The "Crisis" of Democracy


Democracy in Australia is subject to the present policy of Government. The Chifley Labor Administration has the full support of the Menshevik Liberal Party.

To prepare for the next war—for Australia to actively participate in the World Struggle of Capital for Absolute Power—for the greater enslavement of the world's workers.

And that implies a low wage rate and a huge surplus production sufficient to not only pay for the past war, but one large enough to pay for the advance preparation of the coming world struggle.

Democracy is in many ways a conventional concept, one that has grown or been formed custom.

So it is one that varies according to place and period.

Moreover, it is one that is circumscribed by class preconceptions—the peculiarities of shared power or property over the workers, but not applicable to non-owned, right from the beginning.

And that impress upon you the basic nature of society, and consequently the circumscription of customary ideas, and the supremacy of the Law.

The crisis hinges upon the "finding" of the Commonwealth of Australia, and the assessment of the Court's decision is perfectly one that is biased in favor of the constitutional, customary practice and rights of the English class, and one leaning in mind that the Australian constitution is actively engaged in a world struggle that requires a docile, disciplined working class at home.

Last Thursday at Castle Hill, Mr. Chifley (Prime Minister), in a press statement, announced that his Government had no intention of doing anything for workers.

He said:

"A new decision has been announced by the Court of Disputes in the Commonwealth or State, the power to alter rates of remuneration include the wage, in regard to which any employment contract is valid for any service"—yet under Chifley the workers have been treated as second-class citizens, and the spokesman for the Menshevik Labor Party has first certified that he is satisfied that an alteration is not opposed to the national interest.

"If ever the workers' wages were rubbed in the dust of their conditions of slavery, then that happened when Chifley delivered this ruling."

Even a man had to say in an editor yesterday that:

"The Prime Minister has sought to thrust this on the Chifley Court the task of interpreting the Government's economic policy... to turn to the court any claim that may attach to the Government's policy in the eyes of trade unionists..."

Rightly, the Sun predicts that the workers will see the outcome of the continuation of the robbery of the wage-earners as the "economic policy" of the Labor Government.

Shame on Chifley and the Labor politicians as traitors and RATS to the workers of the world.

Shame also on the workers for being voting cattle to put them in the seat of power to act as they have done.

"Democracy" is an old word—first coined in Greece about 5950 years ago—brieFLY adopting (from the Greek democrates) "the people's rule." In the Athenian democracy—the chaste slaves (a majority of the population) were not of the "people." The "people" only comprised the free gentile—men of whom had already been divorced from the land, and, as free workers, not being able to economically compete against slave labor began to regard work as ignoble and only to be done by slaves.

There is a social who hold that ideas come first and practice is a result. I hold that this is an erroneous view.

Certainly the human and constant flow of sense perceptions into the brain which comprise the perceptions from the world without ideas or viewpoints. But the mass of ideas are sterile and end in blackness. They are not in line with man's practice. When ideas are in line with customary trends or with the ferment of society, such ideas are fruitful in opening the way to better understanding—"the acceptance of knowledge of that goes hand in hand with practice."

We need ideas that arise from the shortcomings of practice—the intellectual viewpoints of those who start off with their aspirations with the words: "It only." "It only men could think and see better than the world, world of demicracy, etc., would result."

Such have yet to learn that it is in the practice—i.e., the conventional customs of society that determine the road we socially travel, whether we like it or not. That custom can create conditions and opposition great enough to cause change in a day, or altogether—i.e., the idealist often gets the full credit for a change that was inherent within the old custom because of the generation of an opposition—a dialectic force towards such change. That is another thing entirely, the more it remains, the same, mostly quite unknown to the idealist ignorant of the human character of the "evil" he is against.

Thus, measured by such standards, has been the role of the Australian Labor Party. It has prepared the working class as landlords for slaughter.

It has had the support of the Commonwealth during the war years to regiment and discipline the workers to the acceptance of conditions that have more or less driven the workers and foot and turned their trade unions into active agencies of supporting Australia's "free" government.

The trend of capitalism is eventually towards an organized world government, and the form of two contending powers, threatening mankind with a new catastrophe. The U.S. intellectuals, as supporters of one of the contending powers, thus "opposing" the "economic policy" to the world as an alternative to the "nationalism" of Russia.

Never perhaps in history were aspirations higher, but in the next two years between 1932 and 1934 we shallzel to escape from the obvious FACTS of present and past economic life.

The American colonists revolted against the Absolutism of King James, who, with his privilege and principle against the American colonies, even though it was being denied and continued the former in his English nation and we find the valiant passages of the American declaration of Independence echoing the aspirations of Cromwell's Commonwealth.

The cause of Absolutism still exists as a principle.

Absolutism is rearing its ugly head again as the Anti-Democratic Capitalism.

Let us define Absolutism,—

The dictionary meaning of Absolutism is: "Government where the ruler is without restriction." That meaning applies to its relationship to King Charles I and the struggle against it resulting in its limitation and its opposition to the French Revolution.

But the word Absolutism from which it is derived has a larger meaning. Absolutism is the whole; perfect; complete; considered without reference to other things; unlimited; independent of arbitrary measuring units; self-sufficient; self-subsisting; self-regulating.

In that sense Property has been Absolute for thousands of years. It is still in the same sense the Absolute of the King arose in feudalism because the King was in this person, owned the whole land of England. The legal phraseology still persists in references to the Realm, the Crown. It is still exercised in time of war so far as is necessary.

Feudalism was the instrument to finally usurp the land from the people. Capitalism is the class relationship which had nominally passed to the chief or head of the clan (as in Scotland), as the "Right of the King in feudal England."

That it was not always exercised or asserted does not alter the principle any more than that the Realm, the Crown, does not always exercise its Rights to do so.

The instrument to finally usurp Absolutism from the King, or any other head of state, is desiring its own Absolutism.

Capitalism is the instrument to always oppose absolutism without opposing its fundamental foundation or base. Capitalism has always upheld the principle of Property. The so-called "hysterics of British Liberalism in merely the non-logical of appearances confronted with reality. Liberalism has used materialism, and, it has used religion as it suited their turn.

Today there is no doubt in some American minds—for example, James Burnham (whose Managerial Revolution 50 years ago has issued a new book, The Struggle for the World—John Day: 8) in which he states the Soviet Union and the U.S. are the only two candidates for World Empire. There is a possibility of the "economic policy" giving today an even greater probability, that the subtle Com
munitions will he able to pick their own time for rebellion, and the U.S. that Russia will win such a war, even though the U.S. had superiority in numbers.

As this has been building up for a long time it is not strange that ideological forecast has been reflected in the new emphasis on it. The new surge for "democracy" is an effect. It takes on an appearance of crisis at the State, and the glorification of the individual.

As the State is an organ of capitalism, the appearance of such a phenomenon is not all that it would appear to be. It is an attempt to align working class chums alongside free enterprise capitalism.

Will we realize enough to understand that this "crisis" is an effect of our being regimented to the struggle—the crisis within capitalism—now taking place for World Control?

Will we understand?

That the struggle for POWER becomes a totalitarian struggle and is reflected in the Power Politics of the national MACHINES of the contenders, just as surely as the party machines of capitalist parties within nations is the reflection of the controlling sections within the capitalist system of the country. All such machines are built and disciplined to use up to a given end and so far as they have the power to do so.

The world struggle now assumes the appearance of conflicting interpretations of "democracy." Otherwise the capitalists and the Communists aver that the U.S.S.R. Constitution is the most modern and realistic for a "democracy." They defend the "disciplining" of reluctant and rebellious workers as a punishment for "treason" against Socialist power.

What is the most important thing to wage, particularly in the so-called "democratic" U.S.S.R. Constitution? It is the straining of the commodity status of the worker. The worker shall be paid according to the amount of production he does.

The principle of speeding-up of the bunty gang system is thus enshrined as a worker's "right."

This is the basis of the Communists' traitorous conduct to the Australian working class during the war years. Chifley's last Thursday, 26th January, gave a similar decision on to the Chief Judge of the Arbitration Court, and so took the right to change the payment to govern in the interests of the non-proportioned electors, even though these cases were in those cases returned the Labor politicians to their cushy jobs.

The Moscow Conference

What do the working class yet to understand—as the rival contending capitalist nations are beginning to understand—m is that Moscow speaks with two voices. One is the language of nationalism, and that is understood by the "workers' power." The other is in line with the evolved pattern of Russian History from which Bolshevism was developed. The former, now has come back on to the main road as the successor and inheritor and the latter contender as that of Russia Peter the Great contended for—Russian Imperialist Expansion—but enriched by the undercurrent of the capitalist system supplied by Marxism. The other language of the workers—mostly to develop the own exploited working class—but also as a THREAT and a weapon AGAINST contending capitalist powers.

is the language of social revolution. It is the workers, not the U.S. and Russia, that win such a war, even though the U.S. had superiority in numbers.

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SOUTHERN ADVOCATE FOR

at heart the employers are a CRAVING lot, depending on hired police and the law thuggery to protect them. This is a personal Boycott weapon might have been effective—but that implies a conscious working class—and also a great deal of work has been done by Labor Party and Communists—the workers have little consciousness of self-defence.

The Age drew into the picture, as a confusing, side-tracking event, the allegation that the people at large are unfeasable victims'; the Age idea, of course, is that they are 'naturally' to think of themselves as victims of the revolting workers, not as victims of a chain of cause and effect. The CAUSE being wage-labor exploitation, and the inherent effect of a revolt by workers who can stand that exploitation no longer without a protest.

If the Age were logical and honest it would treat the 'public' wrath upon the employers and their State. It would show the other rattle and disloyalty of Labor politicians to the workers. to elect them to cases working class burdens.

The FACT that working class burdens have increased—that the workers are poorer, hungered, poorer fed, etc., should drive it home to the readers of the Age 'who are still suffering an illusion that the highly paid leader writers of that journal are NO FRIENDS of the working class. These paid hirondelles of the super-prosperist press are very much behind the working class and the working class as an employing class have NOTHING IN COMMON.

Whilst the workers do nothing effectual about this affray their other weapon of despair—the strike—is often a but a method of self-inflicting further injury upon themselves. It is most narrowly the electing to Parliament of Labor Party politicians to serve the employing class faithfully, and well to the DIS SERVICE of the workers. Electing Labor politicians or ANY other brand of politician who is working to an objec tive of making it possible for the employers (the public) to run more smoothly is NO GOOD for the workers. They inflict self-injury upon their own class by doing so.

Exporting cheap in order to import dear is a necessary factor for the State to raise revenue by indirect taxation which has as its consequence a LOWEST standard of living for the workers.

The workers MUST gain a consciousness that these things are as I have stated, and that the Objection of COMMON USE OWNERSHIP AND DEBT is the most potent of all the things necessary for their own comfort and well-being the USE of all, and not to sell. Of all the proposals put forward with such an Objective, that of the I.W.W. is the one that shows a logical and sure method of success. When the working class by I.W.W. practice gain a knowledge of what is a public good, and to forward their aims then only will they be able to pick out representatives to serve their ends. They must be led by exposing the class nature of the Capitalist State and education is necessary to be called to organisation for the emancipation of the working class. Workers Political Action is useless, and merely a method of inflicting self-injury upon the working class.

Readers will understand that I write as an independent, and not as representing the I.W.W.

PALESTINE

Despite the fact that British and Arab workers are amicable—and that the greater portion of Jews and Arabs live peacefully together, Palestine is one of the cock-pit of the world struggle in which the Arabs are being worn out and the Jews exploited as a counter-force by 'great and inscrupulous Powers.'

On April 29 a Special Assembly of the United Nations is to be held in New York, when Arab countries may state their case. The Age special correspondent in New York writes: "Some sensational disclosures might be made if the Arabs feel they are being cornered. Already there have been public charges by responsible people that the United States State Department has played a double game with the Arabs and Jews. Arabs could also do close details of some recent American oil deals in their lands, and which, with similar British deals, are the core of the whole Palestinian problem."

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DEATH COMES UNDER CAPITALISM

U.S. coal miners had been denounced—Centralia, Coal Company's Mine No. 8 for years—one recent report added many details of violations of safety codes, but little had been done about it.

At half-time past three one April afternoon, far down a drift called Main 473, dust exploded like powder going off in a gun barrel. In all, 111 coal miners were killed and a half mile in Main West, fourteen men, the last of No. 3's day shift, lay face down on the tunnel floor—each of them knowing no help would reach them in time.

One miner had said: "It looks like the end for me. I love you, Honey, more than life. You are the sweetest wife in the world. Good-bye, Honey and Dickey." Another note was found that said: "I have a dying wish. You can only be kept happy by going on and meaning. Tell me that I forgot her. Everyone goes."

Another read: "My dear wife: Good-bye. Name the baby Joe, so you will have a Joe. Love, all."

At 9.14 on April 16 a fire in a hold of coking coal exploded, killing 59 men. A mine is said to have exploded the ammunition in the next hold of a freighter at Texas City, and a class of explosions that wiped out the Monro Chemical Co.'s or more oil refineries, and seaborne ships. Over 200 lives were lost, and between two and three thousand Criminal carelessness or sabotage?