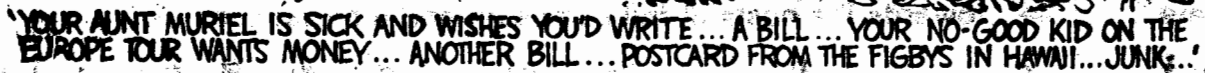


REJECT ASIO'S NEW POWERS



Monday, April 30, 7.30pm

**Speakers: Joan Coxsedg, Labor parliamentarians,
trade unionists and others.**

ASIO's crimes to be legalised

Federal parliament is currently considering legislation that would give sweeping new powers to the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation.

The passing of this legislation would give ASIO agents the right to:

- * open and inspect mail
- * enter premises by force and conduct searches
- * use listening devices
- * intercept telephone conversations and telex messages

These crimes are not new to ASIO. The 1977 Hope Commission on Security found that "at times ASIO operated outside its statute, the law and established standards of propriety". But instead of penalising ASIO for its crimes against civil liberties, the Fraser government is acting to ensure that ASIO's illegal acts are made "legal" (Of course, for all its powers and million-dollar budgets, ASIO has never once convicted a "left-wing terrorist".)

In addition, the legislation provides for harsh fines and imprisonment of up to \$1,000 or two years jail for anyone who reveals the identity of an ASIO agent, or who attempts to obstruct an ASIO agent from carrying out his or her duties.

Who are the real targets?

The Fraser Government has tried to hide the real meaning of these new powers by claiming they are designed to help track down drug traffickers. But the real purpose of this legislation is to allow ASIO to openly step up its surveillance of the labor movement and all progressive social movements. This was demonstrated when the NSW Privacy Committee investigation of police Special Branch revealed that they had collected some 40,000 files covering everybody

from parliamentarians and trade unionists to members of resident action and religious groups. Not even the democratically-elected Labor government in South Australia was immune from ASIO interference and harassment.

At the very time that the American people have forced revelations of illegal activities by the Federal Bureau of Investigations and the Central Intelligence Agency into the open, and are attempting to limit their harassment of left and labor organisations, the Australian government is moving to strengthen the hand of its own political police.

Protest Campaign

All sections of the working class movement, including trade unions, the ALP and left-wing parties, as well as unemployed organisations, the women's movement, migrant groups, the anti-uranium mining movement, the Black movement, gay rights organisations and civil liberties groups—in fact all who value democratic rights—need to unite in opposition to this attack on their basic rights. The Fraser government is determined to push through this legislation so that ASIO can disrupt, spy on and sabotage the perfectly legal activities of the labor movement and other progressive causes without hindrance. An extensive campaign by all organisations who are and will be the victims of ASIO's spying is necessary in order to organise broad opposition to the proposed legislation.

We ask all concerned individuals and organisations who oppose this new legislation to support and endorse this call for a public meeting. Money is also needed to finance a newspaper advertisement publicising this meeting.

There will be an organising meeting at the Trades Hall, Room 5 on April 10, 6.30pm.

I endorse this campaign against ASIO's new powers.....

I donate \$ towards the costs of the campaign and a newspaper ad.

NAME

ADDRESS

ORGANISATION AND/OR POSITION (IF ANY)

Mail to Campaign to Defeat the ASIO Legislation c/- PO Box 43 Haymarket
Printed and Authorised by the Campaign to Defeat ASIO Legislation