemployment as a weapon against industrial militancy in a period of general economic This is a government which has suppresscrisis. Unemployment stands at well over ed the aspirations of the black people, 100,000, one of the highest figures since World War II. They have bitterly opposed the demand of workers for a



35 hour week - a just demand expressing the general desire for jobs for all and for a higher standard of living. The Liberals have presided over the development of a poverty-stricken, class ridden educational system based on massive subsidies to rich private schools and pittances to the state schools. Commonwealth grants finance swimming pools and fine science blocks for the children of the rich while the poor are kept without even enough classrooms. The government has brought thousands of immigrants to this country to exploit their labour, but has done nothing at all to alleviate their difficulties.

It was the Liberals who got us involved in the murderous war of aggression against the people of Vietnam, and who still strongly back Nixon's genocidal policies of bombing and mass destruction in Indochina. This government, urged on by the DLP, supports every reactionary dictatorial regime in South-East Asia, and seeks to develop Australia's own mini-imperialist ambitions in this area,

particularly encouraging the plunder of Niugini by big corporations like CRA.

denied them their basic rights, helped Vesteys and other big employers to steal their labour for miserable wages, produced some of the worst health and living conditions in the world for these people. And when they fight back and demand their rights in such cases as the black embassy, the Liberals call in their police to brutally smash up the protests.

The Liberal Party has opposed at every turn the demands of women for equal rights. Prime Minister McMahon prefers to claim that women are not discriminated against in this society, and refuses to repeal or even relax in any way the oppressive anti- abortion laws. The Liberals fight against equal pay for 'entertainment" tax on contraceptives.



As for abolishing the laws against homosexuality, for these gentlemen the question is unthinkable. In every area of social policy where different oppressed groups are struggling for their freedom and expressing their demands in an even more confident way, the Liberal Party represents the deepest reaction.

And as the resources of the country, minerals, forests etc. are plundered by the giant Australian and multi-national corporations, and as areas such as Westernport are despoiled by Esso-BHP in the ceaseless quest for profits, the present government blames the "people" for pollution and inflation and every other social ill.

Menzies, Holt, Gorton, McMahon - all

with their different eccentricities, are representatives of one ruling class. The Liberal Party cannot change, it may "modernise" but it will always be anathema to the interests of the working

The ALP, on the other hand, backed by the powerful forces of organised labour. is a different sort of party. The ALP does offer a real alternative, not only or even mostly in the policies it offers right now, but in the fact that it bases itself on the working class, and reflects the historical achievement of that class. It is subject to the pressures of movements amongst the great majority - the working population. Because of its roots in the working class, because most workers look towards Labor for a solution to their problems, the party has become a focus for the mounting frustrations and aspirations of wide strata of Australians. The ALP reflects this pressure in its its opposition to military involvement in Indochina and to national service, (including the participation of ALP figures in the moratorium movement), the rejection of the Lynch laws, the (limited) committment to a 35 hour week, the support for equal pay and black land rights, the strong feeling inside the party for abortion law repeal, the policy of greater and more equalised funds for education, and the aim of regulating private industrial pollution.

All these policies reflect the sorts of pressures to which the Labor Party must answer. And support for Labor is growing



rapidly amongst all sections as the campaign develops. The swing to Labor in all state elections and by-elections and the packed meetings which have CONTINUED BACK PAGE

ther copies of this broad he

totally anti-labor. Unionists can expect

more of the same from a Labor govern-

and without the Party is maintained. The

problems of workers, women, blacks and

other oppressed layers. The timidity of

cannot win on a "me-too" platform - this

ment unless strong opposition within

pro-capitalist outlook of the Whitlam

leadership provides no solutions to the

present official ALP perspectives only

is the lesson of all previous elections.

Only an aggressive challenge to Liberal

ideology can capture the full support of

7, NSW. Prices for bull for \$1.00 - orders over

ers League and the Socialist Youth Alliance. It provides up and analyses of the developing anti-capitalist movemen as well as an excellen age of international political events

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## ALP Against War, Conscription

### By Jamie Doughney

The war of the United States in Indochina drags on and on, bringing with it untold destruction to the Indochinese people who are continuing their resolute fight for self-determination and a decent way of life free from exploitation and misery. For almost a decade it has been the centre of world politics, focusing the most intensive clash between the forces of reaction and the progressive forces the world over. We have seen this reflected in the development of an international movement in opposition to United States war policies that has had a considerable impact on the political scene in the war making countries. Nixon's of what could be the deployment of pretense at withdrawal as a response to the anti-war movement testifies to this process.

In Australia the question of Indochina remains a central issue and should figure importantly in the forthcoming federal elections. Moreover, since remains a party to the brutality in Indochina, the issue should be treated as a high priority. Far from an issue to be evaded, a clear stance on the war and the National Service Act is essential.

From the beginning the Liberal-Country Party, the party of big business has shown whose side it stood on; that of the aggressor. Australia under LCP government has given and continues to give its imconditional support to the United States in its attempt to wipe Indochina off the face of the planet and hence will stand condemned by history. The present government committed ground forces as political gesture to the U.S. and drafted the sons of the Australian working class to participate in this war against

Although the combat forces are now withdrawn due to the pressure exerted by the antiwar movement and opposition Act still remains. At present something n Indochina and military, economic nd political assistance is afforded to he Thieu and Lon Nol regimes - including the training of Cambodian soldiers in Australia. The role assigned to Aust-

U.S. - has not changed one iota. A reprieve for the Liberals means a continuation of this policy.

Contrary to the present government the ALP is committed, by its conference decisions and the pressure of its mass base, to end Australia's participation in the war and to immediately repeal the National Service Act and release those imprisoned because of it. Further, Labor in the form of a resolution at its 1971 Federal Conference pledged its support to the antiwar movement and called for greater participation by its members in antiwar activity. Although in the main, Labor's activity in the movement has been a mere trifle ALP and union forces was significant, part- take a positive stand on the side of icularly in Melbourne, where the old Vic- the oppressed. The most prominent torian executive played a key role in the include: early years of the movement and its influence must be seen as one of the primary reasons for the ability of the antiwar movement in Victoria to mobilise over 100,000 people in the streets Australia through its continued complicity of Melbourne. The policy as elaborated by the ALP on the war and at the 1971

conference is in part: . . . . opposition to the war in Indo-China and Australia's participation in it. . . . An Australian Labor Government will stand ready to work with the Geneva participants on the UN or any other agency established for the purposes of rehabilitating and neutralising Indo-

and on the National Service Act:

"(a) A Labor Government will repeal the present National Service Act and annul its penal consequences.

(b) A Labor Government will grant full control. repatriation and rehabilitation to National Servicemen, and sympathetically investigate the possibility of compensating those who have suffered the penal consequences of the National Service

Although these policies are in many by a majority of the population, Australia places inadequate - for example leaving is still implicated and the National Service provision for later use of the National Service Act and being hesitant on total ike 200 Australian advisors are stationed self-determination for Indochina - they call for an end of the worst Liberal government policies and should be enacted without hesitation by a Labor government in full. A logical extrapolation of this action would be to create ralia from the beginning of its involve—
ment - that of a political support for the
and other alliances which are aimed at
the oppressed of the world and not
the interests of the big corporations.

keeping the underdeveloped countries of the Southeast Asia region under the control of those more developed. Although the present Labor leadership is unwilling to do this, it should nevertheless be fought for by socialists inside and outside the ALP. As the party of the Australian working class the ALP must not participate in arrangements which are devised for the continued exploitation and domination of workers and peasants in the colonial world. The ALP should be against any predatory activity of

In addition to this there are other burning questions on the international poltical scene on which the ALP needs to

Australian capitalism in the underdev-

eloped countries.

The Mideast: Recognising the right of the Palestinian people to the self determination denied them by the Zionist state of Israel which expelled them from their own country. Instead of the present policy of a "permanent settlement between the Arab states and Israel" the ALP should push for a secular democratic Palestine with full rights accorded to the Palestinian and Jewish peoples,

Niugini: An ALP government should grant immediate self-determination to Niugini. This however is not enough; steps must be taken to definitively end economic activity by Australian capitalism in Niugini, Self-determination means not only a "token" self-government as the ALP proposes, but real selfdetermination free from any foreign

Peoples' Republic of China: Immediate recognition of the Peoples' Republic of China as the only representative of the Chinese people. This the ALP intends to do.

No Foreign Bases: End any form of military alliance associated with SEATO, ANZUS etc. These bases are intended to strengthen economic exploitation of the underdeveloped countries of the region by military means. Indochina is the prime example of the nature of these installations.

These are but a few examples, but provide to the "great decade" of profits which the start of a foreign policy that aids

Under the increasing pressure of the international economic crisis in the capitalist world the Liberal/Country Party Coalition, the the parties of capitalism in Australia, must seek to force heavy anti-union legislation upon the labour movement in order to keep the working class docile and the profits of big business secure.

Attacks on the living conditions of Australian workers have been severe. Redundancies, unemployment, rising prices. low wage increases constituting a widening gap between real wages and the cost of living, productivity deals and the infamous Lynch Laws are the policies of the McMahon government, McMahon has sought to use arbitration as a weapon in the offensive against the rights and demands of the workers.

McMahon has vigorously attacked suggest. ions of a 35 hour week. The cry for a 35 hour week which has become a common demand in most unions' logs of claims is reaching to and gaining wider support in all sections of the working population, The McMahon government bitterly resists this attempt to reduce unemployment by sharing out the available work.

The Liberals have sought to defeat the working class through intimidatory tactics in the press and elsewhere. In order to turn back a rising tide of sympathy for striking unionists McMahon tries to gain political capital by blustering about the union ferocity. movement "blackmailing" the country in order to "force" their ideas upon Aust- The role of the ralians. In the SEC strike earlier this year severe power cuts were used as a weapon against the strikers when power from other sources was available, and large scale sackings due to the power restrictions were a cover for raising the towards the level of unemployment. But this political mem at the game has backfired and the Liberals are rank and file backpedalling in the face of widespread ist parties and

By Jim McIlroy

"8.2% Drop in the Jobless" trumpeted

the Melbourne "Herald" (October 16),

September. What that eminent mouth-

piece for big business gave rather less

emphasis to was the fact that, as Clyde

Cameron, Labor spokeman for industrial

September unemployment for 10 years,

On seasonally adjusted figures 118, 288

were out of work, a drop of only 1, 765

- an overall unemployment of 2, 10%,

"The economy is on the path of solid

growth towards the full employment

situation we demand of our economy.

The sixties was a great decade - the

seventies can be a greater decade."

No doubt this latter remark of the

Federal Treasurer Mr. Snedden referred

his friends in BHP, ICI, GMH etc. had

made and hope to continue to make.

For Australian workers the situation is

quite different. They are the ones who

are being thrown out of work en masse

forcing the workers and their families

as part of a ruling class strategy of

to bear the burden of the economic

recession. The employers and their

Liberal government are making a

concerted effort to attack living

affairs pointed out, it was the worst

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ALP & Inflation

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Chapter 6: From 1948 to 1968 (Cont'd)

pierre Frank's The Fourth International: A Contribution

to the History of the Trotskyist Movement completes the

second section of Chapter 6: "The Period of Splits in the

Crises and Regroupments (The Sixth World Congress)

International."

The 1953 split had brought the North American movements, among others, into conflict with the International. This resulted in a dangerous disequilibrium within the organization, where the Asian representation was relatively limited; where, as would later be realized, the Ceylonese section had started to degenerate; and where the European sections were working under increasingly unfavorable conditions, in an atmosphere of growing political apathy. The European sections were, of course, going to devote a large part of their activity to helping the Algerian revolution; but, as important as this activity was, it involved only a limited, often not very proletarian, group of people who were sympathetic to the colonial revolution but many of whom had defeatist feelings about a socialist revolution in advanced capitalist countries. There was a striking contrast between what was happening in the colonial countries and the almost complete political stagnation in Europe. In the colonial countries, even when the mass movement suffered defeat, it made a very quick recovery; the revolution was victorious in Black Africa in 1960; it was going to triumph as a socialist revolution in Cuba, in the very jaw of imperialism. In Europe, on the other hand, with the accession to power of de Gaulle in 1958, the proletariat was going to suffer its most severe defeat since the end of the war.

Another phenomenon of major importance also having repercussions in the Trotskylst movement was the Sino-Soviet dispute.

These events affected not only the Fourth International but also that part of the Trotskyist movement regrouped around the International Committee. There, too, various differentiations were taking place. Thus, through a process comprising both differentiating and regrouping, the reunification of the International was being readied. But meanwhile, prior to the Sixth Congress, a serious crisis began to ripen in the International.

Within the International's leadership, divergent points of view became evident, in the first place on tactical problems concerning the European sections that were devoting the major portion of their activity to helping colonial revolutions. Tendencies appeared that considered any effort by the European sections to deal with problems in their respective countries as of little or no value. These tendencies were a reflection in our movement of those currents that had lost all hope in the working class of the European countries; they had been seriously reinforced, especially in France, following de Gaulle's accession to power. The defeat had been a severe one for the working class: the Communist party had suffered its first big electoral defeat in the second half of 1958, losing a million and a half votes to de Gaulle. For some, aid to the colonial revolution was not a task whose importance was determined by the current political conjuncture, but rather the only thing possible, the proletarian revolution in Europe having been struck off the agenda for a very long period - if not forever.

In the leadership of the International, a kind of agreement took place at that time between Pablo and Posadas. They united against the "Europeans" and the members of the international leadership who did not want to abandon political activity within the European mass movement, even shough that movement was generally at a very low level of militancy. The early outlines of tendency formations appeared towards the end of 1959, when the International Executive Committee decided to convoke the next world congress. While the documents were in the course of preparation, comrades Pablo and Santen were imprisoned in Amsterdam and prosecuted for their aid to the Algerian revolution. The organization reacted to these arrests and waged a big campaign for the defense of its members, a campaign linked to the defense of the Algerian revolution.

The arrests gave Posadas the opportunity to launch a violent faction fight against the majority of the members of the international leadership. He mobilized all his forces in Latin America to obtain a majority at the congress. He pretended to be Pablo's spokesman, and it was at this time that his positions and his statements began to become more and more extravagant. So extreme was his behavior at the congress that a small group of comrades, forerunners of the Pablo tendency, disassociated themselves from Posadas despite sympathy for his positions. Defeated at the congress, Posadas pursued the struggle inside the International for a few months; then suddenly, shortly before Pablo was set free, he attacked the latter publicly in the Latin American organs available to him and broke with the International.

The Sixth Congress, held early in 1961, had a hundred participants from about thirty countries. Because of the fierce and bitter - and politically impoverished struggle waged by the Posadas faction, the discussions did not allow the International to make any real progress in its thinking; on several occasions it was necessary to refute rather primitive statements on the constant and uninterrupted rise of the revolution and the total inability of capitalism to take measures capable, not of braking the revolutionary thrust, but of containing it for a time.

(The following ninth installment of our translation of But the documents ratified by the congress were not without importance.

The document on the world economic situation noted the economic growth in the workers states, particularly China's appearance on the world scene as an industrial power. At the same time, the document refuted Khrushchev's claims, widely believed in that period, to the effect that the USSR would rapidly surpass the U.S. on the economic plane. As to the capitalist states, the document restated the explanations already supplied on the causes of the "boom" and expanded them in various areas, especially those related to the proliferation of technological innovation. The document further pointed out the possibilities and the limits of the European Common

Pablo, even denying that their faction was separate and distinct from his. Suddenly, after the congress and about two months before Pablo was released from Jail, Posadas unleashed a public attack in Latin America against him. Why this unexpected attack - an attack that surprised Pablo himself at the time it occurred? It soon became clear that even if they were in agreement against those they called the "Europeans," meaning Ernest Mandel, Livio Maitan, Pierre Frank, and subsequently the "North Americans," they were absolutely opposed to each other on the question of the Sino-Soviet dispute. This question affected the Trotskylst movement considerably, as well as the working-class and mass movements as a whole.

During 1959-60, when the Sino-Soviet conflict began to be publicly revealed as a conflict between two parties in which political differences were of prime importance, the International almost unanimously reacted by giving critical support to the Chinese, whose positions on a certain number of basic questions (colonial revolution, peaceful and parliamentary roads to socialism, peaceful coexistence) were progressive compared to those of the Soviet leadership. At the Sixth Congress, right after the conference of the eighty-one Communist and Workers parties at which the Chinese and Soviet leaderships had arrived at a compromise, the International was unanimous in its analysis of the Sino-Soviet dispute. In a letter to the congress, Pablo wrote from his prison cell:

"Independently of the inevitable ups and downs of this crisis - the Sino-Soviet dispute - and independently of the possible smoothing over of differences, the break between the correctly characterized opportunistic right wing | the Soviet leadership] and the centrist-leaning wing [the Chinese can be considered deep and lasting."

But towards the middle of 1961, differing opinions on the Sino-Soviet dispute appeared in the International, After having broken with the International, Posadas not only identified his positions almost completely with those of the Chinese, but even declared that he had inspired them. It is common knowledge that Moscow, by distorting certain of Mao Tse-tung's statements on atomic weapons, made every effort to accuse him, falsely, of wanting nuclear war. But Posadas had no qualms about pushing matters to extreme absurdity, claiming it was necessary for the USSR to launch a preventive nuclear war to assure the triumph of the world revolution. He also picked up the Chinese attacks against Castro and even added to them.29 While the great majority within the International upheld its positions, Pablo completely reversed his viewpoint. He identified the Chinese positions with Stalinism, and gave almost uncritical support to Khrushchev and especially the Yugoslavs.

## COLUBIBATION THE LO KROLEM PIEBBE FRANK

A history of the Fourth International must, of course, include the history of the organizations comprising the International Committee and that of the International Committee itself. On this, we apologize for not being able to supply more than brief notes. The primary difficulty stems from the fact that the International Committee really functioned not as a centralized organization but as a faction with loose ties among its members. According to information supplied by comrades who took part in the International Committee, there were few international meetings of the committee, political positions often being formulated, in the form of documents from national sections, after exchanges of views between the committee's sections. Consequently, after reviewing the conditions mentioned earlier under which the International Committee was formed, we shall deal here with the circumstances that brought it to reunification.

The International Committee

We had said that originally there were political differences, particularly in connection with evaluating the meaning of "de-Stalinization" when that process began. There were also suspicions about the role of the international center in the crisis that divided the Socialist Workers party in the United States in 1953. For various reasons there had been no clarification of this subject. For some years these suspicions, aimed at Pablo in particular, were a serious obstacle to any rapprochement. But beginning in 1956, the Twentieth Congress and the Sino-Soviet dispute brought the positions of the two groups closer on the question of the crisis of Stalinism.

Moreover, on the problems of the colonial revolution, members and sympathizers of the International Committee, especially those in North America and Latin America, underwent an experience with the Cuban revolution that was in many respects similar to the Fourth International's experience with the Algerian revolution.

In the International Committee, too, while the majority adopted positions converging with those of the majority of the International, there was a minority that was to hold differing and clearly opposed positions. This led to a split in the International Committee when the reunification took place. That committee's British and French groups, the Socialist Labour League (SLL) and the Organisation Communiste Internationaliste (OCI) respectively, while not holding identical positions on all questions, nevertheless agreed to reject the above-mentioned points of view and adopted ultraleft positions.

For them the colonial revolution does not exist. Colonial countries are capitalist countries - which is true - and consequently, according to them, without a really proletarian leadership, revolutionary-Marxist to boot, there can be no socialist revolution in these countries, (CONTINUED ON PAGE 14)

29. We shall limit ourselves here to the political positions found under Posadas' signature, gladly leaving aside an aspect of his prose developed after his break with the Fourth Internationa wherein he extols-with the utmost solemnity-the cult of his own personality. No one else could come anywhere near his skill

## Labor's Stand on Black Rights

## By Steve Painter

For the past twenty-three years black people in Australia have suffered under the racist rule of the Liberal-Country Party Coalition (LCP). Black people have been denied access to adequate health, housing and education facilities, they have effectively been denied the right to equal pay in the pastoral industry, their requests for recognition of their rights to own land on which they have lived for centuries have been contemptuously brushed aside by the big mineral and try Party, In every sphere of life black people have suffered discrimination and degradation at the hands of the Liberals and the Country Party.

The LCP has served up policies which, though watered down, derive directly rom the more overtly genocidal attitudes The Labor Party must recognise the and policies of the nineteenth century, The Australian capitalist class can no onger get away with trying to wipe out the aborigines through open campaigns of extermination, so they attempt to achieve the same end by forcing black people to live under conditions which give them one of the highest infant mortality rates in the world. In the northern and western areas of Australia one hundred the inclusion of black studies courses in out of every thousand black babies die in education curricula. Labor must reject their first year of life. (The rate for the babies.) Black people as a whole also suffer more from diseases than any other section of the population. The Liberals know that such conditions exist, yet they emments. At present the Queensland take no action. The policies of the Liberals can only be described as genocidal - they are aimed at decimating the

maintain their identity as a people.

no longer exist in sufficient numbers to

#### WHAT SHOULD LABOR DO?

The Labor Party does not have a good history in its dealings with the aborigines. Over a long period of time it has failed to respond to the needs of black people. For this reason black people, who represent the most downtrodden and exploited layer of the working people in this country, have never looked to Labor as pastoral interests which control the Coun- their party and in some areas during the coming elections Labor candidates find themselves opposed by black candidates. There is no clearer example of the way in which racism divides the working class, leaving the way open for the capitalist system to exploit the divisions.

role of racism in capitalist society and work to overcome the divisions which it perpetuates. It can do this by taking up the demands of the black movement, the demands for land rights, for adequate housing, health and education facilities, for the right to employment, the right to equal pay, for an end to victimisation of black people by the police and for pressure from the big pastoral and mining hole population is 18 deaths per thousand interests and grant land rights to black people. It must abolish all racist legislation and make racial discrimination illegal for any body, including state govgovernment refuses to repeal its Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders Act under which black people can be deprived of black population to the point where blacks all rights for trivial misdemeanours,

The New South Wales government is victimising a community of black people This is what the Liberals call "assimilat- at Woodenbong in northern NSW because they are unable to keep up their rent payments to the government's housing commission.

Labor must recognise that as the party of the working class it must represent all sections of that class. By neglecting the black people it is allowing divisions to be perpetuated. Only by taking up the demands of the black movement can Labor begin to undo the consequences of almost two centuries of genocide against Australian working class family is thus the aborigines.

standards at all levels as well as to destroy the power of the trade unions.

In a period when wages are falling relatively (9% increase in 1972 compared to 12% in 1971), the cost of living rose 1.4% in the September quarter, slightly lower than 1971 but more than twice that rate in September 1968, 1969 and 1970. Price rises were most heavy in the food sector. Every

affected. This gives the lie to the

Market, which was then becoming operative. As to the colonial countries, the document stressed their economic stagnation, if not headlong regression, and stated that economic aid - whether from capitalist or workers states would be insufficient to ameliorate this state of affairs and thus would not vitiate the objective causes giving powerful impetus to the colonial revolution.

The document on the colonial revolution made a special study of the situation in a certain number of colonial zones or colonial countries. A great deal of space was allotted to the Algerian revolution, whose conquest of independence for the country, already discernible, loomed on the horizon. A special resolution was devoted to Cuba, retracing the revolutionary process that had culminated only a short time before in making the island a workers state, the first in the western hemisphere.

A document on Stalinism noted the "reformist" character of the period that had followed the 1953-57 unrest, and the new contradictions that were beginning to take shape in the workers states. The document also made a study of the new contradictions to which the Communist parties were subject. It pointed out the compromise between the Chinese and Soviet leaderships embodied in the text adopted several weeks earlier by the Moscow Conference of eighty-one Communist and Workers parties, and concluded that this compromise could not be a lasting one, that the Sino-Soviet crisis would inevitably erupt again.

This was the first congress since 1948 at which the Lanka Sama Samaja party (Ceylonese section of the Fourth International) was not represented, and its absence was of great concern to the congress. The LSSP had suffered an electoral defeat in March 1960, completely dashing the optimistic prospects it had envisaged and had led the International to share. Instead of moving on to a thorough examination of the causes for this error in analysis and perspective, as the International - in its internal documents addressed to the LSSP-attempted to have it do, the leadership of the LSSP had adopted a clearly opportunistic line that the International could not approve. In a public declaration, the Secretariat of the International had disassociated itself from the LSSP's line. The Sixth Congress adopted a resolution, which it made public, disapproving the policy followed by the LSSP after the latter's electoral defeat. The resolution especially criticized the LSSP's vote in favor of the budget of the Sri Lanka Freedom party bourgeois government, and called on the Ceylonese party to correct its

Posadas and his faction (which kept losing ground in Latin America) noisily proclaimed that they supported

# THE WORLD REVOLUTION British Trade Union Congress Meets

The way British trade unionists are to fight the Industrial Relations Act was at the top of the agenda of this year's Trades Union Congress - one of the most turbulent in the TUC's 104 year history.

On the first day at Brighton the delegates voted overwhelmingly to suspend 32 unions that have thus far defied the TUC's instructions to withdraw from the government's register of trade unions. The 32 have a combined membership of nearly 500,000 - about 5% of the TUC's total membership.

The September 4 suspension means the loss of the TUC's facilities and the protection of the "Bridlington agreement" banning inter-union poaching of members,

The suspension of 32 unions needs to be seen in the context of the struggle against the Industrial Relations Act. This has been mounting in the past 18 months, culminating in July in a strike of 170,000 dockworkers that won release for five imprisoned members of the union.

Without a fight over registration, opposition to the Act undoubtedly would have collapsed. But the question remains as to how well the TUC's General Council is giving leadership in this struggle.

A resolution calling for "solidarity" including industrial action, against the Act was defeated 5, 677, 000 to 3, 479, 000 despite support by at least two very large

The congress adopted the ambiguous economic policy recommendation of the General Council which simultaneously was critical of the government but conciliatory towards efforts to negotiate a wages policy. While "rejecting wage restraints in one form", the congress left the door open for continued tripartite

talks on curbing inflation with senior ministers and the Confederation of British Industries, However, in view of the government's poor economic record over the past year, which spelt increasing hardship for most workers, an intransigent approach toward the Tory government would have been appropriate.

The moderate line of the General Coun-

at the congress. But the mood of the delegates as a whole was one of militancy and great determination to bring down the present Tory government and repeal its Industrial Relations Act. This reflected the defeats suffered by the government at the hands of the miners, railwaymen and dockers in the previous

against the Industrial Relations Act was not ruled out definitively by the victory of the moderates at the 1972 TUC.

The coming year in fact, may well see major encounters between the government and the organised trade union movement - not only in the courts.

## Norway, Denmark & EEC

Market forces (63.5% in favour, 36.5% against), the Danish government will have to follow up promises made to the population on condition that the country joined the Common Market. If the promises are not made good then there remains a danger to the government of deep divisions in the country, and union

Supporters of Market entry included some powerful forces - among them the ruling Social Democratic Party and the three bourgeois parties that constituted the previous government - known as the VKR bloc for their initials (Venstre-Konservative-Radikale - Liberals/ Conservatives/Radical Left). They had the backing of 80% of the newspapers and received huge amounts of money, much of it from a series of big banks and businesses that made no effort to hide their generosity. They tended to play down the political implications of the Market's growth fixation and focused on economic aspects.

Anti-Market forces found themselves

Following the victory of the pro-Common virtually shut out of radio and television, since the air waves were reserved exclusively for the parties represented in the Folketing, and those with enough members to be officially recognised.

> Camille Olsen, reporting in the Paris daily'Le Monde'notes: "These disparities have not failed to make an impact on the public as a whole. Little by little, the battle around the referendum has, for many, taken on the look of a battle of the poor against the rich, of the weak against the strong, of the silent and stifled majority against the powers that be. The scars of this situation will inevitably be left when it is all over".

> It would be wrong to deduce from the vote that the opposition forces, led by the People's Movement Against the EEC, with its more than 90 member organisations did not pack a punch. The fact that it did can be seen in the demonstration of more than 100, 000 persons that it organised in Copenhagen the day before the vote, together with the Social Democrats Against the EEC - the largest political demonstration in nearly two

napping. He is known throughout Latin

America for his investigation of torture

and murder practiced by the police and

7. The other defendants are Giomar de

Klachko (facing a death sentence), Carlos

Ponce de Leon, Angel Averame, Elena da

Silva, Liliana Montenaro, Marta Brego,

day before Sallustro was killed, and it is

obvious that they could not have been

involved in the decisions that led to his

death. One of these, however, the youth

Osvaldo de Benedetti, is being mentioned

as the most likely candidate for a death

5. All of the accused have been savagely

ing from constant hallucinations, but has

The Danish vote will undoubtedly create new problems for Norway. Many anti-Market people there had been hoping for a revival of plans for a Nordic economic union as an alternative to the Common Market, but this now seems unlikely, at least in the foreseeable future.

Meanwhile the result of Norway's referendum on entry to the Common Market was a decisive "no" vote. Although the vote was only advisory, the Labour and Conservative parties - which both supported entry - pledged to abide by it.

Out of a population of 3, 900, 000, some 200, 000 activists on both sides of the question were mobilised during the first days of the campaign to ring doorbells and buttonhole neighbours, reported "New York Times" correspondent Michael Stern from Oslo on September 22. 'Arguments for and against the Market dominate broadcasting, fill the news columns of the newspapers and seem to be the only thing people want to talk about", he wrote.

The main anti-Market group was Folkebevegelsen mot EF (Peoples' Movement Against the European Common Market). These anti-Market forces comrised a varied collection of groups that had never before found common cause, They included farmers, fishermen - right through to the ecology minded, radical youth, pan-Scandinavians, left wing trade unionists, conservative Lutherans and conservative nationalists.

Arrayed against the Folkebevegelsen was virtually the entire Norwegian establishment. In addition to the two major parties, the pro-Market forces included the official trade union leadership (who provided 30,000 door-to-door canvassen), Silvia Urdampilleta, Mirta de Menajovsky, the death penalty, Jose Beristain, is suffer- Eduardo Menajovsky, and Lucrecia Cuesta big and small businessmen, much of the civil service, the state television, the Federation of Norwegian Industries, bankers, financiers, and 90% of the 200

> The vote also created a political crisis in Norway, where the Labor government had said it would resign if the vote was negative. Government leader Frygve Bratteli has since indicated that his government would do so on October 6, Since neither Labor nor Conservatives will participate in an anti-Market government it will probably be up to the Centre Party which opposed entry to attempt to form a new coalition government with other minority parties, Constitutionally however, this could not occur until September 1973.

In any event the coming year is likely to be one of intense political activity in Norway leading up to the elections. The referendum results will have a direct effect on Norway's membership in NATO, economic relationships between the Scandinavian countries and also relationships with Britain, which had been counting on Norway as a market ally.

15 on Trial in Argentina just five days before the trial begins. 6. One of the accused, the young journalist Andres Alsina, denies being a member of the ERP or taking any part in the kid-4. Seven of the prisoners were arrested a

Trial has been set for fifteen persons in Argentina accused of responsibility for the death of Oberdan Sallustro, the manager of a FIAT factory in Buenos Aires, who was kidnapped by guerrillas on March 21 and held for ransom under threat of

The Argentine dictatorship blames his death on the ERP (Ejercito Revolucionario del Pueblo - Peoples' Revolutionary Army) but the blame rests primarily on the government which broke up the negot- tortured. One of those who may receive iations between the ERP and FIAT. The police broke into the house where the guerrillas were holding Sallustro. During gotten no medical attention. the shoot-out the FIAT executive was killed. It is uncertain whether the bullets that killed Sallustro were fired by the police or his captors.

Well-informed circles in Argentina are of the opinion that the tribunal that is sitting on the Sallustro case may hand down at least three death sentences.

The Comite de Defensa de los Presos Politicos Argentinos (Committee to Defend the Argentine Political Prisoners) issued a statement in Paris October 3 bringing out the following facts: 1. The judges sitting on the Camara Federal en lo Penal (Federal Criminal Court) trying the Sallustro case were all appointed by the dictatorship. This body thus constitutes a special tribunal, expressly forbidden by the Argentine constitution of 1853, which has not been repealed by the military government and thus remains

2. Article 18 of the constitution says categorically: "The death penalty is banned henceforth for political crimes." The laws under which the defendants in this case are being tried were decreed by the dictatorship; they were not passed by the congress, which alone has the power to legislate.

3. The military government and the special tribunals created by it have violated the prisoners' right of legal defense by shipping them to a jail 1,500 kilometres from the site of the hearings, thus making it difficult for them to communicate with their lawyers, who will get to see the brief of the prosecution (fifteen volumes containing almost 5,000 pages)

These captives were massacred by the Argentinian regime at Trelew in August.

## **USSR: Illegal Journal Persists** The twenty sixth issue of the "Chronicle

of Current Events" has appeared. This, the unofficial human rights journal, which circulates in the USSR in typed or handwritten copies, has for the fourth time in half a year defied the attempt of the very highest level of the Soviet bureaucracy to wipe it out.

According to the Soviet dissidents, the

Soviet Party's Central Committee voted last December 30 that the "Chronicle" and a similar journal of the Ukrainian dissident movement "Ukrainsky Uysuyk", should be suppressed. The "Chronicle" had appeared regularly, roughly every two months since April 1968. It had become the chief source of generally reliable, unbiased information about the Soviet dissident movement, in all

its various manifestations, Beginning in early January, the KGB (secret police) began a wave of arrests, searches, and interrogations. Scores of people have been victimised in these ways in connection with "Case 24", involving those suspected of preparing or circulating the "Chronicle" As late as May 6, the KGB searched the homes of 16 dissidents in connection with "Case 24"

## Mandel Answers Newsweek on Terrorism

dated September 14 sent by Ernest Mandel from Brussels to the editors of "Newsweek" in New York, protesting their publication of lies about him and the Fourth International. For more details about the "Newsweek" article see "The Aftermath of Munich" and "Trotsky's Views on Terrorism" in DIRECT ACTION No. 28 (pages 8 & 9)

In your Sept. 18, 1972, issue you devote two whole paragraphs on page 34 to the movement I am part of, the Fourth International, and to myself. The only trouble with these paragraphs is that they do not contain a single word of

The Fourth International was not founded two years ago in Brussels, but thirtyfour years ago in Paris. It is not a terrorist organization but has always rejected the philosophy and methods of terrorism, opposed to the Marxist principles it stands for. The Brussels conference issued no call to "shoot" on any scale, More modestly, it tried to coordinate the struggle of radical workers, students and intellectuals against the take-over of Europe by a few hundred multi-national corporations, either American or European. The call it issued was for a Socialist United States of Europe, based upon social ownership of the means of production administered not by any top-heavy bureaucracy or state apparatus, but by democratically elected councils of producers, under a multiparty

The sentence you attribute to me, reproduced between quotation marks, was never spoken by me, neither at that conference nor anywhere else. On the contrary, foreseeing this type of misrepresentation, I explicitly stated in my conference report that we do not fight by means of dynamite, bombs or the like.

Your attempt to picture us as a "Terrorist International" can therefore only be characterized as a total distortion of the truth.

Equally scandalous is the assertion that "Trotskyites see themselve's as the catalysts provoking governments into ever believe, will encourage fascism and, in turn, produce more radical fanatics and more cracks in established society.

Anybody doing his elementary homework before writing an article could easily have found out that one of the great intellectual and political achieve-

ments of Leon Trotsky was that he understood - nearly alone - as early as 1930 the mortal threat fascism represented to the German people. He desperately sought to unite Communists, Social Democrats, and unionists by the millions - and not just a few "fanatics" - to prevent a fascist take-over of that key country. His followers ever since have acted in the same spirit, and are rightly considered by fascists the world over as their most implacable enemies. To accuse such a movement of deliberately wanting to "provoke" the development of fascism is again a complete and

It is true that in addition to its abovementioned basic goals, the Fourth spirit of solidarity with all victims of oppression and exploitation and exploitation, popular mass resistance movements against oppressors, even if the rulers of these countries leave them no other avenue open for struggle but armed struggle. A similar position of support to such movements, e.g., in

the Portuguese colonies, has recently been adopted by the World Council of Churches and the Swedish Social Democracy. You don't taint them with the brush of being "terrorist organizations" for that support. There is no reason to taint us with that brush either.

As a matter of fact, even the editors of "Newsweek" fully identify with at least one armed resistance movement against oppression, called the American War of Independence. Have they therefore adopted the philosophy of terrorism? It would also be interesting to know how they characterize the resistance movements which sprang up all through Europe against Nazi oppression, e.g., the Warsaw ghetto uprising. To my ment which slandered these heroes as being "bandits" and "criminals": the movement of Hitler and his henchmen.

Nobody should be surprised that terrorists who happen to wield state power and, in that position, pursue their political goals by murdering thousands

of innocent people - Hitler was only the most extreme example of them, and by no means the only one - call their opponents "criminal terrorists." The political function of this linguistic trick is obviously to facilitate and justify in advance mass repression, mass persecution, mass torture and, if necessary, mass killing of political opponents.

In the 1870s, an obscure terrorist made an attempt upon the life of the German Emperor William I; Bismark used the occasion to outlaw the Social Democracy for fifteen years. In 1934, the no less obscure Nikolaev murdered the local boss of Leningrad, Kirov; Stalin used that occasion to arrest, and subsequently murder, practically all his political opponents in the Communist movement of the USSR. Neither the German Social Democrats nor the Soviet Trotskyists had actually committed a single act of violence against the regimes of Emperor William I or Joseph Stalin. They were convinced that they could best further their goals under the circumstances through mass education, mass organization, and mass struggle of the working class. This, those terrorist rulers feared much more than desperate and inefficient acts of individual terrorism. Therefore they used the first occasion to suppress these political opposition movements under the pretext of "fighting terrorism."

Today, especially since May 1968, the Fourth International enjoys growing influence among revolutionary youth and workers in many countries. It tries to centralize their generous efforts at social change towards concrete and realizable political goals. This is seen by the rulers as a threat against their rule. So they attempt to organize a growing repression against us. For that purpose, a frameup on the occasion of some terrorist incident is a welcome

Police informers and other professionals in the noble art of curtailing freedom of thought, speech, organization, and travel the world over are experts in this type of frame-up. They cannot understand this simple truth: that society can only be changed through the efforts of millions, of broad social forces, and ists the wish to "conspire" and to build socialism without the conscious resolution of the majority of the toilers. This is typical of the police or James Bondtype mind. But it is a disgrace to free journalism that newspapermen cooperate in such endeavors, deliberately or through sheer ignorance.

Letter Bombs Return to Sender

unadulterated lie.

disillusionment, especially amongst student youth, with George McGovern's presidential campaign.

McGovern's self-contradiction and backtracking to more right wing positions is reflected in his latest stances taken toward some of the major questions facing American people today.

For example, on the Vietnam war, in an effort to get Lyndon Johnson's endorsement, McGovern has become an apologist for Johnson in his past actions

Much has been made in the news media

about the death of one Israeli diplomat

in London from a letter bomb on Sept-

ember 19. Fifty-one additional letter

sent to Israeli diplomats around the world.

The mail bombs have been widely cited

mentality of Palestinian Arab liberation

An expose in the London "Sunday Times"

mail bombs had long been utilised by the

of September 24 explains however, that

Stern Gang and the Irgun Zvai Leumi,

two right-wing Zionist organisations, as

well as by the Israeli government itself.

killed by such a bomb, with the head of

Israeli security implicated in the operat-

ion. In 1967 two more Egyptian officials

were killed by book bombs. In July of

1972, says the "Sunday Times", the

Israelis sent ten letter bombs to Palest-

inian and other Arab guerrilla leaders in

In 1963 four Egyptian technicians were

bombs were discovered that had been

in the media as proof of the criminal

fighters.

On military spending, McGovern's original proposed cut of \$30 billion has gradually diminished to the point where no specific figure is now mentioned. On presenting latest proposals, McGovern's "national security" advisors stated that it would "keep American military strength second to none".

In the wake of the Munich kidnappings his voice was in the forefront of the reactionary chorus, condemning in blanket fashion all Palestinian liberat-

The "Sunday Times" exposé also raises

letter bombs to the Palestinian organisat-

the questions it raises is this: "In a tech-

nically first class operation, it seems an

oddly erratic means for Black September

to choose to inform the world of its

rate in the blast?"

nam."

'triumph'. Why put the leaflets inside

letters which hopefully, would disinteg-

Technique alone, of course, is insuffic-

ient. Real explosives must be used if a

letter bomb is to pass from theory to prac-

tice. In this connection, there is a foot-

note to the whole affair. The September

21 "New York Times" reports the follow-

ing item : "United Press International

quoted Scotland Yard as saying that the

explosion that killed Dr. Ami Shachori.

was probably caused by an American-

made explosive that had been dumped

into Communist-controlled areas of Viet-

ion Black September, despite the leaflets

questions about attributing the recent

signed "Black September" found in

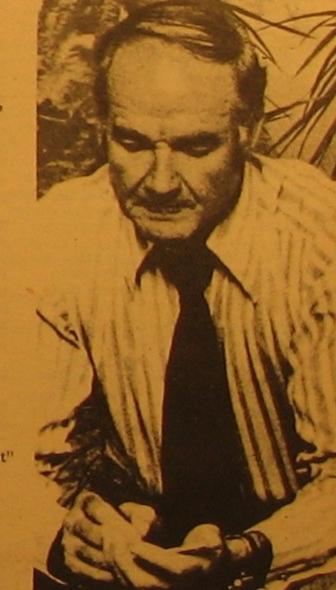
Regarding his attitude to unemployment, McGovern has announced that his goal is to reduce unemployment rolls to four million. Apparently he thinks that this is the best that can be done under the capitalist system - four million working people and their families condemned to the misery and indignity of unemployment!

The abortion issue also rates similar treatment from McGovern. The September 25"New York Times" reported on a speech by McGovern in South Dakota in which he declared that "Mr. Nixon and I would do precisely the same" on the abortion issue, "and that's exactly nothing" to change the state anti-abortion laws.

Caroline Lund, writing in the US revolutionary socialist weekly "The Militant" several unexploded envelopes. Among the sums up as follows:

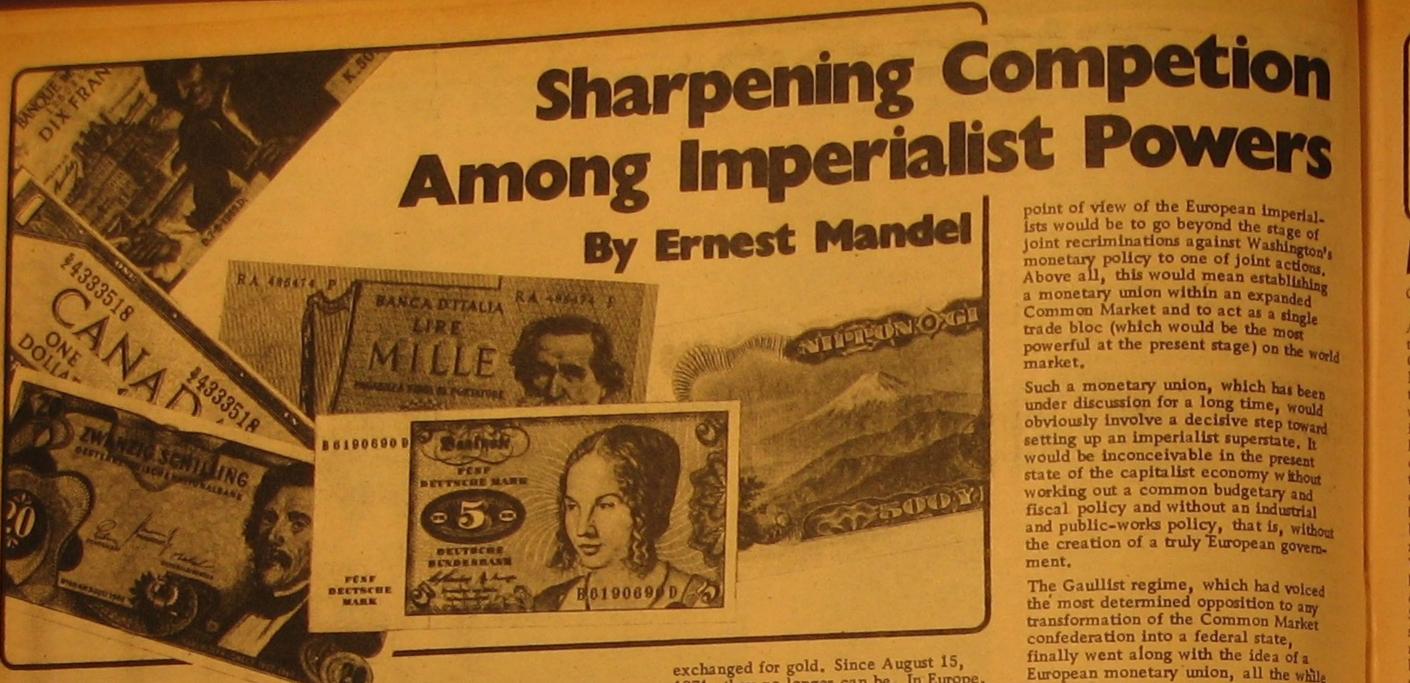
While young people are being turned off by McGovern's dishonesty and vacillation, sections of the ruling class are beginning to come to the conclusion that he might be their best bet after all. On September 28 McGovern won the editorial endorsement of the "New York Times"which has wide influence in business and financial circles and among pro-capitalist political figures. This mouthpiece for a section of the ruling class sees that McGovern is indeed no "radical", but that his radical sounding verbiage and promises (which can later be retracted) can be useful in lulling popular discontent and in co-opting the antiwar movement and other struggles for social change.

"A reporter for 'U. S. News and World Report' Pulley of the Socialist Workers Party"



asked a Democratic Party 'strategist' whether it wasn't dangerous for McGovern to risk alienating his young supporters by retreating on too many issues. The answer was 'Where can they go?'.

But young people, working people, women, blacks and others do have an alternative to supporting McGovern and Sargent Shriver. They can have far more impact if they work for, and cast a vote for, Linda Jenness and Andrew



Since Nixon's speech on August 15, 1971, the forms of interimperialist competition have taken a spectacular turn. What was only hinted at before is now proclaimed in a loud voice. Occasionally, insults are again even being heard in fashionable

The background to this is the general slowdown in economic growth, the staggering decline in the rate of profit in countries like Great Britain, Italy, and Japan, and the series of recessions that have followed one another. Hardly has the recession in the American and West German economies ended than a new one is appearing in Great Britain, and the outlook is becoming gloomier in France as well.

This intensification of the economic difficulties of international capital is going hand in hand with a serious crisis of political leadership in the bourgeoisie (it is symbolic that three or four Common Market countries will be having legislative elections in the near future) and sharp social struggles in many places. As a result, "sacrosanct self-interest" is more than ever on the agenda.

#### THE MARKETS IN EASTERN EUROPE

The American imperialists, who are very worried over the U.S. deficit, attempted to bring things back into balance through a de facto devaluation of the dollar. They counted on this move making their goods, which were now cheaper, sell better, especially in Western Europe and Japan. This was one of the main goals of Washington's diktat of August 15, 1971.

One year later, they are still wide of the mark. In spite of the fact that exchange rates were adjusted to the advantage of United States trade, the rate of increase in American exports lags behind that of imports. The continued inflation of the dollar obviously has something to do

This is why Yankee imperialism has changed weapons. It no longer hopes to increase all of its exports whatever their category; it aims rather to fill two gaps that have gradually developed over the past decade in its competitive arsenal: the gaining of a virtual monopoly over the markets of the noncapitalist countries BICKERING OVER MONETARY POLICY by its main competitors; the loss of its own monopoly over the market for public supplies (aviation, weapons) in Japan and Western Europe.

A full-scale American offensive on these two fronts began with the conference between Nixon and the new Japanese prime minister, Tanaka, in Honolulu and Kissinger's trips to Peking and Moscow. with the United States have built up The Japanese purchases of Yankee military equipment and aeroplanes, the Chinese purchases of Boeing jets, and

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11)

only betrayal of the mass movements. The SLL and the OCI have a limited understanding of the peasantry in these countries, identifying it with the relatively well-off peasantry in Western Europe. Although claiming to adhere to Trotskyism, they do not understand the permanent char- a leader of the same stripe as Batista and Chiang Kaiacter of the revolution in these countries. When the revolution triumphed in Cuba, they refused to recognize it. A declaration of the National Committee of the SLL states that in Cuba there has been " a political revolution that has transferred power from the hands of one bourgeois class to another sector of that same class. . . . Thus we pitulation" to Stalinism. They are incapable of differ-

the Soviet purchases of American wheat will contribute toward correcting the American balance of trade during the coming year. An offensive in the export of planes and American military equipment to Western Europe will undoubtedly also develop on a large scale during the months to come.

These gains were certainly not made without favors being handed out in return. Nixon had to give Japanese imperialism permission to officially reestablish links with Peking, to the disadvantage not only of Chiang Kaishek, but even of American exports of industrial goods, steel goods, vehicles, and petrochemical products.

Nixon will be led to grant sizable credits to the Soviet bureaucracy, since the USSR's present level of gold production is hardly adequate to pay for the anticipated purchases of American products. The exchange of Soviet natural gas for American industrial goods requires a new expansion of Soviet industry in Siberia - to which Yankee credits will undoubtedly contribute (this market has been taken away from the Japanese competitors though they do not yet admit defeat). Aside from the already familiar diplomatic concessions made to the Chinese bureaucracy, the end of the blockade offers trade advantages as well, although more modest than those promised

On the whole, it is the European imperialists who risk being the losers after all these manoeuvres. Not only will their up to now privileged outlets in the USSR, Eastern Europe, and China be sharply cut into, but Japanese products - whose swelling amount in the United States Washington wants to restrict - will begin increasingly to compete with European products in European markets themselves.

This is why West German imperialism, not wishing to fall behind Washington and Tokyo, is rushing in its turn to Peking. This is the very meaning - at least on an economic level - of Willy Brandt's "Ostpolitik", which has been approved by the great majority of the German bourgeoisie.

On the monetary plane, there remains a deepgoing antagonism between the "bloc" of European imperialisms (including, this time around, Great Britain) and American imperialism.

All the imperialist countries that have a surplus in their balance of payments sizable amounts of depreciated dollars over the past few years. After 1969, these dollars were, in fact, no longer

1971, they no longer can be. In Europe, voices are more and more insisting that this cannot go on.

Indeed, in an economic system of international trade, no owner of goods or credit can be forced in the long run to accept a currency he no longer wants as a means of payment and exchange. The present system cannot last. It has already set off an unbridled speculation in gold, the price of which has reached \$65 - \$70 an ounce on the free market, as against the "official" price of \$38 between central banks. At last Gresham's law begins to take effect on an international scale. Bad money drives good money out of circulation. Even between European countries and with Japan, no country any longer wants to pay off its debts in gold. While they wait until they can exchange their dollar holdings, the European and Japanese bourgeoisies use them to buy up government stocks and property in the United States, that is, to appropriate part of the surplus value produced by the American proletariat.

Therefore, the imperialists are attempting to reorganize the world monetary system. But in the economic climate described above, these efforts are subject to two very contradictory restrictions. All the imperialist powers would like to avoid a shrinking of world trade. At the same time, each has to prevent a readjustment of the monetary system from resulting in a worsening of its own competitive position.

Let's just take one example. British imperialism has already lost the competitive advantage it gained by devaluing the pound sterling in 1969. Therefore it hangs onto the system of floating exchange rates, that is, onto its hope for a new devaluation (whether open or camouflaged), in order to preserve a small safety valve for an increasingly explosive social and political crisis,

But its partners and competitors, who were ready to go along with this mechanism in 1969, are more and more balking at seeing it become institutionalised. so to speak. While the English capitalists can obtain certain trade advantages by following the American example and altering the exchange rate for the pound, the Germans are refusing to pick up the tab the next time around. The industrialists on the other side of the Rhine are announcing that they would no longer be able to conserve their outlets if their products are constantly going to get more expensive as a result of changes in the rate of exchange. This is one of the reasons why Schiller was removed as the West German finance minister, since he insisted on defending a system of floating exchange rates.

COMPETITION AND POLITICAL POWER

gime has not created a new type of state," qualitatively

different from the Batista regime. Even now, at this date,

the SLL still considers Cuba a bourgeois state, and Castro

As to de-Stalinization, these groups almost completely

deny the processes that have taken place in the Soviet

Union since Stalin's death. They consider that acknowl-

edging the existence of liberalization measures is a "ca-

capitalist groups in Germany and The most effective solution from the Great Britain to change, Cárdenas, Perón, Ben Bella - and Castro." "Castro's re-

have kemal Ataturk, Chiang Kai-shek, Nasser, Nehru, entiating between the "liberalization" that has taken plant of the control to a certain degree and "democratization" - which does

Common Market.

In fact, in their eyes no profound changes have curred in the world since 1938, when the Fourth International was founded and the Transitional Program adopte They hold on to every letter of it in an extremely rigid fashion, and denounce as capitulators those Trotskyish who have tried to understand the new conditions of ou times and to define a revolutionary-Marxist policy appro priate to these new conditions.

[To be continued]

## LETERS TO THE EDITOR

## ANTIWAR ACTION

In recent issues of "Direct

Above all, this would mean establishing

a monetary union within an expanded

Common Market and to act as a single

powerful at the present stage) on the world

Such a monetary union, which has been

under discussion for a long time, would

obviously involve a decisive step toward

setting up an imperialist superstate. It

would be inconceivable in the present

state of the capitalist economy without

working out a common budgetary and

fiscal policy and without an industrial

ment.

that this implied.

and public-works policy, that is, without

the creation of a truly European govern-

The Gaullist regime, which had voiced

the most determined opposition to any

transformation of the Common Market

finally went along with the idea of a

European monetary union, all the while

holding back from accepting everything

The European summit conference, which

is to take place in Paris October 19-20.

had as its central goal the laying of the

groundwork for this new stage in the

If Pompidou seemed to suddenly switch

on this during the past few weeks, it's

Europeans" in power in other capitals -

Bonn in particular - are no longer ready

to take effective action along this path.

The fact that the enthusiasm of German

imperialism for Europe has chilled is by

and large a response to two immediate

afraid that a monetary union put together

without guarantees that basically unstable

economies like those of Great Britain and

Italy first restore their economic health

(and the least tremor is apt to put the

French economy in the same category)

would mean that the German bourgeoisie

picking up the pieces. In its opinion, it's

On the other hand, the immediate result

monetary union would be a sharp clash

with American imperialism. And Amer-

that it can rely on for blackmail: the

withdrawal of some of its troops from

Because of the uneven development der-

iving from expansion of West German

imperialism's economic and financial

power and restriction of its military

capacities, such a clash strikes the

risky. Beforehand, France should be

bourgeoisie for the moment as being too

brought back into NATO, and an indep-

endent nuclear capacity for Europe should

be created; in short, it must have a min-

imum of military strength on its own.

While the Common Market government

have decided in the final analysis to go

ahead with the European summit confe-

ence in Paris in spite of everything, it

is for reasons of prestige and internal

politics rather than out of hopes for

immediate progress on the road to integ-

ration. The furthest they will get is a

modest "European monetary fund" des-

in the reciprocal balance of payments

For the moment, the big manoeuvres

against any substantial strengthening

in interimperialist competition militate

of the Common Market. A new stage B

and a new hardening of the American

necessary for the tactic of the leading

counteroffensive in trade would be

the European interpenetration of capital,

between the countries that belong to the

igned to reduce somewhat the inequalities

Meanwhile, the word is prudence.

ican imperialism has a top-notch weapon

of a decisive step toward a European

would once again, and forever after, be

not worth the trouble.

Europe.

concerns. On the one hand, Bonn is

because he noticed that the "committed

economic integration of capitalist Europe.

confederation into a federal state.

trade bloc (which would be the most

Action" readers have been informed of the formation of the "Anti-War Action Coalition", with a protest organised for November 18. While anti-war activists throughout Australia must be heartened with this news they must also be wondering why this reformation should ever have been necessary. In Vietnam our comrades are still being slaughtered by the U.S. war machine, All that has changed is the manner in which their bodies are shredded. Bombs instead of bullets seems to be the most useful method of exterminating our friends, Yet socialists in Australia, and the U.S. have gone into a lethargic state. One can only hope some organisation, be it SPA, CPA, or SYA will take up the struggle with renewed vigour. I have noticed in the past that "Direct Action" has been the most consistent of the socialist papers in denouncing the U.S. The CPA is not as vigorous in its campaigning on this issue as it should be. It is after all the heaviest air war in history, and aimed at brother socialists. Something must be done! If nothing else, could "Direct Action" give this new grouping all the support possible.

Yours in despondency,

#### George Mansten.

I'm afraid I can't let you get away with the distortions and outright lies contained in a series of articles referring to the CPA and "Tribune" in your October 13 issue.

First on the high school students' strike. You claim "several thousand high school students" for September 20 action. I can only speak for Sydney, but a head count proved less than 400 left the Town Hall.

Tribune" follows a scrupulous policy of printing accurate figures for demonstration numbers. We've done it wherever possible on May Day, women's marches and anti-war and antiracist actions. We believe it serves the movement no good to inflate figures to ridiculous lengths. That only prevents a realistic policy being adopted.

In an earlier "Direct Action" you accuse us of not publicising the September 20 action. I can say that a major article on September 12-18 by Ian Gordon and shorter references appeared in "Tribune" as any DA reader can verify.

In the latest DA you carry on your factional warfare against the CPA in relation to the November 18 action, referring to our "lack of interest", Where is the evidence?

We shall match your efforts, which will hopefully be greater than during the mass mobilisations around the Springbok tour and the Black Moratorium. By picturing November 18 as your own little thing you detract from the necessary broad participation and mobilisation necessary.

On the Munich events. you refer to the editorial in "Tribune" but ignore completely the article on page 9 of the same issue which gives the lie to much you allege. You also forget Henry Zimmerman's article was a reply to that article.

Your reference in an earlier issue to "Tribune" and the CPA supposedly equating the ALP and the Australia Party is refuted in the current (October 17-23) issue on page 5. Let me note, however, that on most of the questions you feature as important (pollution, gay liberation, abortion, education) Australia Party policy is more progressive than ALP policy. Where does that put you?

As for your back page article on "Why Socialists should support the Labor Party", John Percy's reference extremely hostile to the strike prior to to the essential need for socialists to give unconditional support to the Labor Party" well, Trotsky would turn in his grave. "Unconditional support" for Workers' States against imperialism, or even for unions against the boss class is totally different to such support for a bourgeois liberal party based on the working class,

This and the other articles in DA only highlight your steady drift to the right, in a position not so different in basics to the stalinist SPA.

Fraternally,

Denis Freney

Its getting very tiresome correcting Denis Freney's rubbish. He seems now to have assumed the role as chief hatchet for the CPA against Trotskyism. Why doesn't the CPA ever write in its own name? Or at least the editor of "Tribune"? This way Denis Freney's consistent lies can be passed off by the CPA as "just Freney's rantings". But anyway. to dispel some of Denis Freney's lies...

On the high school students' strike we claimed several thousand nationally. Denis Freney implies that we said this was the Sydney total. Our estimate for Sydney was 800 based on visual estimates throughout the action and as well the number of names collected on the Educat- understand" - our support is critical in ion Action Group petition, i.e. 420 from 99 schools. This sort of collecting, as Denis Freney would know is never much more than 50% successful. Now if "Tribme" follows a "scrupulous" policy, why didn't they mention figures for other centres, and in Sydney the original report read "several hundred" - very accurate I'm sure.

The first reference to September 20 by able. The third article was in fact contributed by Ian Gordon, a leading member of Melbourne SYA. He contributed because it didn't seem that anyone on "Tribune" would work up the energy to give the action serious mention.

The real attitude of the CPA was brought home to us most graphically when we got an insight into what the top leadership probably thought about the action. A CPA member, who lives in the same commune as the Editor of "Tribune", was has already appeared in print.

September 20, claiming that high school students would "reject outside interference," that it would flop etc etc.

We hope that Denis Freney is right about the CPA's attitude to the antiwar action on November 18. However the abysmal attendance of CPAers at the Sydney organising meetings, their attempt to reduce the action to a minor one by "upping" the slogans and their role at the National Consultation point in an opposite direction. The CPA claims over 2000 members. With this massive force we obviously expect a lot more from the CPA than any other tendency. Let's hope for once that action is forthcoming proportional to size!

The slander that we project November 18 as our own little thing is contemptible. All we have done is consistently build interest in this action along with forces like the Australian Union of Students. Our prominence is due, unfortunately, to the relative inactivity of other tend-

In regard to the ALP Denis Freney misunderstands the meaning of "unconditional support". Simply, revolutionists support the ALP for governmental power against the capitalist parties without laying down any terms for this support (eg. such as the leadership agreeing to nationalise industry). We maintain this position as long as the ALP remains the mass workers' party. But - and this "but" is the thing Denis Freney chooses to "misrelation to the ALP programme. We do not support Whitlam and Co's politics but call for a socialist programme. As for what Trotsky said see"Once again the ILP" ("Writings of Leon Trotsky (1935-36)") for a good statement of his views on the matter.

It's very amusing to see that Freney still can't grasp one of the main points we have been making about the policies of "Tribune" was critical of the action. The the CPA, i.e, that they have no consissecond belated short reference was favor- tent political position. In fact he even uses this fact to try to lend support to some of his arguments. On Munich, for example. It's not good enough to be right on one page and wrong on the next Denis. You can't have it both ways. On the ALP and the Australia Party its even more farcical. Denis refers to an article by Laurie Aarons that was not yet in print! I'm afraid Denis, we're not clairvoyant. We don't know in advance what "corrections" to your line you're

## IN BRIEF:

IIGHEST SEPTEMBER UNEMPLOYMENT FIGURES IN TEN YEARS.

The recently released imemployment figures for September were hailed by the direction. government as indicating the initial stages of an economic recovery from the Askin's speech continues in the mainiump which has dogged the economy during the year. However, although the igures purport to show a significant drop n unemployment during September, they n fact show the highest September unmployment figures for ten years, and here is good reason to believe that the ligures have been kept low by Labour and National Service Department officials making registration for unem-

In their scurry to find scapegoats for rising blinded don't have to worry any more, unemployment, the bourgeoisie has come the government will issue them with up with a novel explanation - it's the ropouts. Recent statements by the NSW Minister for Labour and Industry, Hewitt, REALLY? NSW Premier Askin, and the New Zealand government, indicate that this theme is gaining popularity and we will probably near more of it.

#### MINERS KILLED

On Monday October 16 three miners were killed in a coal mine collapse near Lithgow, west of Sydney. This is the second fatal mining accident within a ew months. Only when control of the nines is placed in the hands of the niners will such fatalities be eliminated. nly they have no doubts about which is the more important - safety or profits.

#### ASKIN ON INFLATION

SW Premier Askin recently entered the deral election campaign with a speech hich included the following statement: The alternative of a Labor government ppals us. Theorists, reds, pinks and mockers, if elected would create the

greatest burst of inflation ever known in this country". It would have to be an astronomical burst of inflation to beat the Liberals' present efforts in that

stream of Liberal Party tradition - that of concealing political bankruptcy under long winded bluster and red baiting. Unfortunately for the Liberals, 23 years of constant use have left this particular mask looking rather worn and tattered,

#### SUBSTITUTE

The government's latest gimmick for ployment benefits as difficult as possible. increasing recruitment to the army was announced recently. Soldiers who are spectacles with built in sonar,

On Monday October 16 the managing director of the BHP steel monopoly, ) C. McNeill said that steel prices would not necessarily drop if another steel company was set up in opposition to BHP .. of course BHP wouldn't mind its monopoly being broken,

#### HOWSON GRATEFUL Speaking in Federal Parliament on Oc-

tober 18, Peter Howson, Minister for Aborigines said that the Parliament should be grateful to Lord Vestey, the British meat magnate, for agreeing to give up 35 square miles of his 16,900 square mile lease so that a lease could be granted to the Gurindji people who have refused to work for Vesteys, and have been squatting on a small section of Vestey's lease since 1966. The Gurindji want to take out a lease on a 500 square mile area so that they can set up a viable cattle station. Vestey's miserly concession is no cause for gratitude from anyone, least of all the government of a country which has large trol of a powerful few. areas of its grazing land laid waste by Vestey's overstocking and neglect.

#### OMEGA COMMITTEE FORMED

A recent meeting attended by Labor MP Moss Cass, Victorian ALP Executive Chairman George Crawford, several academics and representatives from the Australian Union of Students (AUS) de-Omega tracking station by the United States government in this country. The Omega station would be part of a world wanted money they had to go to the wide network for the use of the US Navy. local police station to obtain a "chit" The U.S. first attempted to establish the which would then be signed by the base in New Zealand but public protest there forced them to look to Australia. The committee will also oppose other US military installations in this country. tly declared "assisted".

#### OBSERVERS BARRED FROM NSW PARLIAMENT

New rules introduced recently bar observers from the public gallery unless a member of the parliament will sign a book and agree to take responsibility for the conduct of the observer. The capitalists' politicians are too ashamed to continue their charade in public?

#### POLLUTION

The Victorian Environment Protection Authority stated recently that swimming should be banned at some Melbourne beaches be cause of pollution from raw sewage. It also stated that it would cost \$500 million and take until 1980 to restore the Yarra River and Port Phillip Bay.

#### DUCKER THINKS WORKERS SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE EXPLOITED

Speaking to an Australian Institute of Management conference recently, John Ducker the right wing secretary of the NSW ALP, dismissed the idea of nationalisation of industry as "redundant, unrealistic and doctrinaire". He appar-

ently thinks that the lives of the masses of people should remain under the con-

#### BLACK STOCKMAN WINS RIGHT TO HANDLE OWN FINANCES

In a recent court case in Cloncurry, North Queensland, an aboriginal stockman has won the right to control his own financial affairs. Previously he had been declared "assisted", which under the terms of the infamous Queensland Aborigcided to set up a committee to co-ordin- ines and Torres Strait Islanders Act meant ate the fight against the setting up of an that money was deducted from his pay and paid to the Department of Aboriginal and Island Affairs. When he or his family appropriate storekeeper and sent off to be paid for by the Department. Hundreds of black people in Queensland are presen-

#### MUNDEY

Builders Labourers Federation organiser Jack Mundey appeared in Sydney Court on Thursday October 12 charged with contempt of court as a result of an alleged statement that in an earlier court case, Bob Pringle and John Phillips were victims of a racist decision. (Pringle and Phillips were fined as a result of activities against the racist South African Rugby tour which took place last year). Mundey's case has been adjourned to a later date.

Preceding the court case a demonstration took place including a banner saying, "Builders Labourers believe Pringle and Phillips were victims of a racist decision by Judge Head and only workers' demonstrations stopped a jail sentence" - the alleged remark over which Mundey has been charged. Mundey has obviously been charged as a part of the Liberals' pre-election union bashing campaign and the charges against him threaten the rights of all people to criticise the courts. Contributions for Mundey's defence can be sent to Room 28, Trades Hall, Goulburn Street, Sydney, 2000.

. . . STEVE PAINTER

## Dump the iberals! ote Labor!

unemployment

Labor must adopt a fighting program: guarantee the right of everyone to a job; a shorter working week with no loss of pay, immediately bringing in the 35 hourweek on 40 hours pay; a massive system of public works to provide jobs for all; nationalise any industry which theaten massive lay-offs.

inflation

The only solution to rising prices is to legislate for automatic wage increases with every rise in the cost of living; an immediate price freeze on all basic necessities, nationalise any firm which cannot

vietnam and foreign policy

Labor must end Australia's complicity in the war; demand that all US forces get out now, get Australia out of aggressive military elitances (ANZUS, SEATO) abolish the National Service Act Labor toreign policy must align Australia with National Liberation struggles and other progressive forces.

Leatt

black rights

A Labor government should grant fand rights now and grant dequate compensation to the Black people for all land seized, puarantee Blacks the right to a job, training opportunities, adequate health, education and housing; set up, under Black control. Black routies courses to all educational institutions.

women's rights

Labor must be pledged to aboush all discriminatory sexist laws against women; immediate implementation of equal pay, job and educational opportunities; free 24 hour obild care centres in the control of those who use them, special women's studies courses in all

abortion

This is the central issue in the fight for women's rights today. The ALP must end its "conscience vote" policy and support the repeal of all anti-abortion faws — it is a woman's right to control her own

unions

The trade unions formed the ALP and Labor must be committed to their complete independence from government or employer control — abolish all anti-union legislation. Immediate abolition of the Liberals' "Lynch Laws" and repudiation of the Cameron proposals and Dunstan's reactionary laws in South Australia; an end to Arbitration — direct bargaining.

pollution

A socialist government would legislate to force industry to establish strict pollution controls and set up elected workers committees to supervise the law; 100% tax on all polluting firms divert was funds into pollution research and control projects nationalise any firm which will not stop polluting the environment.

education

The only socialist education policy consists of totally free education tinologing living allowances) from pre-school to tertiary with no entrance qualifications; end all state aid to private schools; a massive, increase in educational expenditure; especially to inner suborban and working class schools.

**Direct Action Forums** Socialism & the ALP

Sydney: 139 St Johns Rd, Glebe Melbourne: 140 Queensberry St. Carlton Adelaide: 240 Rundle St, Adelaide

Brisbane: 40 Union St, Spring Hill Fri 24th Nov. 8pm

