Reactionary Politics in Unions

BEGETS

CONFUSION

DISRUPTION

BODY SNATCHING

PHONEY STRIKES BY STALINISTS.

BEGETS

SCABBERY

BY REACTIONARY A.L.PERS

NO UNION PRINCIPLES ARE INVOLVED

YET

N.S.W. IS THREATENED WITH

INDUSTRIAL HOLD-UPS BY STALINISTS

It happened at last. It had to come. The boil over has occurred. For months past there has been verbal explosions and mental disturbances at the Sydney Trades Hall. Room 22, official headquarters of the Labor Party; the common control of several key unions, and their arrogant defiance of the Trades Hall Council; the mass attacks on public meetings, and the prevention of free speech and public assembly; the stealing of the May Day procession and turning it into a Russian demonstration, which was responsible for many unions refusing to march, has been responsible for this hullabaloo at the Trades Hall.

Violence beats violence. Duplidity, cunning even breeds an opposition of a similar character. Nazi methods give rise to other Nazi parties. This is what is happening in Sydney.

The Stalinitas had not only infiltrated into many A.L.P. branches, but had captured the official jobs in some. This led to the Central Executive of the Labor Party withdrawing the charter of the Katoomba branch and expelling the members. There was much procrastination by the expelled members that they were not communists, but the official organ of the "Communist" party, the Tribune, spelled the beans and came out in defense of the Katoomba branch, and supported the expelled members. This caused many rank and file members of the Labor Party to raise their eyebrows and exclaim: "Ah, that is enough."

At the A.L.P. Conference, which began in Sydney on June 14, Mr. Millie, the secretary of the Katoomba branch, was accused of making nasty speeches against Mr. Chifley, and illegally enrolling members. The work of the Stalinitas in the A.L.P. branches has stirred up all the reactionary elements in the Labor Party, and motions have been carried demanding a purge of all A.L.P. branches. They have also adopted the consorting act. Acting along the same lines as the Stalinitas, who expel members found associating with "undesirables," so the Labor Party will now expel members who are guilty of associating with "known communists." If this dog-fight were confined to the political field it would be truly amusing and nothing to worry about, but it has been carried into the industrial arena.

Owing to the Stalinitas activity in the unions, very often their moves have nothing to do with the trade union movement, such as 'body-snatching;' motions asking for cash donations to all sorts of organisations for the union to buy a bundle of "communist" party literature for distribution; demarcation questions which should never arise in an industrial union. During the last N.S.W. State elections, the "communist" party circularised all N.S.W. unions asking for a cash donation to the "communist" party campaign fund. This caused many bitter debates. Some union secretaries just threw the correspondence from the common into the waste paper basket.

When the correspondence was attacked by the Stalinists whether he had received any correspondence from the "communist" party, a ding-dong bust-up generally took place. As a consequence important union business was neglected.

The Stalinists hold a "fraction meeting" before the union meeting and decide upon a plan of campaign. These people, who protest so much about fascist and reactionaries are prepared to turn a union meeting into a turmoil rather than see their party line rejected. On several occasions satirical pieces have occurred and the meeting closed. Many Stalinists in the trade union are just fanatical, worshipers of Moscow, and all who disagree with them are branded as fascists and reactionaries.

Airing out of this sorry state of affairs in the trade union movement, which did not exist before the advent of the "communist" party, an opposition reactionary committee has come into existence—the A.L.P. industrial group. This group is composed of loyal supporters of the Labor Party, with a good sprinkling of Catholic Actionists. Taking their cue from the Stalinists, this group holds pre-union meetings and draws up plans to defeat the commons. When these two groups clash serious union business is neglected. The Stalinists, by their disruptive tactics in the trade union movement, and often trying to launch a phoney strike have been responsible for bringing out into the open and stimulating them with new life, all the reactionary and scabby elements in the Labor movement.

Ends
AGE TWO

with the boss, no fight for improved conditions, no challenge to the power of the state, just a body-snatching stunt by the F.E.D.A. The Disputes Committee of the Trades Union Congress declared that "it would, if necessary, instruct its members to fill the jobs left vacant by unionists on strike, certainly, but following on this front, Mr. Lane, secretary of the F.E.D.A., stated that if the Labour Council couldn’t get the supply of electricity to the whole of the state by withdrawing its power. If the Council could have supplied men to take their place the Council would have taken action to stop the whole of the works from being inactive. Mr. Lane might ask: "Where is unionism going?" "No union principles involved; it’s an economic problem, an economic industrial problem, and the whole body-snatching of three men the whole State of N.W. was in danger of coming to a standstill because of the Labour Council’s guilt of a sacrilegious action, but the F.E.D.A. was guilty of a violation of the first principles of industrial unionism." It is such stunts as above— it cannot be called a strike—that gives encouragement to the so-called "fascist" elements in our community and gives the excuse for fascist gangs to come out and break our ranks. Already there is a fascist group in Sydney called the "People’s Union," and it has advised the Government that at any time it is ready to come to its aid. If ever the New South Wales Government is not satisfied, in New South Wales the Stalinites will have to be responsible. Such anti-working class stunts are acts of the "fascist" elements in our community. When ever they are charged with breaking-up public meetings and suppressing freedom of speech in their official organ, Tribune: "The Communist party believes in freedom of speech—but not for fascists." This is simply an act that all those opposed to the "Communist" party are fascists! A political ignoramus, by the name of Darby, who represents the electorate of Manly in the State House, was disturbed at the shortage of spuds in Sydney. When the wharfies refused to unload and moved their protest in the Sydney Docks. The Stalinites sent out a call and attacked the meeting in force. No officer of the wharfies was present, and the wharfies union had nothing to do with the demonstration against Darby. It was a纯粹gangster’s riot. Several women were present, and used unparliamentary language, and many men who had no connection with the wharf. According to newspaper reports, a number of weapons were used. Darby and his supporters were rescued by the police, many of them with severe injuries. The police have not been able to find the instigators of these attacks. Darby and his supporters have been charged with attempting to cause a riot. If they are found guilty, they would be declared guilty of riotous behaviour. If they got steam, the Stalinites would not have left the factory. If they got steam, the Stalinites would not have left the factory. If they got steam, the Stalinites would not have left the factory. If they got steam, the Stalinites would not have left the factory. If they got steam, the Stalinites would not have left the factory. If they got steam, the Stalinites would not have left the factory.

SOUTHERN ADVOCATE FOR

WHAT SHOULD THE WORKERS DO?

The role of a REVOLUTIONARY workers’ organisation must, of necessity, be more than merely utilising the laws of the capitalist market in favor of the commodity labor-power; in any case the market is no longer free to the expression of market laws. A change in capitalism has taken place which is very noticeable the Arbitration Court in Australia is very much aware of. The controlled-market economy, with its price-fixing, including the pegging and fixing of wages (the price of labor-power) has been accompanied by corresponding political alterations.

The role, then, of a revolutionary labor organisation MUST include of necessity WITHIN its ranks and yet not be subject to the organisation (in its industrial union character) of an organisation wagging the everyday struggle, but only subject to the workers’ revolutionary understanding of their REAL objectives the means to OPPOSE the political alterations now evident in capitalism.

Workers’ Councils, composed of direct representatives or delegates of factory, shop, and job units, are thus POLITICAL—not to be confused with “parliament politics”—in that they are essentially the means to marshal the POLITICAL and ECONOMIC force to abolish the wage system and, thus destroy commodity production and capitalism.

Workers’ Councils are motivated by the Objective of a Workers’ Commune to replace the present State of capitalism.

The General Strike (see article in this issue) is a political weapon in line with the needs of to-day as the OPENING phase of marshaling the economic power of the organised workers to oppose the power of the State and the minority which now control, by virtue of their ownership of the means of production, the majority.

The organisation-fetishism of what is known as the Australian Labor movement, with its duality of trade and industrial unions and Labor Party, or the Communist Party, or—yes—even the Socialist Party, that a clear thinking minority must bow to the will of the majority does not differ from capitalist democracy in its practice.

Clear thinking realistic workers will pursue a policy in line with their objectives: the abolition of the wage system and the establishment of a Workers’ Commune; they will steer clear of any entanglements with the A.L.P., Catholic Action, or the Communist Party. They will actively work for SOLIDARITY within the workers’ ranks on the job and implement codes of conduct in the UNION that will successfully oppose laws and pressure from without.

Clear thinking workers have no time to waste interminably bickering and dicker over an Arbitration Court Log under the present controlled-market economy. They will be busy getting on with the job of bringing in being a Workers’ World, which implies CLASS ACTION BY the working class. Factory and job organisation is more important than organising by trade ‘skill’ or even by industry. Solidarity in the UNIONS where workers are together is most essential.

What is there so good about this capitalist world that the Labor movement should be concerned that it works?

What is there so good about the so-called “official labor movement” that it should be fostered and maintained? As a LABOR movement it has already been destroyed by the capitalististic change from a purely market-economy to a controlled-market economy. It is now a pro-capitalist movement fostering a national State capitalist economy.