

SUPPORT Q'LD. STRUGGLE ~

DEFEND THE RIGHT TO MARCH

On April 7 throughout Australia thousands will gather and march in protest against the mining and export of uranium. However, in Queensland people will be unable to use the streets to express their protest. The ban on political street marches was initially introduced by the Petersen government immediately after the large militant anti-uranium demonstrations in other parts of Australia. Two days after the ban was announced, Petersen said:

"We were worried that anti-uranium demonstrations like the one in Sydney today were planned for Brisbane. That's why this action has been taken." (Courier Mail, 6/9/77). The National Party government clearly wanted to avoid the potential alliance between the trade union movement and other groups opposed to the mining of uranium. It was at the very same time that Petersen guaranteed to Fraser that uranium could and would be exported through Queensland ports.

petersen and mining

To understand the ban on street marches it is necessary to look at the political links between Petersen's National Party and mining capital. The National Party's chances of retaining their dominance over the Liberal Party depend on its capacity to secure a wider electoral and economic identification than that of purely rural interests. Mining capital holds the key to the economic future of Queensland and Petersen is intent on retaining political power. The Queensland government is therefore providing strong investment incentives - free exploitation of mining leases, low rental and royalties, provision of railways, roads, housing and port facilities. Petersen is intent on preventing any opposition to his plans for unimpeded exploitation of Queensland's mineral wealth.

This interlinked interest of the National Party and mining capital explains in part the need for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders Act, and the recent takeover of the Aurukun and Mornington Island reserves. By maintaining control over Aboriginal lands Petersen reserves the option of granting mining leases on this land.

It also contributes to an explanation of Petersen's crack down on the unions in the form of the proposed "Right to Work" legislation: trade unions had played a significant role in opposition to the mining and shipment of uranium.

nuclear power and civil liberties

The widespread use of nuclear power would have serious implications for civil liberties. The Ranger Inquiry had this to say about the social consequences of nuclear power:

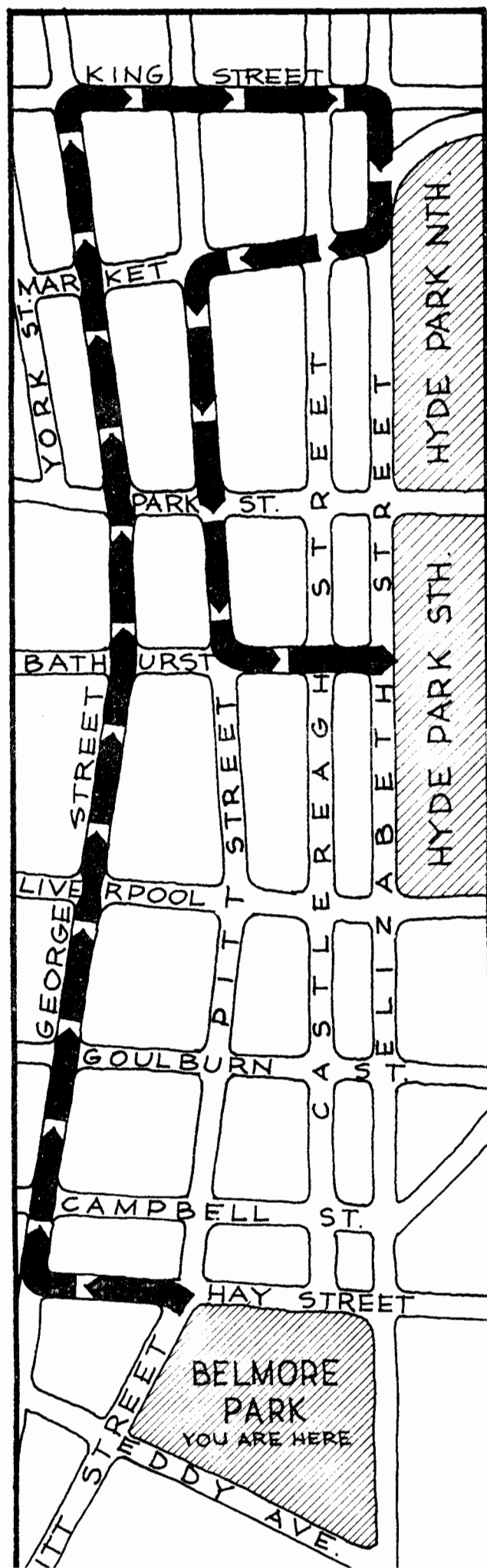
"The large scale and complexity of nuclear power will reduce the opportunity for greater public control of decision making and may threaten democratic procedures and civil liberties." The ban on political street marches represents just such a breakdown of democratic rights. However, more specifically, the Atomic Energy Act outlines the social control necessary in a nuclear-based economy.

defend the right to organise!

The success of the anti-uranium movement is dependant on our ability to unite and mobilize mass opposition - A crucial form of this is the street march; we don't have the same access to media and government as the "uranium producers' forum". Thus it is essential that we support the right of people in Queensland to use the streets to demonstrate against uranium mining.

However, the ban on street marches was not aimed solely at the uranium movement. It also prevents other groups such as blacks, women and trade unions from openly opposing the policies of the Petersen government. The ban must be fought primarily in defense of these groups. However, it must be remembered that it is not simply a general attack on the civil liberties of the Queensland people. It is a specific attack on one section of the Australian population: those for whom the streets are the only avenue for the expression of political opposition. In fact in demanding the repeal of the Queensland legislation we are defending our own rights. The reality of this is apparent in the recent police attacks on gay demonstrators in Sydney. Wran's excuse was that there was no permit for the march.

MARCH AGAINST URANIUM



This is a map of our march route. While it is fairly long, it takes us through the busiest parts of the city and past the Queensland Tourist Bureau in King Street. It was decided to march past the Tourist Bureau as a gesture of support to the people of Queensland.

the rally

The march ends at Hyde Park South and there will be the following speakers : Tom Uren (ALP) Cliff Dolan (Vice-President, ACTU), two aborigines from Oenpelli, Di Roberts (MAUM) Freda Whittan (Uniting Church) will chair the rally. Afterwards, there will be a concert, street theatre and local group stalls - so do stay around.

march co-ordinators

These people are wearing yellow arm tags to identify themselves. If you want to know something about the march ask them..... they are there for that purpose.

child care

Child Care is available in a mobile bus. If you can't find it, ask a march co-ordinator.

THIS MARCH AND RALLY IS COSTING WELL OVER \$3,000. PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY.

Endorsed by: *Movement Against Uranium Mining (MAUM).*