"FREE SHARKEY!" CALL BY MASS MEETING

Crimes Act Condemned

MORE THAN 800 MELBOURNE CITIZENS, responding to a hastily-called meeting, packed out Unity Hall on Wednesday night and unanimously:

* Condemned the savage jail sentence of three years' hard labor given to the Australian Communist Party leader (Mr. Lance Sharkey);

* Called for Mr. Sharkey's immediate release and the repeal of the Crimes Act under which he was convicted.

Citizens' Resolution Defends Sharkey

WHEN the chairman of last Wednesday night's protest meeting (Mr. G. P. Clay) called for those in favor of a resolution demanding the release of Mr. Sharkey and his comrades, he received a deafening cheer from the assembled audience.

The resolution in full:

This meeting of Melbourne citizens condemns the Crimes Act proceedings taken against L. L. Sharkey and G. Burns and the harsh sentences imposed on them.

The essence of the statements for which they were prosecuted was a vigorous call to defend peace and the national independence of Australia.

If the Labor Party leaders are now called for the same purpose, we have no alternative appeal to the American war-timers.

Therefore we demand the immediate repeal of the Crimes Act, the release of Sharkey and Burns, and we call upon all peace lovers and democrats to redouble their efforts in the defense of peace, of democratic liberties and of international peace.

Free Sharkey! Repeal Crimes Act Fight For Peace!

* Demand the outlawing of the atom bomb!

* Demand acceptance by the United Nations of the Soviet Peace proposals!

* Break the dollar grip by peaceful trade with the countries of Socialism!

* Demand £10 basic wage with real price control!

Australia! Assert your freedom to fight for peace and an independent, prosperous Australia!

YOUTH ACTION FOR PEACE CONGRESS TO-MORROW

The Youth Action for Peace Congress will be held at the Nicholas Hall, Jellicoe St., Melbourne, this afternoon. Mr. J. Burns (Secretary, Y.A.P.C.) will address the meeting.

A peace exhibition will be on display in the hall of the Nicholas Hall, Jellicoe St., Melbourne, where the Congress will be held.

"Sharkey Must Be Freed!" Unions Declare

TRADE Unions and other organisations are demanding that Mr. L. L. Sharkey be released and that Labor Government carry out the decision of A.L.P. central conference to repeal the Crimes Act——the under which Mr. Sharkey was sentenced.

MINERS in eight K.S.W. plus called a one-day stoppage to demand the release of Sharkey and to show trade unionism.

Mr. John Smith, a member of the Executive Committee of the Australian Labour Party, said on Tuesday: "There is a strong feeling among trade unionists that Mr. Sharkey should not be imprisoned for exercising his constitutional right to freedom of speech." He said that Mr. Sharkey had been "imprisoned for his views".

NEWPORT PRESS

A large meeting at the Newport press this evening was addressed by Mr. T. J. O'Neill, who denounced the Government's action in imprisoning Mr. Sharkey.