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YOUR TAKO AND FINESSO 20 FUTURE!
We are calling for a Labor vote for May 18 but not for the reasons put forward either by hard-core "Go Ahead" reformists, Labor supporters or by the majority of Lefties. A realistic look at the nature of the ALP is needed.

The campaign of the last few weeks has been coloured by the lack of fundamental issues taken up by both major parties. The ALP has been the most actively, the Labor machine tried to play personality electoral politics and "go to the people on its courses". Thus, when the issue was the initiative it was forced into anti-labour policies that qualified in the vague and unqualified terms of the "socialism" label. Of course, because of the great extent of capitalist power within the capitalist framework has a real answer to inflation, a central problem of the workings of the system. Labor's record (of which it is so proud) is basically one of avarice and plunder in the interests of the public sector; a record of "justifying" all kinds of high wages in goods such as steel; of allowing inflation to chew into workers' living standards.

All this is no accident. The ALP as a party is committed to maintaining the capitalist system more efficiently than the traditional parties of capital, and it says so. Witness: "The sins of capitalism in Australia today are ones of omission rather than commission and of not being sufficiently enterprising and independent". The ALP does not seek to reform but to streamline the system. The four main features of its outlook are:
1. Not nationalization and opposition to the free market but rather a tighter capitalist integration between private and public sectors of the economy.
2. Not egalitarianism but a meritocratic view of social justice, i.e., equality of opportunity to excel in the economic and occupational privileges in society.
3. No social services but more subsidies to the middle class to allow better access to education.
4. No general consolidated revenue fund built up from progressive income taxes aimed at the rich but a series of funds (health, unemployment, education etc.) to be paid by the workers themselves.

So in our opinion in this election we are dealing with two parties which support the capitalist system. So, why bother to vote at all, why not abstain? Because in their policies to class forces the two parties are still not identical. Labor has a greater working base in the working class (at the moment). This is not to be confused with a mass worker movement. Labor's links with the working class are primarily organisational, as bureaucratic Trade Unions affiliated, not individual membership. Therefore we characterise the ALP as a bourgeoise party of the working class.

Thus we do not consider the leadership of the party willing or capable of extricating socialist policies even were it pressured to do so from within. We orient to the non ALP only insofar as its reforms will improve low wages. And it is our job to shatter these illusions and clear away the debris of reformism in order to pose a real alternative to parliamentary democracy, to demand an end to the full implementation of Labor's programmes, even to talk of pressuring the leadership to adopt socialist policies (as some Left groups do) is to perpetuate the illusions. There is little to be gained by pressuring from within since the ALP has little organised, working class mass base: in Victoria membership is barely 6000. The ALP has no links with unions and the SI remains controlled by union bureaucrats with little concern for rank and file involvement. Far from "expanding" labor and reforming this approach serves to confuse the working class as to the nature of the ALP and prey on illusions that the real business of politics actually takes place in the parliamentary arena.

We are not witnessing a mass movement involving hundreds of thousands of workers with a high level of commitment to the ALP who expect it to carry through a programme of transforming society. We are witnessing, at one level, support of "progressive" positions of the employer class, and, at another level, a continuing reaction by all sections of society to 23 years of unimaginative, reactionary Labor politics. Experience has shown that co-called Social Democratic govt's will minimally improve working class conditions.