

OUR MAIL BAG

Sir, Your editorial in "Guardian" No. 23 entitled "Religion in Politics" is useful in exposing Fascist tendencies of the Roman Catholic Hierarchy.

Religious people of all sects should be on guard against the agents of Big Business who use their press to sow disruption and by sly innuendos attack the Curtin Government.

The "Catholic Worker," Melbourne, is being used to this end.

The "Clarion," organ of Protestant Action Hierarchy, June 10, attacked the Curtin Cabinet on the grounds that there are some Roman Catholics in it, and advises Protestants to vote against the present Government. Referring to Mr. Ward as "most responsible for creating industrial unrest" it states that "Mr. Ward is a Roman Catholic."

It is significant that neither of these papers mention the progressive achievements of the Labor Government in the face of continuous Opposition disruption.

These tactics can only result in confusion and disunity and assist in defeating the present Federal Government and returning Menzies-Fadden and Co. This would be disastrous.

Yours, etc. W. H. LEARY (President, Painters' Union).

GOOD MARKS AND BAD FOR QANTAS

Junior girls who complained to "Guardian" about the low wages paid by their employer, Qantas, have received increases ranging from 10/- to £1 above award wages, according to age.

A deputation of the girls was organised by the Shop Committee to the management and the increases resulted from the discussion.

This action will lead to better relations between worker and management and assist war production.

A question requiring immediate rectification is the action of the management in fining late-comers. 15 minutes pay is docked from the pay envelope of workers who arrive more than five minutes late.

Overcrowded transport is the cause of most of the lateness in arriving at work. A worker may find it impossible to board the overcrowded 6.45 a.m. bus and arrives by the next bus to clock on at 7.6 a.m. If this happened every day of the week, the worker is docked 1½ hours pay, whereas he has only lost 36 minutes work.

The management should be able to understand that the solution lies not in fining the workers, but in helping to overcome the transport problem.

SOVIET-JAP TRADE

The Soviet, though fully occupied in the west, has refused to "appease" Japan.

The Soviet Government has raised the rents of the fishing grounds to the Japanese. Each year, for some time past, and increase in rent has been imposed—and paid.

Women's Employment Board Rates Demanded At Mass Meeting

500 girls employed at Alison Overhaul, Brisbane, are demanding the rates laid down by the Women's Employment Board.

Explaining his firm's attitude to Union leaders, Shirley, Production Manager of General Motors Holden, which controls Alison Overhaul, stated:—"We have our obligations to the Chamber of Manufactures."

He had previously declared that his firm would willingly pay the 90 per cent. rate, but it was prevented from doing so by the National Security Regulations.

Condemning Shirley's attitude as insincere, Mr. J. Ryan, Secretary of the Vehicle Builders' Union, revealed the true state of affairs.

NO BARRIER.

Addressing a meeting of women and men workers, Mr. Ryan proved that the Aircraft Minister (Senator Cameron) and Munitions Minister (Mr. Makin) had called upon the companies concerned, including General Motors Holden, to pay the 90 per cent. rate provided by the Board; in the event of the High Court deciding against the validity of the regulations appointing the members of the Board, the firms would be reimbursed.

General Motors is one of the firms which has consistently ignored this instruction.

For many months women have been paid £2/18/- a week instead of from £4/18/-. In some cases, girls are teaching men how to do certain work, with the students receiving twice as much as the teacher.

This firm is trying to justify exploitation of women workers on the grounds that highly paid lawyers, at the instance of the Chamber of Manufactures and the Menzies-Fadden Opposition are arguing whether it is "lawful" to pay adequate wages.

At the meeting, Mr. J. Ryan stated:—"This firm fears that when rates will be continued."

POINTS OUT SOLUTION

Urging the women to take strike action, Mr. Ryan stated the way to remedy their grievance for the return of the Curtin Government.

Mr. C. Johnson (Union for other members of the Vehicle Builders' Union, as well as members of the Associated Engineering Union, explaining the policy of the Council of Trades Unions.

A resolution, strongly worded, demanding wholehearted support of the Government, was carried unanimously at the meeting.

Members of the management asked by some of the girls for real reasons for refusing to pay W.E.B. rates, remained silent and were booed and hissed by the workers.

FIRM MUST CO-OPERATE

By obeying the instructions of the Aircraft Minister, this firm would rectify this justifiable grievance of women workers and a better solution would result.

Instead, Shirley has taken steps to prevent the union organisers from entering the premises and has informed an armed guard to prevent any attempt by Johnson to conduct union business on the premises.

Ryan and Johnson are continuing to fight for better wages for the workers, for a better war effort for Alison Overhaul, and for freedom for the workers' organisation.

ON THE MILITARY FRONT

The latest howl of the Federal Opposition is the "unfairness" of the Curtin Government in limiting the size of election posters, in order to conserve paper. The same objectors, who hold a majority in the Senate, disallowed a proposal to allow the free circulation of election literature in military camps, as they disallowed the right of some young soldiers to have a vote. Why the inconsistency?

The big daily newspapers and weeklies back the Opposition, and stir up hostility to the Curtin Government. Every issue contains attacks on the Government in some form or another. These papers circulate in the armed forces with complete freedom, they are not officially "election propaganda." Hence, in reality, the propaganda of the Opposition reaches practically every member of the armed forces day after day. What the Opposition demand is not "fair play" but a monopoly of election propaganda in the armed forces.

It will be found that the most suitable hoardings, and the most competent poster technicians, are at the service of the wealthy supporters of the U.A.P.-U.C.P. They are not inconsistent. All they want is monopoly of the election

propaganda. The attitude of the Opposition is clearly—"What side is fair play, what allows an advantage to both sides is unfair."

Answer the monopolists by circulating every copy of the working class every pamphlet, and every leaflet widely as possible. Keep out "Pill Bob" and his coppers!

YOU MUST LISTEN

THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

Friday — 4BK, 4AK — 7.00
Sunday — 4TO — 1.00
Monday — 4RO — 6.00
— 4MB — 8.00

THE VOICE OF THE COUNTRY

Tuesday — 2MW — 6.00
Sunday — 4BK, 4AK — 12.00

THE COMMUNIST SPEAKER

Tuesday — 4BC, 4SB — 6.00
Sunday — 4CA — 10.30

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