Radical Film Festival at the Conference

Room 413, NSW Institute of Technology
(Child care available: Turner Hall, entrance in Harris Street)

FRIDAY 28 MARCH

Waltz Among The Mountains Tremble: is a magnificent film on the revolution and counter-revolution in Guatemala, Central America. It demonstrates best response at the Radical Film Festival (MBA) 1985 and was one of the few films on such a struggle jet produced.

Feature: Allies
(Exhibition on US domestication of Australia)

2 p.m.:
Kenitra (The film by Tom Zuckoff of the Renne miners struggle)

Feature: Strikethrough (The film of the miners while the 30% Nationalised)

SATURDAY 29 MARCH

7:30 p.m.:
Couldn’t Be Better (Dennis O’Rourke’s film on opposition of Aboriginals in northern Queensland, produced with Nick Miller of the North Queensland Land Council

Feature: Patatl (Un New Zealand film on the struggle against the Springbok Rugby tour - the film of the recent Asia-Pacific Film Festival in Sydney; It is a moving and magnificent film showing the brutality of New Zealand police and the resistance of the anti-fascists)

Entry free for those registered for the whole Conference. 45/- for those coming for the Festival only (per person).

Broad Left Conference
Concert and Dance

In support of the people of Chile
SUNDAY 30 MARCH 1986
7 p.m. - midnight
Gran Hall, NSW Institute of Technology, Parramatta Road, Broadway

Part I: Order by Numbers
Political satire and comedy from Queensland, presenting "Tell Tales from the Altered State"

Part II: Songs and music from Latin American rhythms
Chika’s funk and dance, available on site: Entry 15/10 (Gran Hall)

Part III: Dance away to Latin American rhythms
Cuban folk and dance available on site: Entry 15/10 (Gran Hall)

Full Participation for Women

Major Panel Sessions - 'Tradition to the horizons of women who have participated in the Specialist Feminist Forums', Inform Session on Sydney and Melbourne. Your suggestions and how to work up will ensure that women conference at least 50% of the 70 speakers for main panel discussions at the Conference. Similarly workshops following the panel sessions and the workshop -in-workshops on Sunday afternoon.

Panel sessions on the National Organising Committee has devised a question sheet to monitor the participation of men and women in general discussion. Chair person will be asked to call for two volunteers to note the length of speaking time and content according to the gender of speakers. In this way, the Women’s Conference Committee can monitor and if necessary intervene regarding our demand for equal participation.

Conference Women’s Collective: At women attending the conference are asked to attend and get together over dinner at the Concierge Cafe, lower floor of the Proteus of Technology, 5:30 p.m. It will be the first meeting of the proposed Women’s Collective. We plan to meet casually over a meal, catch up with interested friends and gather socialist feminist forces for the weekend. If you feel a little isolated or unconfident about your participation in the weekend, please come along for support and plates of delicious food at the Concierge Cafe. It has been suggested by the Socialist Feminist Caucus that a Women’s Collective be formed to oversee the Conference.

Jacqui Wilan (02) 661 3355 - (Bus 320 15 (2460) and a Victorian women yet to be elected we prepared to work as an organiser for the Collective. This week’s collective meeting is our chance to discuss the Collective.

It has been suggested that the Collective meet 5:30 p.m. Saturday evening to evaluate what work goes on. Women’s meetings are encouraged in local groups (in feminine form) into Sunday afternoon.

The Collective structure has been proposed in terms of dispute, to formulate strategy and action as required. We may decide to formally use our full participation in the broad spectrum of ethical and political activity in which we work. A number of people want to evaluate and intervene in the processes. The present support for the Collective to the Friday night Women’s meeting in contact, April Wilan before the Conference or during it. Via the Registration Desk.

See you Friday night, in the Conference sessions and possibly at the Saturday night Women’s Collective.
Building Socialism in Australia

by Kimmy Rutskin (New South Wales)

I agree with Jim Levy (Bulletin) that the overall focus and purpose of the NLSC should be to make socialism a relevant aim for Australians.

Australians are not affluent in world terms. Who are the people likely to want to act to radically change the present situation? What motivates such actions?

In Australia today, there are various groups which are active around social change issues, though the activists are a tiny proportion of the total population.

These groups include:

- trade unions
- social democratic parties
- socialist/Green/communal parties
- peace/disarmament
- environmental
- aboriginals (black, power, land rights)
- women's liberation
- alternative lifestyle
- self help
- gay liberation
- anti-racist
- international solidarity
- animal liberation
- children's liberation

The building of a socialist Australia cannot be achieved without three prerequisites — common agreement over a vision of what we want to build, where we want to go to.

b) a theory of our society has become what it is, and how it might be changed in the future, what we want it to be; and c) a programme of action (including organizational forms and practices) that will be effective in achieving our aims.

I am a member of the diversity and commonality of life in Australia: that it is rare for anyone of these groups to be active in any others. A common understanding of their aims and perspectives has not so far been achieved.

The NLSC should be seen as part of the process of trying to build agreement between the activists of all these separate movements.

The concept of power is useful in trying to explain what is common behind the various struggles of these movements, in each case, these movements are struggling against the inequality of power and decision-making over a particular sphere of social life that is important to them.

They seek to act both as a means of consciousness-raising for the powerless, and as a means of increasing the power of those whose position in society enables them to participate in the development of a new world. In their vision, the world is a cooperative and rational one where the distribution of power and wealth is determined by the collective will of all people.

There are real possibilities for links between these movements, not only in the campaigns they launch in the public sphere (political/industrial). This is because it is usually the case that it is the same small minority group in society who are both in the same difficult situation and also in the same position to influence each other. These are, however, significant differences between these movements which we should not gloss over, but instead should be analysed and taken into account in developing strategies for unifying.

The NLSC's values and methods are different from those of the older movements of struggle — the unions, social democratic parties, communist parties, formed in the late 19th century, basically to confront the power of capital and the newly emerging capitalist society. They often used more direct action against the state, the banks, the unions, and the employers.

Post-1960, the values and methods of struggle are more collective and more diverse. They are often based on a broader range of social movements, and often use a wider range of tactics, including direct action, occupation, and the formation of alternative institutions.

The shift from the 1960s to the 1970s saw a move towards a more inclusive and diverse society, with a greater emphasis on social justice and economic equality. This shift towards more inclusive and diverse society is reflected in the NLSC's values and methods, which are more likely to be seen as a collective effort rather than an individual one.

The NLSC's values and methods are more likely to be seen as a collective effort rather than an individual one. This is reflected in the shift away from a focus on direct action towards a more inclusive and diverse society. The shift towards more inclusive and diverse society is also reflected in the NLSC's values and methods, which are more likely to be seen as a collective effort rather than an individual one.
One of the aims of the Broad Left Conference at Easter is to discuss "general strategic questions for the Left" in the face of "the extreme and ideologically confounding right wing." In drawing up a strategy which will unite the left to an ongoing analysis of the economy and its political ramifications is needed because the renewed right wing offensive against the trade unions, the progressive movement and the public sector originates from the present day crisis of world capitalism and its effects on the Australian economy.

It is true that a great deal of research and analysis has been carried out by many left wing and Marxist economists but it would be useful if this could be integrated into a body of knowledge readily available to the labour movement generally so that theory can help give direction to our offensive against right wing policies. Economic analysis is basic to our success.

General State of Crisis

The capitalist world has been in a deteriorating state of general crisis since 1973. One of the specific features of this general crisis is that smaller capitalist nations like Australia are more dependent upon the state of the economy at the centre of international finance, particularly the economy of the United States, No longer is Australia a significant self-sufficient center of international capital. "Most national economies are now globally integrated and highly concentrated, locked into world capitalism by transnational conglomerates which have come to dominate multinational companies across the globe." The effect of this is that national governments can no longer control international finance effectively as they have in the past. The effects of this on the world economy are being felt on a daily basis.

The attempt by the Liberal Party to privatise areas of the public sector are in Australia of the general direction towards de-regulation in capitalist countries e.g. England and United States. If the Liberal Party were to win an election this trend would accelerate. However a problem for socialists is that there are also Labor Party "dies," especially within the parliamentary right wing, who are also supporting deregulation in some areas. The floating of the Australian dollar by the present Labor Government and the_science it has given to 16 foreign banks to operate in Australia are strong indications of this trend. Only a strong united left within and outside the Labor Party can reverse these policies.

Crisis of Unemployment

The deteriorating general crisis of capitalism has also resulted in a permanent crisis of unemployment. The cyclical crises of 1973-14 and 80-83 have resulted in high inflation and high unemployment. This has been intesnified by the rapid development of the scientific and technological revolution. Many workers were made redundant because of innovations like the micro-chip and many of these have never been retrained or found new employment. Of those who lost jobs in 1973-74 crisis, many were never re-absorbed even though the economic situation improved. As a result the Australian labour market has been divided into those employed in industries and in service occupations and the unemployed. It is unskilled workers and workers in traditional trades who are hit. The result is a widespread inequality in employment and income. The rate of unemployment has been generally increasing with the socialists not on the immediate agenda.

Inflation, deterioration of public health, housing and education, unemployment and the attempt to derogate the labour market are products of a capitalist system in Australia which has also become subservient to international financiers and transnational conglomerates. It has been described as "worse than the depression" by many on the left, Australia is not a "revolutionary" country. "No socialism is not on the immediate agenda." However, in addition to developing programs which aim at resolving current problems we also need to aim towards transformations of a more fundamental nature.

Immediate programs can deal with issues which do not result in a more just distribution of the available volume of labour among the bulk of working men and women. The following distribution would create more jobs, improve standards of living generally and make large inroads into corporate profits. (Figures of the September quarter last year as quoted in the National Times (Feb 14-21) indicate that the corporate gross operating surplus share of incomes was 16.2% compared to 17% when the present Labour Government was elected.)
The Third World Debt Problem

by Neil Nevitt

The difficulty of formulating a new international economic order based on social and economic justice is one of the most pressing problems facing the developing countries at this time. Currently the payments incurred by the Third World countries in 1985 were US$175 billion, while receipts in the form of new credits, financial aid and investments amounted to US$85 billion. (Source: The 1985 Financial Report of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (I.B.R.D.).)

The granting of credits and loans by international agencies and individual countries to develop new institutions and stimulate trade is a common and logical practice. However, to the overwhelming majority of developing countries, foreign credits have not only failed to expand economic development but have actually retarded the economies and have been a major contribution to the continuing impoverishment of the bulk of the populations, especially the working people, who bear the brunt of any and every national austerity measure. The developed capitalist countries are themselves experiencing severe economic difficulties. One method they use to alleviate this problem is the ruthless use of science and technology to replace human labour - a simultaneous creation of a vast army of unemployed with the aim of containing the trade unions and reducing the rate of wage rates of workers. Another way is to extend credit in the form of development aid at high interest rates. The United States is the main culprit in this regard. Its massive increases in the lending rate have been extremely detrimental to the developing countries, resulting in a huge inflow of capital to Washington accompanied by a similar rise in the exchange rate of the U.S. dollar. For example, the foreign indebtedness of the Third World countries is increasing by 12% annually. The U.S. banks have deferred some of the repayments, but in effect this makes the credits more expensive and further underestimate the fragile economies of the recipient countries.

The insidious effect of this means that an ever-increasing proportion of the exports of the developing countries goes to earn dollars to pay their debts because the bulk of this indebtedness is in U.S. dollars, the exchange rate of which steadily rises while the rate of the national currencies correspondingly declines. Thus, the cost of Third World imports to the U.S. and the other developed Western countries rises while their exports, mainly in the form of raw materials, attract lower prices. This follows that high inflation and a lowering of the standard of living for vast sections of the people of the developing countries is unavoidable. The question of the arms-build-up imposed on the Third World countries is another cause for grave concern. The practice of the NATO countries has been to manufacture regional bases of tension. As well as they lately cite the Soviet Union and the Warsaw Treaty countries as an external threat in order to pressure the developing countries into buying high-cost armaments. Indeed the military spending of these countries is approximately equal to their foreign debt repayments. The authoritative weekly, The Economist, in its January 24, 1975 claims global military spending now exceeds US$700 million per year and states that without its context there is little chance of dealing with the budget problems of the industrial nations or the hunger of the poor nations. One can hardly argue with that.

Before granting a deferment of payment or the rescheduling of previous loans to the debtor nations the U.S. controlled International Monetary Fund (I.M.F.) and the World Bank impose stringent conditions such as devaluation, major cuts in spending for health and education, the reduction and the cancellation of food subsidies. Simultaneously they demand fixed exchange rates and the dismantling of the state sector. How can this Third World debt problem be alleviated? The expansion of exports to pay these debts is unrealistic because the bulk of the loans are directed by the Western nations and the rock-bottom prices offered for raw materials by the multinational companies are, in general, the primary export for many Latin American countries. However, its world price has increased by 100% in the last three years, from US$60/ton to US$130 per tonne. The developing countries are seeing that besides an economic solution to the debt crisis a political one is necessary. At the United Nations General Assembly and at non-aligned movement forums they have repeatedly called for an end to the arms race with part of the resources thus saved directed towards development purposes. If each developing country had adequate income for example, electrification and industrialisation of the nation would soon follow and with them communications and transport infrastructure. Manufactured goods would then become more sophisticated, the people's living standards would rise and town and country would be brought closer together.

A major restructuring of the international monetary system, based virtually on the economic principle that the U.S. dollar, is vitally necessary. Lowering of Western protectionism accompanied by a general liberalisation of terms of international trade, greatly enhance the economic position of the developing countries.

The Western creditor nations have the resources, (public or private, domestic or foreign) to compensate the developing countries for the infelicity imposed on them by the international system. The Western creditor nations have no idea of the magnitude of the problem, and until the developing countries can make a reasoned case for their cause it will remain unheeded. It is only on the basis of an informed and coherent movement that the Third World countries can look to an improved economic situation.

Problems

Confronting the

Labor Movement

in Queensland

by Michael Cerr (Queensland)

A major front confronting the labor movement in Queensland is the long-standing friction between the Petersen Government and the unions for the vehicle industry. While the Labor Party government has the whip for the car industry on which it depends for its survival, it is faced with the dilemma of how to wage this battle without alienating the car workers. The workers are still only at a low level of wages and working conditions. The issue becomes another facet of the wider struggle for industrial democracy and the right to organise amongst workers. The battle is about the survival of the car industry and the future of the Australian economy.

Meanwhile, the Government continues to express concern about the growing influence of the trade union movement. Many of the new unions have been established in recent years to challenge the traditional structures of the old unions. The Government has been critical of the new unions because they are not aligned with the Labor Party. This is evident in the Government's recent decision to establish a new union, the Australian Private Sector Union (APSU), to compete with the existing unions. The APSU is a breakaway group from the Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU) and has been formed to represent workers in the private sector.

However, the trade union movement has been growing in strength and influence, and the Government has been quick to respond. The Government has passed a new law that makes it easier for workers to form new unions and to strike. This has been seen as a direct attack on the trade union movement, and it has been met with resistance by workers who are determined to maintain their rights and freedoms.

The situation is complex and充满挑战. The Government is trying to balance the interests of workers and businesses, while the trade union movement is determined to defend the rights and freedoms of its members. The outcome of this struggle will have a significant impact on the future of the car industry and the wider economy.
The Relevance of Attacks on the Australian Working Class -- a Queensland Experience

by J. Harnett (Queensland)

February 1986 was the 1st anniversary of the infamous power strike in Queensland. Much has been written of this notorious attack on the Australian working class, and what needs to be done is to:

(a) analyse its relevance in the context of the antics of the capital class in bringing about this industrial conflict, and in "resolving" it to their ends
(b) firmly resolve to bring about a working class unity to combat such a thing.

Before the strike itself, the Bjelke Petersen Government enacted legislation to amend the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act on the 14.11.84. Even a short examination of that legislation should have given forewarning of grave times to come. It provided for:

(a) Penalties for officials or union members who take action to force non-unionists to join a union.
(b) Protection for union members who wish to resign.
(c) Removal of the 3 (three) months periods of notice of resignation from the union and provide for a simple resignation in writing with union dues only payable to the date of resignation.
(d) Limits of recovery of unpaid union dues to a period of 12 months.
(e) Protection of employees who refuse to participate in strike action; and penalties for officials and members who attempt to force an employee to participate in strike action. Up until then only a union would be prosecuted for this action not individual officials and members.
(f) Removal of rights for workers in hard-scrabble jobs at a secret ballot where strike is threatened.
(g) The number of employees required to petition for ballot to be reduced from 20% to 5%.
(h) Where ballots have been called and a strike terminated, employees who have not returned to work within 7 days will be considered to have terminated their services.
(i) Increase in penalties in most other sections of the Act.

Following that, the power strike was precipitated with this mood prevailing and as a result of collision between the Bjelke Petersen Government and the South East Queensland Electricity Board (SEQEB). The Government declared state of emergency and four days later ordered SEQEB to sack 920 employees in its confrontation with the ETL union. On the 22.2.85 the strike itself ended. This did not as does not signal the end of the working class struggle against these issues. To date a large number (400) of those employees remain unemployed and have lost considerable accrued superannuation benefits and the like.

An important point to make is that for a system of Government as exists in Queensland to survive attacks must be made on the working class movements. In so doing, its strategy is to cause and promote divisions in the organised labor movement, and in the left. Nowhere is there to be seen as concentrated an effort in this direction as in Queensland. Unfortunately there has been a history of serious divisions in the ranks of left force in Australia for years. These differences have been a handicap to effective leadership of the left and therefore the working class, in endeavours to defend hard won conditions.

After the strike itself, we saw that workers who attempted to be re-employed by S.E.Q.E.B. were confronted with a "new deal" by S.E.Q.E.B. management. There were a number of new conditions under which they may have been re-employed, (a) Thre 60% had to go. On the 22.2.85 declaration which would be reviewed by a Tribunal (or Appeal Committee) to include:

(i) were you forced to go on strike;
(ii) were you forced;
(iii) evidence of harassment and by whom;
(iv) were you on sick leave, compensation leave, on holidays etc. at the time of the strike;
(v) did you obtain a jobs on a normal S.E.Q.E.B. application form. The conditions of employment would be as follows:

(a) signing of a no-strike clause
(b) 38 week, 10 days a fortnight
(c) no bans or direction
(d) no demotions
(e) no loss of membership (preferred)
(f) restored shift work, 2 shifts per day 6-2 pm and 2 pm-10 pm to be worked anywhere in seven days
(g) requirement that men must be able to start or finish in any depot in the board area
(h) must be prepared to live away from home
(i) Industry payment demands employees be treated as new employee, i.e. no experience payment, no sick leave entitlements, no annual leave -- superannuation not available

These conditions for those who were employed for the first time and for those who sought and gained re-employment contrast with conditions for existing
A Socialist Feminist Perspective: Essential for The Left

By Louise Peering

The Broad Left Conference provides socialist feminists with an opportunity to put a case for the emergence of strategies and action from the Left which integrate women’s issues into mainstream industrial and political campaigns.

Socialist feminists interpret Australian society in terms of two power systems: operating in tandem to determine an individual’s social position. First there is capitalism and second, patriarchy.

Capitalism alone is not fully responsible for the oppression of women. It is responsible for much oppression that suits the owners and managers of the means of production. However the subordination of women predicates capitalism, certainly perpetuates capitalism and divides in socialist societies where years of effort to eradicate it have had varying degrees of success. The subordination of women, arises from the tendency of men to see themselves as superior. This tendency leads to the phenomenon described by feminists as patriarchy.

Women who are socialist feminist do not base their case on the fact that they were born with female bodies. The argument is that regardless of gender an individual should have the right to develop and participate fully in life without being obstructed by factors related to sex. Women are biologically equipped to bear children and men are biologically equipped to father children – the connection between this biological specialization and the subordination of women is by no means a natural one.

Socialist feminists understand that women will never achieve equality under capitalism. Capitalism derives its strength from the division and inequality of social classes.

If equality for women is ever to be achieved it will only happen under socialism. However socialist feminists know that socialism alone, that is changes in the economic order will not necessarily lead to equality for women. Attention must also be paid to the eradication of patriarchy, that means cultural and attitudinal changes affecting women’s status and quality of life.

Socialist feminists work towards socialism on two fronts – economic industrial changes that challenge capitalism and cultural and attitudinal changes that challenge patriarchy. The issues of central importance to Australian socialist feminists are employment, industrial relations and women’s liberation.

Although women make up 50-55% of the workforce, they are under-represented in management and professional jobs. Women are employed in the lower paid section of the economy, in sectors that have been made secure by the creation of a large retail and small service work and in industries that are now decline such as the clothing and food industries. It is predicted that with change in the direction of the economy one in every five blue collar workers will be unable to find one by the year 2000.

Women who do work are likely to be in lower paying than men do in the same work. On the average women only two-thirds of what men earn. Although by and large women do earn only 20% of all income, 1 equal pay case lost in the Arbitration Commission recently was a severe blow to the cause of wage justice for women as it indicates how far women have still to achieve equality as workers.

One of the key factors determining women’s situation in the workplace is care. In N.S.W. at present there are 150,000 children under two years old with licensed child care places for 600. Over one-third of mothers of preschool age children are in the labour force. The majority must rely on relatives for child care and use other informal arrangements.

The problem of child care does not stop at the school gates; it continues through school hours and working hours of often match. The need for child care is unappalledly minimal.

Government spending on child care is less than the amount given each year to new child care places by the Hawke government in 1983 is to be cut by 20%. Even if the spending had been maintained it would only have increased the number of places available from 6% of all children in need to 10%.

The ACTU/AFL Accord is crony attitude to socialist feminism because it avoid intervention and regulation of the private sector in the name of creating an equitable society.

The document commits the organization to protecting people’s social standards. It says this will be achieved by improving real wages, redistributing wealth through tax reform, improving the social wage and programs of unemployment. It also urges yet in the whole workforce as against the righting "survival of the fittest" approach. This would result in the wages of men.
A Time To Listen

by Mike Jonalson (Wokingam)

In a recent contribution to the Manist Summer School reprinted in Tribune, an English environmental activist criticised socialists for placing production above all else, for fetishing growth and for adopting an instrumental attitude to the environment. The critics have a curiously dated ring to those who have been active socialists over the last decade or more. A quick read of the section on the environment in the Communist Party's Program, adopted as long ago as 1919, shows that there is nothing new in the idea that nature is a commodity.
Thoughts on Strategy for Socialists

by Jim Mass (New South Wales)

The confederation of Australian Industry (CAI) has called upon employer groups to unite against the "communist enemy." Why is this "communist enemy" of the employers?
We can rest assured it includes the unions and labour movement, the Socialists, and the movements setting for the women, the environment, peace, Aborigines, civil liberties, national independence, education, and the poor.

The Broad Left, as a majority of self-preservation, as well as for its vision of the future, should unite against the right offensive.

What is the source of the right offensive and therefore the "communist enemy" of the Socialists? Besides the CAI and other organs of the totalitarian confederation, it includes the Liberal and National Parties, the leaders of the National Farmers Federation, the Right to Life, the National Civic Council, the developers, proprietors, and stock groups. Among its leaders are Howard, Oljemen, Bejlee-Petersen, Strif, McNichol, Santamaria, Rainey, and others.

Pressures on Labor Governments and the ALP Labor and Labor Governments subject to the right offensive, and faced with real economic and financial difficulties, are retreating in many areas of social programs and aid this birth-siding which adds to the burdens on the Australian people. They need to develop constructive policies to counter it, and be flexible of policy with the right, without at the same time losing right of the source of the right offensive. The right political strategies and to restore Liberal (National) Governments even less responsive to the people. When Liberal Governments are in office the people by their own experiences realize these limitations. There is growing disentanglement with the present Labor Government which should not be exaggerated. They mean no return to Liberal Governments but Socialists should work for more radical policies. When Labor Governments are in office the only possible alternative appears to be Labor. The challenge, for the left, is to present the return of Liberal National Governments while strengthening the labour left and the broad left.

Unite Labor Left and Broad Left. There is no question that the unions and the Socialist Left in the ALP must be defended, but a large extent this depends upon the unions broadening their appeal. Capital and its media wage an unmitigating offensive to alienate the unions from public support. Sometimes this is abetted by unions concentrating on their own narrow and sometimes salient interests. The defence of the unions depends upon them overcoming isolation and winning the confidence of all segments of the people by their concern for the needs of women, the environment, peace, Aborigines, etc. These social movements, in turn, should recognize the unions as forces against the right offensive. It is not adequate to concentrate on strengthening the labour movement and then extend it to the social movements. The process goes on side by side. Socialists should aim to unite the two in the Broad Left.

The Accord. It is not denied that the Accord has not maintained wage levels and production levels, but it has not been aggressive in its value. The growing crisis of overproduction means that the level of profits, some the result of speculation, is temporary. Wages have not been drastically reduced, and the unions in confrontation with capital, should not be used as a weapon in the past. Some argue that the Thatcher government's move was a victory for the miners, but it did not stop the closing of pits and virtual destruction of some mining communities, the original cause of the strike. Of course there were gains as well as losses - greater political consciousness of the miners, and experiences of solidarity, organisation and the role of the State. On the other hand it showed the lack of solidarity support from the unions in a whole. Some argue that the Accord has resulted in a victory between the capitalists and the unions. But there have always been agreements between capital and labour, periodically, for example, after an Atlantic underwritten by consent, or following the settlement of disputes, in one such form of agreements. It is not too much of a strain if the involved in making the decisions and in implementing the Accord and this a threat to the union to involve the

But it is in the interest of the whole working class to have a system of collective bargaining, in this way the whole class, all workers, are entitled to periods, wage adjustments instead of best organized workers gaining creating a superior position over the less organized, lowest paid and most vulnerable, widening the inequalities are workers. Secondly, it is not only wages are considered but the social wage, including taxation level, social service payments, and superannuation. It is the way the unions can speak for a community, widening their horizons to become the support of the working class.

The Accord concerns the state above in other ways. The right wages set end of social wage being and the deregulation of labour. The Accord is not perfect but this the sum of trade unionism as a whole. A could be improved by implementing the objective, which is particular to industry development and employment.

By analysing the national situation not a part is one in separate-organised Socialists are able to discern the hard realities and work to isolate them. If Socialists are in a position, who may tend to the right who are responsible to some extent mass action, Socialists should seek among this strata in the fight against the right, but at the same time reduce the moves to accommodate the right. A departs upon the Socialists getting over, working together and establishing an unity and action.

What is the "Broad Left"?

by Bill Moly (New South Wales)

The "Broad Left," I suppose, is "narrow left". Instead of jettisoning ideological terms - in terms of the or views people attached to - (for "look, it might mean in these terms in the class structure developed through a shrewd long-term commitment.

Including, but not exhausting, the issues and movements so far mentioned, and others not mentioned, such a party of course be working class, because the working class comprises the bulk of the population, and because the vast majority of these collectively active in social transformation are working class. Of necessity the party will have to take very seriously work within the most strongly developed, secure and powerful organizations of that class, the trade unions.

The party will also be Marxist because the current righteousness of Marxism is very much a product of those who practice it, spread through the areas of social dynamics. As we grow to see this spread as the vast good that it is, we will inevitably discover Marxism is a unifying discourse necessary understanding many of us can do and do share.

The "Broad Left" is a very broad, broad concept, and it is not precisely defined. However, within the broad concept of the "Broad Left," there are several key features that can be identified:

1. Ideological: The "Broad Left" identifies itself as Marxist, with a commitment to a socialist society and the principles of equality, justice, and solidarity.
2. Organizational: The "Broad Left" is organized through various groups and organizations, including trade unions, political parties, and grassroots movements.
3. Political: The "Broad Left" engages in political action, including campaigning, organizing, and running candidates for political office.
4. Economic: The "Broad Left" focuses on economic issues, such as economic justice, worker's rights, and the need for a socially owned economy.

In summary, the "Broad Left" is a broad, diverse, and inclusive concept that reflects a commitment to a socialist society and the principles of equality, justice, and solidarity. It is organized through various groups and organizations, and engages in political action and economic issues.
The left and the working class have been able to develop more far-reaching economic analysis in the past few years. The left's economic analysis has been important — even to the point that we now see John Macbean taking a role in the BHF takeover — and making really important economic points as well.

There are social and structural barriers to these alliances. There are few regular forums where the sectors get together, and they usually negotiate separately with government. Thedeveloped styles are different. Unions are a traditional left preserve, while women play leading roles in community groups.

We need to clarify our analysis of the non-working class. Even our terminology is inadequate — we talk about 'community' or 'consumers', though these are vague terms that do not reflect reality. The concept which could help us overcome these barriers is the 'class concept'.
the necessity of its preservation in terms of fundamental Christianity. This protection means opposition to humanist education, to abortion, to equal rights for women and aborigines to gay rights. In the name of the family, WA and WW/WW also advocate small government, private enterprise, and individual initiative. One of the features of the new right groups which distinguish them from the NCC in the '50s is that they have not mobilised a strong grass roots movement. The tactics of the new Right Women's Groups have developed along different lines but give the impression of mass support.

What are the tactics of WW/WW and WAA? The strategy adopted has been to target representative and educational institutions and use the mass media to spread the message. In practice this has involved lobbying politicians, conducting letter writing campaigns, organising petitions and gaining representation on government advisory bodies. WW/WW in 1978 set out to lobby the National Women's Advisory Council. Its condemnation of NWAC was represented in terms of its unrepresentative and sexist nature but was, in fact, based on NWAC's opposition to abortion. WW/WW regarded this stance by NWAC as evidence of its takeover by feminists, and as symptomatic of the public service by feminists seeking to 'engineer' a 'unisex' society. WW/WW made direct approaches to MPs on this issue.

NWAC held a regular practice, consultations with community groups and this led to its sponsoring a series of State and regional conferences to encourage discussion of Australia's plans for the second half of the 1970s for women and participation in the mid-decade conference in Copenhagen in 1980. WW/WW sought to participate in these conferences and as well conducted a campaign to discredit and disrupt NWAC. They conducted letter writing campaigns to newspapers alleging misconduct and rigging of NWAC conferences.

In lobbying Federal Parliament, WW/WW presented petitions to both the Senate and the House of Representatives calling for NWAC's abolition. The objective was to convince both the government and opposition that there was national dissatisfaction with NWAC. This tactic was very effective, with many petitions received by the Senate and House of Representatives calling for NWAC's abolition. The petitions had fewer than 10 signatures and most were presented from Victoria and Queensland where WW/WW was most active.

These tactics proved successful. The conservative government, who had established NWAC in 1978, overturned a NWAC nominated delegation to Copenhagen and made sure the anti-feminist groups were represented. New appointments to NWAC in 1980 included the NSW President of WA.

In 1981, the campaign shifted to education focusing particularly on sex education in schools and women's studies courses in tertiary education. Babette Francis was appointed to the Committee of Inquiry into Equal Opportunities in schools in 1978 by the Victorian Government. She prepared a minority report arguing that the inquiry had ignored the feminist arguments of equal opportunity and assumptions of discrimination.

Networking has been an important strategy. The petitions against NWAC showed evidence of at least three networks — the NCC, sections of the Liberal Party in Victoria and Queensland, and the National Party in Queensland. Groups like WW/WW seem to be concerned about building grass roots support. Their target audience are policy areas like the Equal Opportunities and the Equal Rights campaign. They see that views should be taken seriously. Their goal is inclusion in the policy making process and if ignored they threaten electoral damage.

Activity within the labour movement has been a feature of the Right Women's organisations and campaigns and particularly targeting the Working Women's Centre and using influence on the ACTU executive to reject or ignore proposals from the ATU Women's Committee. The opposing Women's Charter has been strengthened by amendments from the floor of Congress because of the influence of the S.O.A. and C.C.I representatives on both the Women's Committee and Executive, their rejection of proposals on child care and affirmative action.

The Working Women's Centre has not fared so well. Many were, former co-ordinator, was moved out of the Centre. A number of the positions have been abolished and the functions of the centre have changed so it now provides policy and advice to the Equal Rights campaign. There is no advisory and information service to working women.

The three basic ideological themes of the anti-feminist movement have been reflected in all these campaigns. 1. There is no sexism.

Anti-feminists want 'emancipation' not liberation. The need to be emancipated is relating to the devaluing of the female role brought about by 'libbers'.

2. Sex differences are innate not socially conditioned.

The role of women is pre-ordained by biology and men can be anyone else differing from their allotted role (wife and mother) is deviant.

3. Individual women are responsible for their situation and life.

A positive mental outlook will overcome most problems. Phyllis Schlaeffy calls it

the power of the positive woman'. The Right have made private issues like domestic violence, incest and sex education the province of public politics.

In short, the family should be autonomous, self sufficient and independent of state influence. Women must be self-sacrificing and unsellish, working to ensure a successful marriage. Workforce participation is a 'costlylux

of choice'. Neither her husband nor children will appreciate the lack of attention.

What are the issues the emergence of the Right Women's Groups raises for the left and for the women of the Left?

1. They should not be ignored nor shunned. They are a source of influence that cannot be

The success of the right in the short and in the successes of WW/WW and WA Australia has been significant. Ignoring them will not make them go away. Homosexuals like those provided by the working women's centre have been ignored.

The draft Affirmative Action legislation should be the subject of a concerted right wing campaign with Professor Levin and Phyllis Schlaeffy adding their weight to the opposition. Business will also find this attractive since they view such change costly.

The recent abortion trial in Queensland has raised abortion back to the top of some political agendas.

The men on the left must join the fight.

Campaigns around working conditions for women, child care, affirmative action, abortion, EEO have been marginalised. Few unions have seriously taken up the fight, few resources have been allocated.

3. A Left strategy must be developed.

The consequences of pursuing a just and equitable society, the principles must be pushed and the campaigns organised to pursue these goals not react or waste complacency.

4. The issues raised by women must be taken seriously.

Leaving women out of politics' means to have a screen on the issues being raised by women do not have to be addressed seriously.

In an analysis of the 1980 Federal election by Marian Sawit she noted the issues raised by Labor women were branded 'middle class feminism'. The only issue raised by women taken by labor and the media during that campaign was ABOPTION - raised by WW/WW and the Right to Life.
Women and the Class Struggle
by Audrey McDonald

The Broad Left Conference is a positive initiative which gives the opportunity for dialogue to those who want to see united joint action around given issues aimed at advancing the immediate and long term interests of the working class, where Women have an important contribution to make in the struggles of the working class. The Left has a responsibility to ensure that they are involved to the fullest possible extent.

Under socialism society, now with years of experience, while women have real or basic equality, vestiges of chauvinism still remain. Efforts are constructively being made to wipe out these vestiges in various countries.

In capitalist society some progress has also been made to change attitudes due to the influence of the women's movement. This was one of the positive achievements of the '68 Decade. However, as male chauvinism is a root of capitalist ideology and its exploitive nature it is a big task to overcome and change the attitudes of those towards women's equal role. Only when fundamental equality is established will it be possible to completely eliminate discriminatory attitudes.

Capitalist society conditions both men and women. The view that women are unequal, therefore, is necessary for the Left, both women men, to raise people's consciousness encouraging women to play a full and equal role in society.

It is in capitalism's interest to promote divisions and continue to ward off moves towards winning reforms for women, especially economic reforms.

For example, after long years of campaigning by the trade union movement and women's movement, women still only receive 67% of the male wage rate and recent attempts to push ahead for equal wages has been strongly resisted by the employers as it challenges the profits they make from as cheaper labour.

With the spread of such a deplorable position, now more than ever support for the campaigns by the trade union and women's movements is necessary. The Broad Left Conference gives the possibility to further consider strategies in the campaign for equal pay.

The Left, women and men equally, have a responsibility to unite the movement against the Right and its growing influence and presence. This means finding the way to unite the trade unions and organisations for support of the trade unions and the various arms of the progressions movement.

The future offers many opportunities for the Left to organise actions and campaigns in areas of special concern to the women's movement (i.e. the Federal Government's Personal Agenda for Women) and continue broader issues confronting the labour movement as a whole.

As the demands of the women's movement can only be fully realised under socialist conditions, progressive women activists and the Left generally need to promote the socialist objective. Furthermore, because such objectives can only be realised in a world of peace, the peace issue is central to all campaigns.

We need to ensure that the Broad Left Conference takes these questions into account and is a positive focal point where actions will be mapped out to advance the cause of the working class, the Left and women.

The Accord and its effect on the Labor Movement
by Eugene Sibley (Adelaide)

Some people on the Left maintain that the coming of the ACCC is a disaster. The demise of the accord was to provide a framework for struggle to maintain the living standards of working people, especially those on lower incomes and workers. The real objectives of the accord become obscured by the closer analysis of the framework. These objectives are:

- to retain wages to exist from profit recovery
- to retain profits in business
- to restate the A union in the interest of Australian industry in the interest of Australian and International Capital.

In respect to these objectives the accord has been remarkably successful. Large groups of employees especially in big businesses support the accord. (See Neil Road, The Accord Business in Business Review Weekly, December 1, 1985)

The accord is the central strategy of the right wing Hawke Labor government. Its basic philosophy is consensus and collaboration between Labor and Capital. That is it is not exactly the same as the British Social Contract or that the majority of delegates at the ACTU Congress supported the accord, does not make it a correct and worthwhile strategy for the Trade Union movement and for socialist to advocate.

Since the accord we have experienced the lowest level of disputes for a while. (See the table). The decline in disputes is an indication of the process taking place in the working class. To talk about the decline in wages under Fraser and contrast this with CPI increases under Hawke is to distort the picture.

During the Fraser years the campaign for shorter hours and a wage increase included a commitment for no extra claims. This was a recognition by the employers and organised workers of the need to moderate all claims to avoid industrial and economic decline. In contrast, Hawke's government has been more willing to moderate the pace of the world economy.

While Fraser managed to decrease wages in the period of recession, Hawke is managing to restrain wages in a period of upturn. The 1985-86 budget paper on national income and expenditure in 1982-83 has wages and salaries growing by 6% in Australia's national income of $123 billion, while profits made up 26.6%, in 1984-85 wages and salaries consoliated 57.5%, profits were at 30.6% of a national income of
The accord is the result, among a vast array of the class struggle. The pre-accord stance has led to a consensual position and a tension of relations on the working-class union. Every small reform and gain is being expropriated by the ALP and the ACC. The tax cuts that were supposed to help lower-income groups were not as expected. The CPI increases were merely maintaining the position of the better-off workers by awarding a greater increase to the better paid. The superannuation scheme, which is being traded off for a wage increase, is as a result of the 5.3% increase in productivity ABS figures, are all being paid as real gains. But what of the other part of this deal?

Wage restraint has been closely followed by wage discounting in the Accord Rate. This approach of agreeing in principle to a wage cut is a travesty of basic trade unionism. Let alone socialist politics. Let’s not talk about Lenin’s struggle with the economists. I’m sure Lenin would not support wage discounting even if the whole trade union movement did.

The failure of the ACTU and the trade union movement to respond to the attacks on the Queensland power workers, the Memorial Day at Muddigbin, and the deregisration action of the Federal Labor government is a reflection of the Accord philosophy in the trade union movement. The attitude that we cannot oppose Labor and the accord because that threatens the ALP government, and that the ALP is much more preferable than the Liberals anyway, and that anyone who takes such a “sage” line of attitude to the employer’s attack on labor’s humanity has just violated the right and the conservatives, is not facing the facts.

It is this approach that has strengthened the right because it does nothing to advance the class-consciousness of the working class. The left collage on the admittance of the four NCC unions into the Victorian ALP. The decline of the CPA and the growth of the Call to Australia and the formations is a result of the left being held hostage to Laborism and its failure to fight for clear working class policies and interests in its own interest. Surely at a time when the Peace Movement is growing, unemployment is high, Aboriginals, migrants and women are being attacked and the union movement still has its forces, significant gains can be made by the left. The strategy of working within the accord will ensure that no advancement in the core of the ACCU services, and in the unions, will continue. We will be faced with a decline in the power of the labor movement.

The actual gatherings in Sydney at Easter are only part of a much more important process taking place in the progressive movements. There is a more serious search for solutions to the impasse in which we find ourselves at a time of advances by conservatism on many fronts. The right to strike and the right to picket has provided an impetus towards left unity or at least joint action and support. In the central west of New South Wales the conferences provided the basis for the coming together of a wide range of activists in Bathurst on March 2nd. An unexpectedly large number of young people attended and the areas of activity included disarmament, anti-nuclear labor movement, environmentalists, feminists and farmers. To this core can be added a number of people who witnessed the meeting and will support further activities, and those who are interested but live over the span of western New South Wales. This would total about 50 people.

While not enough to make a revolution, it is a strong core of activists which reflects the ALP membership in the area. Political affiliations are interesting. Most are non-aligned and had never belonged to a party. Some expressed trepidations about groups like the SFL. Former ALP members who have left it protest at the rightward shift nationally and in the local branch made up a solid percentage. A few belonged to the ALP or the CPA, and some supported various issues.

Issues raised in the workshops matched the range of involvements. The “Pre-Base” campaign in the area was raised from an environmental viewpoint, the growth of the right became a matter of analysis and intervention and unions needed a focus for co-operation.

The left is concerned as a subject for the Easter conferences. In particular there is a need to recover and internationalise the role of agribusiness in financing huge debts at high interest rates and the role of farmer organisations which are serving the interests of agribusiness, not the farmers themselves. Many of those most in debt are the smaller farmers who are being mobilised by the right but uncertainties were given of support for the idea of union-famer links in opposition to the unionisation of the farmers. It is difficult to report the general and diverse discussion which took place. One thing which disturbed a number of the participants about the 8th Conference was that it would not launch a new socialist party.

I found the discussion invigorating a good basis for building cooperation and confidence among activists. Rather than seeking theoretical solutions first, building unity among agreed issues in a pre-condition to left advance, in part making the incoherent analysis and not capable of sustaining more effective social policies.

A number of those attending the Bathurst meeting, which was addressed by a member of the Union of Australian and Convened by the Cross Left Conference, Spurred, will be in Sydney at Easter. It certainly be a test of the maturity of the left under the gaze of a lot of people proving unmoved. If free debate can occur with too much racism or division it will be a milestone. Our experience suggests it should be confident of great interest and goodwill.

Uniting the Front or Else!

by Hugh Hamilton (Queensland)

For whatever reason during the action on the Trade Union Movement Left groups that do function in this, and those people who are hone together, have some connection with those who are there -- did not seriously attempt to co-operate the Left’s activities during 1983, there are an attempt to define common grounds for socialists to participate in the influence of the discussion.

On frequent occasions when we did get together. It appeared to us to be a them and us situation. Sometimes boarding on paranoia, we were all guilty of this.

The following is an exaggerated comment... but I make it to emphasise... within the left an attitude that everybody on the Left has got a tag.

We have reached the stage where Left refer to each other as the “crackpots” some on the left refer to other as the shock of right wing bastards, and the other there’s the workers.

If we all say we are going in the same direction -- for Christ’s sake let’s talk about those things we can agree on and find some common ground that we can agree on and help to take the political social movement in this state forward and let’s drop the tags and name calling.
Today's gathering, I hope, will go some way in establishing a forum to at least provide an area for dialogue and exchange for a variety of Left forces in Queensland, and hopefully, a network can be established that can be used to organise people and organisations that have common goals to exchange and organise to do something to beat back the tide of reactionary politics here in Queensland.

To return to my comments about the Trade Union Movement, finding itself fighting on a new terrain.

For approximately 30 years following the second world war, with few exceptions, i.e. ups and downs of the economy, economic growth in this state and throughout the country was the norm... and the split-off from that economic growth for unions and their members was higher living standards. From the early '70s all that changed. During the '60s socialists in this country thought that unemployment in capitalist countries could be solved. I think we all understand now that unemployment can't be solved... and even Labor governments realise that it is going to be around 10% of the workforce in this country no matter what... with a possibility of it getting worse. Today Labor governments are measuring their performance with regards to employment opportunities for the Australian workforce on the basis of whether it is up or down from a level of 5%. In 1998, 8% is the norm.

During the past ten years the impact of technology and the general introduction of automation has had a devastating effect on the workforce and trade unions. Unions have been forced to develop an effective strategy to maintain jobs.

The relatively large manufacturing base has disappeared and much of it has now been transferred to trade free zones in Asia.

Many farmers are in run because of the world market prices and high interest rates.

While industrial and agricultural workers are facing a job, the giant, agric, economic and political monopolies such as Elders Ltd, and AMP are reaping the benefits and are a dominating force. They are capitalising on and using the genuine problems of the small farmers to further consolidate their own positions. The main spokesman for the farmers is Ian McLauchlan, a director of Elders Ltd, and a member of one of the wealthiest grazing families in Australia... a new phenomenon in Australia also is the organising of the farming community and the small business community by a group of right wingers who have introduced into the farming community the worst type of anti-labour anti-union philosophy. A philosophy that is anti-union and is capable of turning their supporters into a potential new guard storm trooper type organisation.

I recently had the opportunity of being spoken to by the president of the Australian Cattlemen's Union. Quite frankly the gentleman frightened me with the hatred and venom he directed at the Trade Union Movement and his threats of organising the farming community to become physically involved in taking care of the militant trade union in Australia, along with wage cutting, deregulation and all that goes with the new right philosophy.

Of course, this is not new to socialists for decades, I suppose we can all say all part of the new right - and of course it is. Their aim is to obstruct and restrict the unions from carrying out normal activity. A vicious campaign of smearing the organised trade union movement and dismantling it.

They rely on the help of conservative governments of all labels by having legislation enacted to take trade unions out of business. For example, Thatcher's legislation in Britain and the Queensland government.

In the past, conservatives like Menzies and others hated the trade union movement and the socialist movement just as much as anybody else. One just needs to reflect on the communist dissolutions bill and Menzies' proposal to drop the bomb on China.

In today's conditions, to achieve their aim they know that the new right want, they must weaken the ability of the trade union movement to defend workers' conditions and ultimately destroy it.

We need a new terrain that we find ourselves in declares strike illegal. Picketing is illegal. Fines and penalties are imposed. The new right is able to attack trade union activists, trade union leaders and trade union organisations. All these penalties can be imposed up to $50,000 unions up to a quarter of a million dollars. Nobody will go to jail. Officials who are fined, workers who are fined - will either pay up or have their property confiscated. No closed shops, not compulsory union membership - compulsory strike ballots - an impotent arbitration commission - all this goes with attacks on real standards and conditions of workers.

To cite a few: no penalty rates for overtime, no protective agreements with work, no 17½% annual leave loading - no supersanctions - no wage rise to sugar workers - and so it goes on.

Some might say - 'Well, what's new? That's always been the case'. I am suggesting that it has not always been the case. Certainly everything that we have referred to has happened on one occasion or another, today it is all happening at the same time in a concerted organised way on a very wide front organised by a force in our community that is determined to take on theadle Union Movement and smash it.

In the United States of America, these things have happened with the SEGB introduction of the right to work legislation in the southern states resulting in reduce...living standards of workers.

The membership of unions in the United States of America is down to approximately 14% of the workforce.

There is also a communication revolts its effect on the massies is devastating. The role played by the media particularly television.

Examples in major confrontations that the Trade Union Movement has with governments and big employers in Australia and throughout the world, the struggle can be seen on television as it is happening - pickets lines - picketers being beaten by the police. Bullet-proof buses for scans.

Workers are now acutely aware because of TV that major disputes have been lost such as with the air traffic controllers, the miners in Great Britain, the printers in Great Britain and SEGB in Queensland, not only has the dispute been lost but also workers were sacked.

The worker and his family surely make mental assessment of such situations and link everybody else, workers and their families like back winners.

As Dinny Madden of the EUO said in an interview, 'we have seen the SEGB dispute which highlighted this fact - the SEGB had no card - was a blue wh...a few pickets - picketers being beaten by the police.

We must change the role of media and particularly television.

These are new elements in the struggle. They concern workers. They make them think twice, so to speak, about their own involvement. These are new elements have created problems for the leadership of the unions and for the rank and file.

It is going to make it hard for the Trade Union Movement to get workers to down tools, picket lines, pickets etc. for someone else's fight. Acts of solidarity require a great deal of organisation, the support of the workers who are going to take that step. Yet, solidarity is the most important aspect of trade union action. It is the key to success. It is the highest expression of union unity.

Without working class solidarity, the employing class is able to pick off one person at a time - the SEGB is a clear example of this.

During 1983, evidence of this lack of solidarity at all levels of the Trade Union Movement was as obvious as day to those people who were prepared to acknowledge the reality during the SEGB dispute for months prior to the building trades grade stoppage.

I have to add though that, the trade union movement is not going to build a counter attack against the government by united action of the movement.
Capitalist Growth and Economic Policies

By Ray Bound (Tasmania)

The growth issue is little discussed, if critical terms, and little understood even by many on the left.

There are two fundamental economic, social, ideological and political, as well as ecological reasons why an economic strategy, based on conventional growth, means real problems for workers.

1) Capitalist results is use is of new technologies to increase profits at the expense of jobs.

2) Becoming competitive, in capitalist terms, can retain or even gain a market but overall it reduces the number of jobs. (we are part of a world economy.) If benefits from industrialisation are to flow to workers there needs to be increasing worker power in public control in economic planning and decision making, public equity, already existing in many industries, because of hand-outs of public monies to private companies, needs to be recognised and begin to be a source of public income.

Additionally, re-industrialisation needs to be linked with the questions - what is the purpose of production - what is the social and ecological effect of particular types of production - how will people, job availability and the overall economy, be affected. The concept of the social audit needs to be developed and popularised.

At the ideological level, the growth strategy encourages workers to retain capitalist-ideals of progress and accepts the values of competitiveness and intense competition. Quality of life, social harmony and co-operation, neither about which the left is concerned at a fundamental level, are secondary in the outlook fostered by capitalism and its growth approach.

In social terms, practice has shown the growth economy concept is accompanied by an increase of practices which further divide the working class. Key sections of workers are granted high wages, whilst increasing numbers are relegated to low pay, and to part time and/or casual hire. Living standards in capitalist consumption terms increase for some whilst others become even poorer and less secure.

Part time work for professionals may even be an advantage, but for the poorly paid, part time casual work is an economic disaster.

This situation and increasing long term unemployment, leads to increasing frustration and instances of violent reaction, which in turn provides an excuse for violent repression by the forces of the State.

We do need re-industrialisation, but we want re-industrialisation to benefit people, not merely to increase profits at the expense of jobs.

The three sections of the Accord which could make it practical work for increasing worker control, input and control in economic policy making need to be developed, and their implementation fought for as a priority issue.

The concept of progressive equality in return for progressively lower pollution needs to be presented to workers as the growth concept - it means pushing the social audit concept. At the political level the destructive, social and economic inefficiency endemic to the growth society serves the right.

The humanistic approach requires concern for people not profits and that is what the Left needs to persist. Ideas and use of resources to develop ideas and practical policies, providing for a sort of growth which benefits people as an alternative to capitalist approaches and will remain under the ideological control of the capitalist ideologic machine.

I believe the Left strategy paper produced in Exeter last year should be reprinted in BL Bulletin No.1. It sums up important aspects of the context in which we have to work when it says: "Capitalism now threatens the living standards of large numbers and will increasingly fail the expectations of many more people. Despite this, they will continue to live at a standard, which if measured in terms of consumption, will be relatively high. The quality of life is being eroded. There are irresponsible increases in production, whilst simultaneously large quantities of food and some other goods are destroyed. There is no serious effort to create the conditions in which millions of people now starving can begin to feed themselves. As our capacity to produce increases, the capacity of tens of millions, throughout the world, to gain access to the wealth we produce is shrinking. Increased destruction of resources means present and future generations"

SATURDAY LUNCH at the Broad Left Conference Watch out for "TITS AND PIECES" A Salute to the changing role of women. Lunch will be at the Concourse Cafe (or it weather permits on the lawn behind the cafe). Produced by the Crazy Mamas of Newcastle, Lisa Dickeman, Meg Dann & Alva Thompson

Developing The Networks

By Tony Douglas (Victoria)

It's good to see the 'Broad Left Conference' taking shape. At last an attempt is being made to draw together progressive people in a non-deterministic atmosphere to map out strategies and responses to the political crisis that enveloped the Left since the early seventies. The areas to be discussed are: recent events, the image of the Left in public, the Left in its relationship to the working class and the mainstream political parties, the Left in its relationship to the working class and the mainstream political parties, and foreign affairs (briefly).

1) Prime example is the support for bureaucratic (public sector) solictor general, to the array of social, political, environmental and economic concerns we confront today. In essence, bureaucracies with their hierarchal structure, their overall concern for self-preservation and concomitant lack of concern about social change, their desire to manage control rather than create or liberate one of the major impediments to policy change. They are at best a vast waste of precious resources and, at worst a co-operation and opposition used by ruling class with our money and power, to maintain a status quo. And it is not to say that we cannot be a bureaucracy in a short term sense if we start out with the commitment to produce instead of try to destroy ourselves.

2) And it is not to say that we cannot be a bureaucracy in a short term sense if we start out with the commitment to produce instead of try to destroy ourselves. And it is not to say that we cannot be a bureaucracy in a short term sense if we start out with the commitment to produce instead of try to destroy ourselves.

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4) And it is not to say that we cannot be a bureaucracy in a short term sense if we start out with the commitment to produce instead of try to destroy ourselves. And it is not to say that we cannot be a bureaucracy in a short term sense if we start out with the commitment to produce instead of try to destroy ourselves.

5) And it is not to say that we cannot be a bureaucracy in a short term sense if we start out with the commitment to produce instead of try to destroy ourselves.
 Contribution for Conference

The following statement appears in the Broad Left Conference brochure:

Pressing issues of current concern strongly suggest that Broad Left forces should meet in an open atmosphere to discuss perspectives in the left in Australia and internationally.

The election of a Labor Government in 1983 and again in 1984 was a rejection by the working class of the cutbacks and anti-worker attacks the Liberals under Fraser.

However, the record of the Hawke/Keating Government represents a continuation of similar right-wing policies — holding down wages, cutbacks in social welfare, and the threat measures such as deregistration, and anti-democratic measures such as ID cards.

In reality, the Labor Government has acted as an alternative capitalist administration. In particular, because of its links with the union movement, the Labor Government is able to get away with measures the Liberals could not.

The unions are under attack around the country — notably the SEGBE dispute in Queensland, the Meatworkrs at

Mudgebimbi, the Food Processors and the Builders' Labourers Federation. There has been a serious undermining of traditional working class rights, to organise, to resist for independent claims.

Under the ALP-ACPCT Accord, the independent action of workers and unions has been severely held back. There has been complete reliance on the Labor Government, which has failed to deliver on its promises. Instead, we have seen, for example, higher taxes on workers, the middle class and working farmers. The fiscal policies of the Government have aided the development of right-wing forces, for instance, in the leadership of the farmers' revolt.

The actions of Federal and State Labor Governments are opposing the way for defeat for the workers' movement, and the exercise of extreme conservative forces under Howard and his friends. Attacks on the rights of the Labor movement by ALP right-wing Minister-ministers and the wedge for the more open onslaught of the most reactionary forces in the future. The nature of such an onslaught is already shown by the situation in Queensland under Bjelke-Petersen.

There is now a serious challenge to left and progressive forces to reassert fundamental, long-fought-for, principles of the Labor movement.

We need to restate a number of crucial policies which are basic to the defence of working-class interests:

(a) Defence of the Unions: No deregistration of any union; no penal powers of any kind; militant defence of unions under attack, e.g. SEGBE, Mudgebimbi and the BFL.

(b) Defence of living standards: No limitation on extra claims by unions; no limitations right to take industrial action for union claims; no discounting of wage indexation.

(c) Defence of democratic rights: No limitation on the right of socialist and left-wing views to be presented in the ALP (no ideological expulsions, such as that of Bill Hartley); against attacks or civil rights, e.g. the ID card; no to frame-up trials like those of Norm Gallagher and Lionel Murphy; no to attacks on freedom of the press, e.g. the cases of Brian Toohy, Denis Farnham, Rob and Special Branches.

(d) Defence of social conditions: Tax the rich; opposition to higher taxes on workers, the poor, the middle class and working farmers; no cuts, rather a large-scale expansion, of social welfare; no witchhunt against pensioners and other beneficiaries; for genuine supranation for all; opposition to the incomes and assets tests, which are a form of class legislation, including the South African and Central America; Australian Government action in the Philippines; no Australian military aid to dictatorships in the region.

(e) Rights for the oppressed: Support for full, equal rights for women, including the right to abortion, genuine equal pay and job opportunities; free child care; support for Aboriginal rights, including genuine land rights, full compensation, and health, education and welfare facilities.

(f) Support for the defence and extension of the public sector: No to privatization schemes; campaign for the Labor movement's traditional socialist objective — Nationalisation of private industry under workers' control.

QUALITY CHILD CARE will be provided at the Conference Friday 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Saturday 9 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday 9 a.m.-12.30 p.m.

Child care arrangements must be made, advising your requirements on the Registration form prior to the Conference, or phone Jane or Rodyn on 077 524 771. Child care will be located at the Institute of Technology opposite Turner Hall, University of Queensland. Donations according to means would be much appreciated to help cover expenses of child care during a holiday weekend.

John Baker (Blue Mountains), Janet Bruner (Sydney), Vicki Bugmann (Melbourne), Tony Cox (Melbourne), Paul Ford (Sydney), Bob Goul (Sydney), Natalie Goul (Sydney), Caroline Graham (Sydney), Kevin Hannan (Sydney), Phil Lally (Melbourne), Helen Low (Sydney), Jim Mackay (Sydney), Agnes Miller (Melbourne), George Poulton (Canberra), Mark Petersen (Wellington), Brian Phipps (Wellington), Jean Walk (Sydney).