

Throw the Liberals Out! Labor to Power on Dec. 2

What has twenty three years of Liberal rule meant for the masses of people in this country? It has meant Australian involvement in the genocidal war in Vietnam. It has meant compulsory service in the army for hundreds of young people. It has meant denial of educational opportunities to thousands of working class, immigrant and black students. It has meant consignment of millions of women to positions of subservience and inferiority. It has meant unemployment for thousands of workers and young people leaving school. Yet the McMahon govemment claims that nothing is wrong, that the present unemployment is temporary, that inflation will be stopped once the unions are brought under control and that women, black people and immigrants aren't so badly off. What are the facts?

A survey recently released in Melbourne shows just how much credence can be given to McMahon's and the Liberals' utterances that they have unemployment under control. The survey, conducted by the Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research, a body operating at Melbourne University and composed of some of the foremost economic experts in the country, reveals that unemployment figures will reach 180,000 by January. The survey dismissed as inconsequential the so called decreases in unemployment in the September and October figures which have been so loudly hailed by McMahon as a turning point.

The survey did not say that the Liberals achieved their September-October "turning point" by discouraging people from registering for the dole. But we do. We know that throughout Australia hundreds and thousands of working people thrown out of work by the capitalist crisis have been intimidated out of registering as unemployed. We know that thousands of women who have become unemployed have not registered as unemployed because their chances of getting work are nil. We know that the Liberals are desperate to conceal the real unemployment situation in this country because that alone shows that they deserve to be unceremoniously dumped by the Australian working people.

But it is not on the issue of unemployment alone that the Liberals deserve to be cast aside. Have a look at their policies on almost any issue. How have they treated Aborigines during their twenty three years in office? Have they shown any willingness at all to dispossess a few giant pastoral companies of even a small proportion of their holdings so that black people can preserve what is left of their culture by gaining the right to own their tribal lands? No, the big pastoral interests which run the Country Party have seen to that. Have they even done anything to assure black people of adequate housing, health and education facilities? You only need to look at the aborigines'

infant mortality rate for the answer to that question. It is among the highest in the world.

Where do the Liberals stand on womens' rights? Are they going to legislate to grant women equal pay or the right to abortion? Or would the simple act of granting some elementary rights to women hurt too many of the Liberals' powerful friends? These are the big employers who pay women only a fraction of the miserly wages paid to men, and the churches which are allowed to impose their views on the family on the whole society.

What will the Liberals do about inflation? Will they bring under control the big companies which use every pretext to raise their prices in order to squeeze a little more out of the working people? Will they impose a price freeze? Or would that too injure too many of the Liberals' friends?

Will the Liberals allow the working people

the right to organise to fight unemploy-

ment and erosion of their working condit-

The election of Labor after twenty three years of Liberal rule will be a tremendous boost for the labour movement in its coming confrontation with the employers. Only such a conscious political act by masses of working people will give the workers' movement and the movements of the oppressed the strength and the confidence they need for the coming struggles.

For an end to Australian complicity in

standards of living in order to maintain

In the coming elections there is only one

avenue open to people wishing to defend

the rights of workers, women and black

alternative to the misrule of the Liberals.

people, they must vote for the Labor

Party. No other party offers a viable

their profit margins.

For an end to Australian complicity in Vietnam, for an end to conscription, for a step toward womens' rights, for the defence of the right of the workers to organise, for a blow against inflation and high prices, for action on the demands of black people put Labor

ions? We think not. Have a look at the into power on statements of NSW Premier Askin, a December 2. leading Liberal spokesman, he regards the leaders of the working class as "vermin" and has said so in public. The Liberals will do everything in their power to destroy the unions - the defensive organisations of the working people. Premier Askin has said "there is a fight on" and he knows what he is talking about; if the Liberals are reelected they will attack the unions, they will gaol union leaders and fine strikers. The profits of their friends, the big companies are being eroded by the international capitalist crisis and they are seeking to shift the burden onto the shoulders of the workers. They are trying to force the working people to accept lower MORATORIUMI

Special Feature p.4

A Socialist Programme for Labor

renew the demand for the unconditional withdrawal of US forces from Indochina as the essential basis for a just and durable settlement of the issues of the war. The fact that such demonstrations occurred at all in a period of almost universal belief that the war has ended, is an indication of the potential for strengthening the antiwar movement in 1973.

The decline of the antiwar movement in the latter part of 1972 is not an accidental process, nor is it a sign that the massive demonstrations of 1970 and 1971 were ineffective. On the contrary, it is precisely the success of these antiwar actions together with the armed struggle of the Indochinese, and the erosion of support for the war amongst American troops actually engaged in the fighting, that forced Nixon to announce the withdrawal of US ground forces and to embark on a series of diplomatic manoeuvres designed to delude the American people into the belief that the war is ending. Nixon's



by the American presidential election result, in which one of the greatest war criminals in US history won a massive vote by wearing the mantle of peacemaker. It is not the first time, of course, that such a device has been used with success. Lyndon Johnson won against Barry Goldwater by exploiting fear of nuclear war with the Soviet Union, and then went on to order the invasion of South Vietnam by US troops and the most enormous aerial bombardment of any country since the second world war. It took very little time for Johnson's facade of peace talk to crumble away however, and for the rise of an antiwar movement of sufficient strength to compel his vacation of the presidential office in the elections of 1968. Nixon will fare no better than Johnson, in the long run, in trying to persuade the world that war is actually peace, but in the immediate sense his goal has largely been attained. This deception would not have been possible without the active collaboration of the bureaucrats of the Soviet Union and China, who have taken great pains to convince the world that Nixon's assurances prisoners has begun. The postulated should be taken at their face value, that Nixon can be trusted, that Nixon really wants to end the war. The Soviet press has actually shown a marked preference for Nixon over Mc Govern. Small wonder that many people strongly opposed to the war have become confused.

In Australia, very few people indeed have seen through Nixon's electioneering swindles. Mr. Whitlam, in his policy speech at Blacktown on November 13 announced that the Vietnam war is over, and that there was therefore no need to include the Indochina war in Labor's election programme. But Mr. Whitlam is quite wrong. The war is not over. At the very time he made this statement the United States was conducting a tremendous bombardment of South and North Vietnam up to the 20th parallel and was rushing in aircraft and military equipment to strengthen the Saigon army and to build up the Saigon air force into the third largest in the world. The war rages on, Nixon's election talk and Kissinger's globe trotting notwithstanding.

The May 1972 issue of "Scientific American" carries an article by E.W. Pfeiffer on "The Cratering of Indo-China", in which the figure of 26 billion pounds of munitions is quoted as having been expended by the US in Indochina between 1965 and 1971, the equivalent of 450 Hiroshima nuclear bombs, and at the present rate the equivalent of 2.5 Hirashima bombs each day on North Vietnam

We do not know the effect of this bombardment on the morale of the South ietnamese population, but if the lead-

By GORDON ADLER The antiwar demonstrations on Novemaber 18 in a number of countries including the United States, Australia, Sweden and Denmark represent a significant step in the rebuilding of the antiwar movement. They are a recognition of the need to

WHO WAS CONFUSED BY NIXON'S MANOEUVRES? and not the victim, of the bloodbath.

the bombing?

In addition to this there are many areas

control of the Saigon regime during the

day, and which revert to PRG control at

held areas spreads to these disputed areas,

If they do, will Thieu claim a violation

night. As the repression in the Saigon-

will the North Vietnamese forces come

to the aid of the local NLF guerrillas?

of the cease-fire? And if this claim is

For an agreement to have been reached,

of course, both sides have had to make

concessions. The United States has had

to abandon its aim of a military victory,

and to accept the existence of the PRG

in control of large areas of the country-

a major concession to the United States

in dropping its demand for a political

settlement prior to a cease-fire. It has acceded to the continued existence of

the Thieu regime and therefore to the

continued existence of a foothold for

U.S. imperialism in South Vietnam.

Past experience of the war makes it quite

clear that should the civil war break out

again the United States will not hesitate

to use its armed forces to prevent a vic-

tory of the NLF. Now that the Soviet

Union and China have shown that they

do not intend to defend the Vietnamese

antiwar movement becomes the one

for international mass demonstrations

in a telegram from Hanoi to the

these demonstrations.

important force capable of restraining

against the war on November 18, made

National Peace Action Coalition of the

the North Vietnamese leaders attach to

United States, indicates the significance

In Melbourne and Sydney, as in numerous

other cities throughout the world, sizeable

coalition, formed in September to prepare

demonstrations occurred. The antiwar

for an antiwar action on November 18,

that had previously cooperated in the

ions took the action very seriously, or

was made up by the various organisations

Vietnam Moratorium campaign. Unfort-

unately, not everyone in these organisat-

showed that they believed in the possib-

The CPA was lukewarm in its support,

and the AICD circulated its members

but declined to join the coalition. A

ility of rebuilding the antiwar movement.

letter was sent to a large number of trade

unions including all the important left

wing unions, with no response whatever

on the part of any union with the single

exception of the Building and Construct-

ion Workers Federation. On the initiative

of Mr Jack Mundey builders' labourers

were urged to join in the November 18

not have included any loss of pay.

march, which being on a Saturday would

the United States in its designs. The call

against U.S. aggression, the international

side. But North Vietnam has had to make

made will the U.S. respond by resuming

of South Vietnam that are under the

ers of North Vietnam and the NLF have concluded that political conditions make further intense fighting impossible, and if their judgment is correct, it only reflects the enormity of the betrayal by the Soviet Union and China. Whilst being unable to supply modern aircraft to Vietnam the Soviet Union was able to provide vast numbers of advanced weapons and MIG 23 fighters to the bourgeois Egyptian regime, aircraft of a type superior to the best US fighter-bombers in Vietnam.

The Chinese, in 1972, gave \$300 million worth of military aid to Pakistan, while claiming to have given the maximum possible assistance to Vietnam. It can hardly be wondered if in the face of such military and political considerations the Hanoi leaders have decided to accept a stalemate as the best possible outcome of the struggle.

It is, of course, not yet clear whether the United States really intends to sign the agreements at some stage, or whether the whole thing was no more than a great election hoax. Even if the US does eventually sign some agreement, however, the proposals in the nine point programme cannot bring peace. In the first place, the agreement recognises the division of the country into not two, but three, areas of separate administration, each with its own armed forces. The Thieu regime would have absolute authority over the area it controls, it would acquire an appearance of legality which has no real basis, and it would be sustained by the power of the US air success in generating this illusion is shown armada based in Thailand and on the aircraft carriers in nearby waters. Since Thieu has declared any opposition to his regime to be "communist", it is clear that any genuine manifestation of discontent will be used as an excuse for claiming a violation of the cease-fire by the National Liberation forces and a pretext for resuming the bombing by the United States. This has occurred a number of times in Laos, and is the very reason why the Vietnam war extended into the rest of Indochina in the first place. Thieu cannot afford to allow free elections to be held throughout the country, and will certainly not abandon the system of repression upon which the existence of his regime depends.

> The proposed agreement calls for an exchange of prisoners of war, but leaves the issue of the 200, 000 political prisoners in South Vietnam for negotiation between the Saigon regime and the Provisional Revolutionary Government. Already, according to North Vietnam's Foreign Minister Binh a campaign of extermination and torture of these postwar bloodbath so widely discussed in the western press in now under way, with the significant difference that it is the Saigon regime that is the perpetrator,

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HOBART: SYA, P.O. Box 1255N G.P.O, Hobart 7001. Ph 252563 (Alban) I would like to get in touch with the Socialist Workers League I would like more information about the Socialist Youth Alliance I would like to join the Socialist Youth Alliance NAME.

orkers to demand an end to the ar, but made no mention of the n November 18! The Socialist Pa Australia, naturally enough, boye he demonstration. They have the ments! Do nothing to wreck the agree between Washington and Moscow!

ually circulated a petition calli

The attitude of the CPA was well illy rated by the speech of Malcolm S. as the official representative of the at the Sydney rally in Hyde Park, T agreements represent a victory for the



Vietnamese, he contended. The Viet namese have fought the U.S. giant to standstill. The proposed agreements to not mean another Geneva because there is no other great imperialist power reads and able to take over from the American In other words, the agreements are a victory for the antiwar forces. Support the agreements, accept the conditions dictated by the United States, rejoice that the United States has been forced to accept a coalition government in South Vietnam. A coalition including the Thieuregime.

Jack Mundey, on the other hand, took an almost diametrically opposed view, He commended the organisers of the coalition on forming a movement that was non-exclusive and dominated by no one organisation, he emphasised that the war was continuing, and that it was necessary to prepare to build the antiwar movement throughout 1973 on the basis of the demand for the total, immediate and unconditional withdrawal of all U.S. forces. He also expressed disgust at the role of the Soviet Union and Chin in the negotiations.

Individual members of the CPA and AICD as well as other organisations certainly took part in the march, and some distributed leaflets and posters in the weeks before the demonstration. But neither of these organisations as a whole threw the weight of their resources behind the action. The view that it was too near the elections, that the election of a Labor government would make the action unnecessary, that the war was over anyhow, was widely expressed especially by AICD committee member and trade union officials.

Had the trade union leaders taken up the call by the NPAC and by the Hanol leaders, had Mr Whitlam stated in his policy speech that the war was not over and the ALP supporters should march on November 18, had the CPA, the AICD, the SPA and all other organisations of the left given the demonstration their full support, there could have been instead of the hundreds who took part in the march in each city, many thou ands, despite all the illusions that exisabout the ending of the war and the beief that the coming election will render the antiwar movement redundant. Nevertheless the march was an important step in shattering these illusions and creating the basis for a strong anti-was movement in the period ahead.

The Australian component of the inte national actions against the war on how

ember 18 involved: 1,000 people in Melbourne, 500 in Sydney, 250 in Carberra, a picket of 20 people outside Parliament House in Adelaide and an action in Brisbane. Earlier, on October 21, 200 people marched in Armidale in northern NSW.

The Melbourne rally was addressed by a number of speakers including Victo ALP Chairman George Crawford and Labor MP Moss Cass. In Sydney speakers included Jack Mundey from the Builders Labourers Federation and Frans Timme man, editor of "Tharunka", the studen newspaper at the University of NSW. In Canberra Humphrey McQueen, an acadelic from the Australian National University was one of the speakers.

L, POWER WORKERS ACT ON WA

By ANDREW JAMIESON

As the daily capitalist press howls about the two strikes which hit Melbourne on Thursday 16th and Friday 17th, workers in the two unions involved, the Australian Once again, to isolate the MOA workers, Federated Union of Locomotive Enginemen the Liberals have used the capitalist press, (AFULE) and the Municipal Officers Association (MOA), continue to suffer under the attacks of the employers and their hired politicians, the Liberals on the living standards of the Australian workers. Both strikes reflect a response against the Liberal Government's attempts to limit wage increases within government institutions and elsewhere.

THE RAIL STRIKE

2.300 members of the AFULE recently struck for two days over a claim lodged three years ago around the health failure scheme. The scheme provides an effective means of superannuating enginemen out of work, subjecting them to recall or transferring them to other railways duties, The latter provision is the basis for the present strike, the fifth rail strike this

If an engineman is found to be unhealthy he can be transferred to another job, which means a substantial cut in pay to about 4/5 the present drivers rate.

The union claim involves paying such enginemen who have given 25 years service their full wage and those with under 25 years service are to be paid on a sliding scale.

However the Railways Commissioners have consistently refused to negotiate the claim or have stalled to the present time. Thus responsibility for the strike rests squarely on the shoulders of the Commissioners although the union has been the centre of attacks, especially from the Liberals, who have been vigorously attacking the unions in their election campaign.

THE POWER STRIKE

The strike action called by the MOA, which has 6,500 SEC members in Victoria, is the culminating point of a long series of negotiations around allowances for shift workers which started in January this year. The unions claim has often been bandied around in the Arbitration court with no settlement resulting.

During October the MOA, as part of industrial action to win their demand, initiated a maintenance permit ban which meant that generating machines in the SEC could not be repaired effect-

The dispute resolves around the MOA's insistence on 25% of normal salary for three shift rosters and 20% of normal salary for a two shift roster. In return

the SEC has offered a mere pittance of \$8.50 and \$6 respectively for the shift

to blame the mass layoffs caused by the strike on the union, when in fact it was the government's intransigence which caused the strike.

The Liberals, to a certain degree, have unfortunately turned the strike back. The severe restrictions imposed unneces-

sarily by the SEC because of the strike were called off at 12 o'clock on Friday because the MOA rescinded the strike action. By holding the community to ransom and at the same time pumping out anti-union propaganda, the employers were able to blackmail the MOA into backing down.

Mr R.P. Flynn the MOA SEC branch secretary stated that the strike was called off to prevent embarrassment to the ALP in the election. The diversion of mass action into the parliamentary election can only lead to demoralization and defeat of workers struggling to

defend their conditions against erosion by the employers. The ALP should be offering a lead to the workers in their struggle. The ALP must base its election campaign on defence of the interests of the working people. To regard strike action as harming the ALP's election chances is to approach the question wrongly. Action by the workers to defend themselves can only strengthen the labour movement and its party. The ALP should not back away from defending the rights of workers. It is its responsibility to clearly and decisively take the side of labour against the big business interests who attack the labour movement.



By DAVE RILEY

This year's run of union struggles has been notable in many respects. Although each particular issue raised by the unions has its immediate relevance in that sector of industry, the rising militancy has spread to those sectors previously noted for their quiescence.

The increasing willingness to act among white collar unionists is a prime example of this development.

Although white collar unions cover many sections within the service industry, the telling issue in the last twelve months has been that of a 9% increase in salaries, and this 9% has stimulated many responses from the unions concerned.

The period began with the Victorian Municipal Officers Association demanding through strike action their entitlement to the increase. With the success of the MOA there were varying attempts by employers to prevent a flow-on to the rest of the industry. The Administrative and Clerical Officers Association backed down on their initial claim of 9% and

accepted 7.5% from the government. Although the leadership of this union called mass meetings in June, they toned down the dispute and side stepped any suggestion of direct action to push their claim. Before and since that time the story has been one of eight, seven, six or five percent increases within the

The big break from this trend was the action taken by the Australian Bank Officers Association to secure their 9% claim. Initially knocked back by the they won their demand by adopting the tactic of a cheque ban. The action was successful, and with the MOA the ABOA shares the leadership in the rising militancy amongst white collar unionists.

Like other white collar unions the Australian Insurance Staffs' Federation put in their claim for 9% to the employers' Staffs' Reference Committee. Although Insurance Companies have maintained and increased their profits in the past period, they refused to negotiate the claim on the grounds that it would lead to a flow-on.

In response to this the AISF has called mass meetings in all capital cities and country centres to decide further action. Three thousand attended throughout Australia, and in all centres the membership has been willing to move away from negotiated bargaining to further action perspectives. In a dual campaign to secure the increase and recruit further members to the union, the AISF has adopted the same job control tactic as the ABOA used so successfully six months ago: at the office level to hit the boss in his pocket. Tactics proposed include demonstrations outside offices, the refusal to receive or bank money, no processing of claims, etc. The campaign is to be organised at an office level with union members considering which particular action to adopt. By this means the coordinating unit of the 'strike committee' is introduced to unionists who probably have never heard of it before let alone participated in an ongoing struggle, For the white collar unionist, this is militancy and is indicative of the whole

meeting

At a time when the Municipal Officers' Association has claimed another increase, the action of the AISF is perhaps a bit belated. Although late, the dispute is a clear cut one and the unionists are willing to bypass arbitration to push their demand. This campaign is also being used as an opportunity to push for equal pay for women in this industry. By December, the results of this, the first action outside of negotiation that this union has taken on, should show some results, and further mass meetings are planned before then.

phenomenon.

By STEVE PAINTER

Despite the massive repression which followed the right wing coup of August 1971, recent reports from Bolivia indicate that the workers organisations there remain unbroken. The miners' union in particular remains a stronghold which has resisted all of the government's attempts at penetration. In recent union elections the three pro-government tickets were rejected by a majority of workers in favour of the coalition of parties which opposed the right wing coup.

In addition, the primary school teachers, railway workers and bank workers have all waged victorious economic struggles in recent months. More recently, workers in the nationalised tin mines have forced the government to restore wage levels to 1965 standards.

The dictatorship which took power in August 1971 has failed to halt the degeneration of the Bolivian economy. On October 27, the government was forced to devalue the peso by 65%. This brought an immediate reaction from the workers. Factory workers across the country struck and on October 30 a big union rally was held in the centre of La Paz. Speakers denounced the government as "fascistic and anti working class", and later clashes with the police occurred. Since the announcement of the devaluation, barricades have been built in some areas of La Paz and clashes

between the workers, who have been joined by the students, and the government have led to over 100 arrests, 30 people wounded and one killed.

The government's inability to crush the workers' movement stems partly from the instability of the August 1971 coalition. It is composed of sections of the military, some elements of the degenerated populist party the Movimiento Nacional Revolucionario, and the neo-fascist Phalange. None of these elements really trusts any of the others. This, combined with the continuing decline of the Bolivian economy and the continuing militancy of the organised workers bodes ill for the future of capitalism in Bolivia. On October 30 the workers took a giant step toward resuming nationwide action in defence of their interests. It remains to be seen whether

the political yanguard of the workers has learned the lessons of August and will prove capable of ending the vicious circle of capitalist crisis in Bolivia, and of leading the workers finally to overthrow the exploiters.

By GEOFF PAYNE On Friday November 10 a meeting of over 300 women cafeteria workers decided that they would not return to work till their claim for a \$7.68 pay rise had been granted. They called another meeting for the following Wednesday to hear a report from union officials on the progress of negotiations with the Retailers Association,

The women were very willing to take direct action to win their demand for the same rate as other shop assistants and there were speakers from the floor arguing for the calling out of all shop assistants if necessary.

The Retailers Association retaliated by calling a compulsory conference before a state industrial commissioner, but this failed to achieve any settlement.

At the following mass meeting on Wednesday 15, over 400 women voted overwhelmingly to continue their indefinite strike.

This militancy illustrates the increasing consciousness of women workers in recent years. Many sectors of the work force that have been quiescent for decades are now coming to realise that their interests are not served one bit by passivity, moderation, or putting one's faith in conservative union officials, Direct action is the only tactic that can win real gains.

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Why Labor Must Adopt A Fighting Platform

standing, there are really only two alternatives on December 2. We shall see returned to power either the Liberals, the party of the dominant sections of the capitalist ruling class, or Labor, the only party based on the workers and their

From all indications, Labor will win the elections. It will win because the workers and youth are turning massively toward Labor as an alternative to the discredited L-CP coalition. However, the ALP leader- and "responsible", they constantly capitship doesn't project Labor as a fighting, socialist alternative to the Liberals but as a better administrator of the capitalist system - more "efficient", less "inept", and so on.

On every basic issue Whitlam avoids socwhose interests Labor's present leaders are ultimately pledged to defend. Thus, for instance, Whitlam proposes a "prices justification board" to control inflation. Why not campaign for pegging wages automatically to the movement of the cost of living and for an immediate price proposals have far more modest aims freeze? That would, if implemented, end the suffering which continually rising prices imposes on masses of low income families. But it would mean a head-on clash with the employers and their use of inflation to maintain their profit rates at the expense of workers' living standards. Mr Whitlam has no stomach for such a confrontation.

Nothing can make a capitalist Australia a fit place in which to live for labour

Despite the many parties and independents and its allies. The crime of the ALP peddle the illusion that a few changes can fix up everything. As long as capitalism exists, a tiny minority will live at the expense of the vast working majority. These two classes have nothing in common.

Because Whitlam and Co, are terrified of appearing as "radicals" or (heaven forbid) "socialists", because they want to appear as "sound", "moderate ulate to the attacks of the employers. A big issue (at least in the columns of the bourgeois press) is the "cost" of Labor's policy proposals. Whitlam says that "the economy" can easily afford them. This is really a non-issue (a better question is whether we can afford ialist answers (the only ones) because they another L-CP government). To its capit-challenge the power of the employers, alist critics Labor should say: Well you might worry for you'll be paying; you've made yourselves rich through the toil of the working class and we intend to reclaim those riches, rightfully ours, to rebuild this society and make it fit to live in, Unfortunately, Mr Whitlam's

> This country is immensely rich, yet under the capitalist system it cannot give a decent life to more than a small minority. Unemployment is the lot of tens of thousands and threatens many more; high and always rising prices make life a struggle for masses of low income families, as do high rents and taxes, costly medical care, and inadequate and expensive transport; a decent forms of oppression.

imperialist alliances line us up with the world's oppressors and lead to huge defence expenditures which would be better spent on improving the lives of the masses; women continue to be discriminated against, second class citizens as do black people, the original inhabitants of this country; capitalist pollution, the result of profit-mad industry and a government refusal to provide an adequate infrastructure for "modern" cities, blights everything and threatens to make urban life impossible. That is the reality - yet it needn't be that way.

The reason for the gap between the objective possibilities and this ugly reality is that under capitalism profit not human need is the ultimate yardstick in every question. It is not profitable to end unemployment, curb inflation, grant equal pay, end pollution, etc. Any departure from this golden rule is due to the power of the mass movement forcing the capitalists to make concessions.

try would be controlled by the immense working majority and used in its interests not exhaustive of every question fact and those of the oppressed of the world. A socialist government would nationalise industry, the banks and transport under workers control and move towards socialism is not relegated to the distant a planned economy which would liberate future, but saturates the whole proper the productive forces from the restrictive which, basing itself on the immediate fetters of the capitalist private property system. This is the economic basis for the final liberation of society from all

Now, Labor does have a "Socialist Obj ective". Its implementation relegated to the distant future, its content water down, it remains as a testament to Labor's origins and the hopes of mar its supporters, past and present, in under the impact of the mass radio ation sweeping Australia and the alist world after the imperialist the Russian revolution, the AIP ad its Socialisation of Industry object However, the right wing succeeded defeating moves to incorporate this in the party's fighting platform, but tead adopted it as an "ultimate" aim which the right wing could ignore in in practical day to day work,

In the crisis beset years to come huze struggles will shake society and will s their reflection within the Labor party Perhaps the 1921 struggle will be reper hopefully with a happier outcome for those who look to Labor to take a cles stand on the side of the oppressed and exploited.

Below we outline a programme which we think Labor should adopt and cam Under socialism the wealth of this coun- paign on if it is to meet the needs of labour movement and its allies. It is us. It is not a recipe book but ties together the demands raised by many the struggles of recent years. In it needs of the masses, challenges the power of the capitalists and poses the need for a socialist reorganisation of

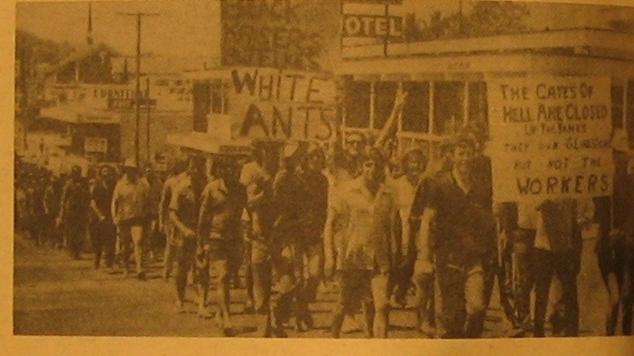
END AUSTRALIA'S COMPLICITY IN THE VIETNAM WAR! Nixon is trying to confuse international public opinion into thinking that the Vietnam war is about to end on the basis of the "peace" treaty that American imperialism is forcing on the Vietnamese at gunpoint. What we want and what the Vietnamese want is is the immediate and total withdrawal of all US troops and materiel from Indochina. Nixon has no right to negotiate with anyone.

End Australia's complicity in the war! Withdraw all the Australian advisers! End all Australian aid and support for the puppet Thieu regime. Put Australia on the side of the Vietnamese in their fight for self-determination.

Get Australia out of SEATO and ANZUS and other aggressive military pacts.

Abolish the National Service Act. No. more conscripts for imperialist wars

Support the struggles for national liberation of the African, Asian and Latin American and Niugini peoples, and of oppressed nationalities in the imperialist countries.



of public works to provide work at union rates for those that industry cannot employ.

The dole to all those out of work.

Nationalise under workers control any firm which threatens lay-offs.

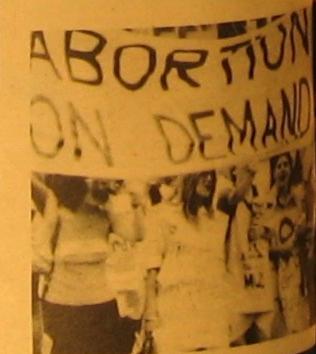
To combat inflation, cost of living escalator clauses in all awards. Also In their attempt to bolster sagging post rates at the expense of the working da the bosses are trying to curtail basic working class rights such as the the night to strike. Repeal all anti-strike and anti-union legislation - repeal the "Lynch Laws" and Dunstan's anti-union law. For an end to Arbitration - for direct bargaining.

For rank and file control of all aspects of union life.

Equal rights in the union and on the for women and black people, Full support for the struggles of women black people.

Full union rights for apprentices,

END THE BURDEN ON LOW INCO. FAMILIES. Masses of working class families have to cope with low way pensions; and high rents, taxes, n bills and fares.



Abolish all taxes on incomes of less

Socialist Programme

per week. 100 per cent tax on all es over \$10,000.

the pension and the dole immedto the average wage.

ice all rents on apartments and es to less than 10 per cent of family

alise medicine to give totally free cal and dental care to all.

crash programme to build a high ity free public transport system in he major cities.

ORT THE DEMANDS OF YOUTH, oally free education (including g allowances to those who need from pre-school to tertiary. An o all entrance qualifications. For inteed jobs when students leave

to all state aid to private schools. assive increase in educational diture, especially to inner suburban orking class schools.

aff-student control in all schools ertiary institutions.

ull democratic rights, including om of political activity, for ent in all educational institutions.

full legal rights at the age of 18.

controlled by those who use them,

For comprehensive sex education courses in the schools.

Write women back into history - for women's studies courses controlled by women in all educational institutions to tell the real history of women.

SELF-DETERMINATION FOR BLACK PEOPLE. Black people are an oppressed nation in their own country. For the democratic right of black people to determine their own destiny.

For the granting of all land rights claims. Adequate compensation for all land seized since the whites came to Australia.



For the right of all black people to a

For adequate housing, health and educat- and conditions for all prisoners. ional facilities. For black studies courses For an end to all censorship and mail in the educational institutions to tell the restrictions. For full union rates for truth about black oppression.

FOR AN END TO ALL LEGAL DIS-Full support to homosexuals struggling against their oppression.

control. Really effective controls must be established and implemented.

Legislate to force industry to establish strict pollution controls. Set up committees of workers to enforce the law.

100 per cent tax on the profits of all polluting firms. Divert "defence" spending into pollution control and

Nationalise any company which refuses to stop polluting the environment.

END INHUMAN TREATMENT OF PRISONERS. Capitalist prisons are instruments of oppression of the poorest layers of society. Under socialism decent job and job training opportunities. prisons will not exist. As immediate measures, demand humane treatment all prisoners' work.

CRIMINATION AGAINST GAY PEOPLE, FOR AN END TO THE WHITE AUSTRALIA POLICY. For an end to all restrictions on immigration.



STOP THE DESTRUCTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT. Pollution and environmental destruction by big business continues unchecked by any government

FOR A SOCIALIST AUSTRALIA. For a workers government which will nationalise all industry, financial institutions and transport under workers control.

THE LIBERATION OF WOMEN. adamental question facing women is that of control over their own For the repeal of all antidon laws and the ready availability raceptive devices and information.

shall discriminatory sexist laws nst women. Immediately bring I pay and equal job and educatportunities.

e, 24 hour child care centres



Socialists Campaign for Labor

Supporters of DIRECT ACTION and members of the Socialist Workers League and the Socialist Youth Alliance are campaigning for an ALP victory under the slogan "Labor to Power - Fight for Socialist Policies". We want to raise with ALP members and supporters the vital questions Labor must answer now and in office. The inadequacy of the present conservative ALP leadership must be pointed out to as wide an audience as possible and a start made in organising the forces for a fight for a socialist programme.

In the present period DIRECT ACTION has carried an extensive coverage of Labor activities and policies. The paper has been consistently and successfully sold at ALP election rallies and meetings. We have also covered Australia Party and Communist Party rallies. The special DIRECT ACTION election broadsheet has been extensively distributed - about 45,000 have been printed.

Last week in Melbourne Gough Whitlam, before an enthusiastic capacity audience in the Springvale Town Hall, followed up his policy speech of the night before. It this meeting over 1000 copies of the

special broadsheet were distributed and more than 200 copies of DIRECT ACTION sold. A revealing if predictable response was given by Mr. Whitlam to a question by one of our supporters. He was asked if he intended to immediately end Australia's complicity in the Vietnam war by breaking with Thieu and Lon Nol, and if he would pledge his support for the November 18 antiwar actions in line with official ALP policy. Mr. Whitlam felt that evasion of the question was the safest policy.

DIRECT ACTION has also been extremely well received in areas of the LaTrobe Valley, scene of the recent militant strikes. Two recent visits there resulted in over 300 copies being

At Mr. Whitlam's opening campaign speech in Blacktown we sold over 200 DIRECT ACTIONs to the overflow crowd as well as distributing large numbers of our election supplements. The response of the audience clearly showed the nature of Labor's support and why masses of youth are turning toward the ALP. References by Mr. Whitlam to ending conscription, grant-

ing land rights to black people and "ending" the Vietnam war received thunderous ovations. However, outside the meeting Mr. Whitlam was given a leaflet advertising the November 18 antiwar demonstration in Sydney. On being asked whether he would support the action he replied that he'd have to read it first (of course). The organising committee never got any reply.

One curious thing we've noticed ... apparently for the ALP leaders there are different kinds of support. There is the support that the mass of people looking to Labor give them; they'll vote for them, enthusiastically or not so enthusiastically, in the belief or hope that Labor will resolve some of the many problems they face. That kind of support is quite acceptable, Then there's the support they get when they go the rounds of private enterprise for campaign contributions. That too is very acceptable. Then there is the support that we and other socialists give to Labor. Several times at rallies some official has felt obliged to dissociate the ALP from DIRECT ACTION in various terms. There is clearly support and ... support,

use this issue of DIRECT ACTION

Trossky ist movement will return. by, subscribe now, while our 15 for special offer lasts!

coniy be on sale for one week before elections, it is only eight pages tead of our usual sixteen. We will we a new issue out immediately ter the elections with a full analysis

inwhile, DIRECT ACTION remains

by the labour movement to the offensive of the bosses against the rights and wages of the working class.

Against unemployment, demand jobs for all. Shorten the working week, with no loss of pay, as much as necessary to spread the available work among all who need a job. As an immediate step bring in the 35 hour week at 40 hours pay.

The government must start a programme

SUPPORT THE STRUGGLES OF LABOUR. build cost of living increases into pensions and dole payments.

justify price rises.

For an immediate freeze of the prices of basic necessities. Nationalise any company which cannot

For an end to business secrets which are a conspiracy by the employers against society. Open the books of the capitalists to the workers and let them judge what the employers can afford.

THE SOCIALIST LEFT LOOKS

By ANDREW LAMIESON

About 60 activists in the Victorian Socialist Left of the ALP met on 8 November to discuss perspectives for the coming few months, Coming in the middle of hectic ALP election preparations, the meeting reflected a positive attitude of the SL towards developing their own policies and programme counterposed to the right wing programme. It is significant that the SL can still attract many ALP members in this period as most have been co-opted into a compromise with the conservative ALP leadership during the elections.

As a sign of the strengthening of the SL at the grass roots level, several reports of the regional groups were given, each outlining their situations and perspectives.

The central point thrown up by these reports was the essential need for a developed programme. It was felt by nearly all activists in the regional groups that the SL has to have a base to work from and recruit to. There were originally three programmes submitted for discussion but it was recognised by many that they were limited by a too high emphasis on theory, overshadowing sections dealing with guidelines for action. As the nature of the SL contains many diversified opinions and ideas, what is really needed is a broad action-orientated programme.

A programme such as this would take into cognisance the general youth radicalisation, the employers offensive, the nature of the ALP and the role of the SL etc. It would be a fighting programme one that would be able to mobilise people in anti-capitalist struggles.

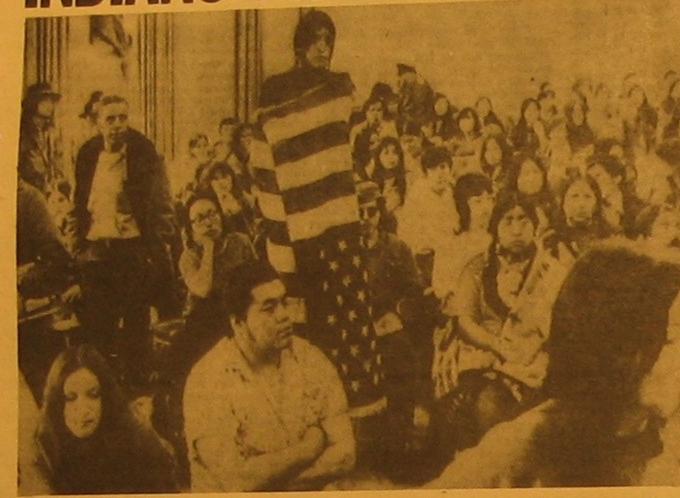
As well as recognising the necessity for a programme, the meeting looked towards building a better organisational structure, both at a grass roots level and by develop-

The Socialist Left also unanimously adopted a motion calling for full support of the November 18 Moratorium, SL members also recognised that the Vietnam war will only end with the withdrawal of all troops and materials. It was noted that the right wing elements of the ALP were mobilising against antiwar actions and the SL were determined to fight for the mobilisation of antiwar activists on

leadership may feel confident enough to move against socialists in the party. The Socialist Left can best defend itself against any restrictions on its political activity, or any attempts at expulsion, by strengthening itself organisationally and by developing a concrete programme of struggle that will clearly demonstrate to the working class supporters of the ALP that it is the present right wing ALP leaders who are betraying Labor principles.

While the school rights activists! conference set for Sydney, January 19-22, is still eight weeks away preparations are going ahead in Sydney where most students have completed their exams. The NSW Education Action Group is publishing a bulletin with deta of the conference. Copies of the and any other enquiries should by sent to Education Action Gro c/- Dennis Garnsey, 57 Ken Street, Longueville, NSW 2066

November 18. 250 tribes of Native Americans con-



By JENNY FERGUSON.

On Tuesday October 24, the day after the riot at Risdon Gaol in Hobart five women from Fairlea Women's Prison ripped up floorboards in a bid to dormitories, where windows, crockery and furniture were smashed and walls

In Parliament on Thursday 26 the Minister for Social Services, I. W. Smith was questioned as to why the riot had not been reported till 3 days after, he was quoted as saying, "I do not go around advertising these sort of things.' Of course Smith would have liked to have kept the whole incident quiet, especially since there has been an upsurge in prison unrest recently.

A women's Prisoner Action Group has been set up in Melbourne to help bring public attention to, and to fight against the appalling and dehumanising conditions that exist in youth and women's penal institutions. They have drawn up a list of grievances, mainly in relation to Fairlea. Some of the main ones are: 1) Bail is ransom. Poor women are forced to stay on remand, and forced to do work. They are treated as prisoners although they have not been convicted. 2) Work is limited to women's work only e.g. sewing, work in the kitchen, laundry and craftroom, scrubbing floors and folding plastic bags. For this they

by Mr Jim Cameron, a Liberal MLA.

The motion, which was carried, sought

to dissociate the House from the move-

ment for the repeal of all anti-abortion

laws and to defend "the human rights

Mr. Cameron's political positions are

the extension of democratic rights,

Again, we are not surprised. In one

repeal movement and fascist race

no cause for surprise. Liberal politicians

have never been noted for advocating

of the foetus".

must buy all their toiletries and all other

necessary items. 3) Women on remand are allowed only two 10 minute visits per week, convicted women two 20 minute visits per month.

4) All mail is censored, and often women fail to receive mail altogether. They are allowed to write one letter per week.

5) Clothes are old, dirty, uncomfortable and illfitting.

6) Diet is both insufficient and nutritionally inadequate. 7) Women are victims of degrading,

dehumanising strip searches. 8) There is no education officer and no recreational facilities whatsoever, Most of the women in jail are in for social crimes - prostitution, vagrancy, false pretences, drunken and disorderly behaviour, larceny, drug addiction and theft. Many have spent most of their lives in institutions or as wards of the state. The few women in for murder and manslaughter have mainly committed these crimes of violence against boyfriends and husbands.

To combat the special forms of legal victimisation of women by the police and judicial apparatus, a campaign must be mounted around demands such

Abolition of all special legal penalties for women. Abolition of all laws victimising prostitutes.

Full rights to conjugal visits. Review the cases of all women prisoners by a commission of their peers; release all imprisoned or held without fair trial by their peers.

verged on Washington D.C. on October 30. Approximately 1,800 Native Ar icans joined the caravans, organised; "the trail of broken treaties", to protes
United States violation of 387 unequal treaties imposed on them. On November 2, while representative

of the protesters were conducting neg otiations with the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), an unprovoked attack by police against the negotiators sparked an occupation of the BIA. The police were beaten off after the initial attac and the negotiators barricaded theme inside the building and refused to now despite court orders instructing the Indians to leave which were issued in the following days. A spokesman for the Indians replied to one of the court orders, saying: "You have no right to issue an order to Indian people on Indian land".

About 150 supporters of the Indians formed a human chain outside the BIA to hinder police attacks. The government backed down from a forceful eviction in the face of the military of the Indians and their supporters.

The occupiers are demanding among other things that the US fulfill all treat obligations with US tribes, that a commission be established to negotiate new treaties, that Indian rights to minerals, land, and water be recognised, that landless Indians be entitled to similar services to treaty Indians, the the BIA be replaced by a new structure controlled by Indians and that funds for health, housing, employment, economic development and education be increased.

Dennis Banks, national director of the American Indian Movement which organised "the trail of broken treaties" stated: "The next 200 years are not going to be like the last 200. We are going to fight for our rights, and we're going to run our own schools, our our institutions, and we're not going to fight in any more illegal wars".

In the lowest voting turnout for a presidential election in 24 years, Richard Nixon was reelected president of the United States. The most striking aspect of the election in the closing weeks of the campaign leading up to it was the lack of difference between the candidates. McGovern who, early in the campaign was able to pose as the peace candidate,

HAVE THE GOODNESS TO BEAR THEM YOURSELVES, GENTLEMEN

Last month a debate took place in the vital interest in this matter. For society hypocrisy in trying to decide for women

to deny to the unborn the right to live

would...open the way for advocacy

of thousands - even millions - of

of 'Mein Kampf' and the eugenists

Mr. Hills went on to say that "We

especially for the women and men of the ocratic (sic) world". "The growth of

However, Mr. Hills, the Labor leader in interest we have in the future, depend

part of his speech Mr. Hills chose to see George Petersen spoke as a socialist

and adoption of the barbaric ethics of

would be suicide... To permit foeticide

eugenics. The nazis destroyed hundreds

human beings because the mad author

considered those persons to be unfit to live."

have a different viewpoint in the dem-

our nation", he continued, "and our ability to maintain and widen the vast

on our ability to populate this country".

against his party leader and Mr. Cam-

eron for the democratic right of women

to control their own bodies. He had

little trouble in disposing of Mr. Hills

later had the ground cut from under him by Nixon's diplomatic manoeuvres and peace rhetoric. By the time of the election the predominant feeling among many people was that the differences between Nixon and McGovern were so slight that it was not worth voting. Only 54 per cent of the voting age

population voted, this is the lowest

figure since 1948, this election is the

whether they should bear children or not,

"To those people who justify restrictive

abortion laws by humanitarian consider-

ations let me point out that some of the

vilest monsters in history - the ones

have been responsible for the most

restrictive laws. The Leader of the

with Nazi extermination techniques.

death. Stalin banned it in 1934 just

before instituting the great purges in

which millions died. He was criticized

by Trotsky who quoted a Stalinist judge

there are no unemployed a woman has

no right to decline the joys of mother-

well then, messieurs judges, have the

goodness to bear them yourselves!."

hood. Judge Soltz said, 'We have need

of people'. Trotsky then replied, 'Very

named Soltz who based the prohibition on

the fact that in a socialist society where

Hitler made abortion punishable by

with the least respect for human life -

Opposition is wrong in equating abortion

first since 1948 where the voting figure fell below 60%.

Nixon won 60% of the votes cast, a won votes in the southern states and among privileged sections of the war class through his opposition to busing black students to privileged white so schools and his opposition to increase welfare benefits. Many of the votes around these issues went to George Wallace's American Independent Pari in 1968.

Nixon's victory represents a victory big business in the United States, all of the nation's top financier as inessmen, and 600 newspapers sup Nixon; His campaign cost \$50 mil Nixon won the White House for the Republicans, but the Democrats retains control of the Congress, As Linds Jenness, Presidential candidate for the Socialist Workers Party pointed out: "Those who lost this election, those who will suffer from the results of this election, are the working people of this country, the oppressed of this society, the victims of capitalist in justice, inequality, racism and sexism.

"We now face four more years of a man in the White House working hand in glove with the bankers and businessment to squeeze every last nickel's worth of profit out of our labor. We know that that man in the White House is not going to do anything to stop the inflation that shrinks the value of our paycheck every week. He's not going to do anything to stop the thing to find jobs for those out of work.

IN BRIEF:

MORE WORDS OF WISDOM FROM THE EXPLOITERS' MOUTHPIECE

Giving a preview of the respect with which the Liberals intend to treat the organisations of the working class if they are reelected on December 2, NSW Premier Askin speaking at McMahon's recent rally in the Sydney Town Hall said that the "real masters" of the Labor Party are "Messrs. Hawke, Mundey, Carmichael, Halfpenny, Crawford and all the rest of the left wingers with a good sprinkling of commos". He went n to describe the leaders of the union movement as "vermin",

The real issue of course is not whether or not the unions, which are supported by masses of workers should have a voice in the government, but why the Liberal Party and the Country Party which represent no one except a handful of large capitalists should be allowed to continue to pump out a constant stream of lies and slanders during each pre-election period and to pose as parties representing masses of people on the basis of the confusion created by such methods.

LOCKED OUT WORKERS REFUSED DOLE

1,200 workers, unemployed as a result of the Gladstone alumina refinery lockout will not be paid unemployment benefits as a result of a decision by the Department of Social Services. This decision was made after the department had studied accounts of the dispute which led to the lockout, from the company and the unions. The alumina plant has been closed down and the 1,200 workers sacked. Apparently the department's inquiries led to the discovery that there are various types of memployment and that the type from which the 1,200 are suffering does not qualify them for the dole.

SHOCKED

Speaking in Sydney recently a member of President Marcos's martial law cabinet in the Philippines, Poradio Quaizon said: "The martial law declaration. . . . came as a shock even to many members of the cabinet. . . . " It came as even more of a shock to members of opposition parties who were thrown into gaol.

Quaizon also said that 200 people arrested have been charged with sedition but none have been tried yet.

NO LINKS

The Liberal Party and the extreme right wing National Civic Council claim that despite the fact that the two organisations have issued identical pamphlets recently there are no links between them. . . . They just have similar ideas.

WHITLAM LASHES McMAHON FROM THE RIGHT

Speaking in Brisbane recently, ALP eader Whitlam attacked Prime Minister McMahon for refusing to meet the special South Vietnamese envoy. He called Mc Mahon's attitude "shameful", "humiliating" and "a disgrace to Australia". The thousands of ALP supporters who helped to build the mass movement against the Vietnam war might not entirely agree with Whitlam on that score. They would probably consider that McMahon's refusal to meet the envoy was the only correct step ever taken by that representative of the exploiting class.

ATTACK ON BUILDERS' LABOURERS CONTINUES

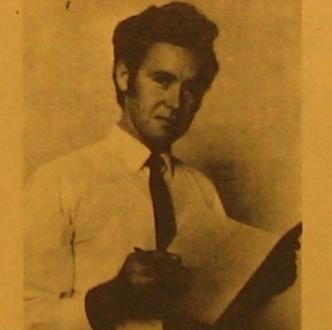
In a recent debate in the NSW Legislative Assembly, Liberal Party MP W. Coleman NEWPORT POWER STATION claimed that if "union violence" was not stopped, then tension in the building On Thursday November 16 about 20 industry might lead to a killing. He didn't mention that over 20 building workers have already been killed in evidence of big companies' disregard for the safety of workers before the public, they lie in attacking the right of workers to organise so as to be able to defend themselves against employers who place profits before safety.

THE CALL - GETTING FAINTER?

The Catholic Church is short of priests and to overcome the problem it has taken were protesting at being forced to say Sydney, Newcastle and Adelaide. Acc- for the power of the Almighty. ording to church recruiting officers quoted in "The Australian" of 18/11/72, one of the qualifications for applicants is:" a damed good sense of humour".

SOCIAL SERVICES MORATORIUM

For the last three years the trade union movement has attempted to mobilise popular action around the miserable bourne, rallies were held at eight centres along to the church and get married. around the metropolitan area and suburbs, protesting against a system which provides conditions below the poverty level for so many pensioners. unmarried mothers, unemployed and others. At the Treasury Gardens about 100 people listened to speakers and later PALESTINIAN FORUM marched around the city. At Footscray, ies of the Liberal administration under by the Palestine - Australia Solidarity levels of assistance have declined over for increasing publicity around the the last 23 years. However, all that struggle of the Palestinian Arabs. The Labor is prepared to offer pensioners, for instance is a pension of 25% of the a lifetime of labour. Other speakers rightly pointed out that only continuing action by working people can raise the question of a real living wage for all, whether employed or unemployed, old



or young, sick or healthy, woman or

man. A Labor victory on December 2

represents a first step only.

Ralph Willis

GURINDJI FUND RAISING EFFORT

planning a pottery sale to raise funds for New South Wales campus by Liberal the purchase of stock for the cattle station Party members Ivor Greenwood and Don set up by the Gurindji people on Vestey's Chipp, ALP supporters organised a meetlease at Wattie Creek. The sale will take ing for Bob Hawke. On Monday Novemplace on Sat, Dec. 2 and Sun, Dec. 3 at ber 6, over 3,000 students crammed into Preston Motors on the corner of Russell the UNSW "Roundhouse", making the and Collins Streets.

people demonstrated outside the Victorian Parliament House against the construction of a large power station in Newport, industrial accidents in Sydney this year. a Melbourne suburb. The power station But then his interests don't lie in bringing is planned to have a 600 feet high chimney to discharge gases into the atmos-phere and would pump heated, chlorin-ated water into Port Phillip Bay at the rate of 508,000 gallons per minute,

STUDENTS VICTIMISED

Recently two students were expelled from Christchurch Girls' High School after leading a walk-out of 30 students who to advertising in radio commercials in prayers. That should teach them respect

ABORTION CHARGES DROPPED

Speaking after the Victorian government had decided to drop seven abortion charges which had been laid against him, Dr. John Heath of Melbourne said: "I have never done anything wrong, I'm still convinced of this. . . Look, many pittances which the Liberals call "social years ago when pregnant girls came to services". On December 17, in Mel- me for advice I would tell them to get And then later when I saw them all getting divorced I realised what a fool I had been for giving them that advice." Dr. Heath is seventy years old.

a rally of about 120 people heard Ralph On Saturday November 12 approximately Willis, ACTU advocate and Labor can- 200 people attended a forum on Palestine didate for Gellibrand speak on the iniquit- in Melbourne. The forum was organised which the percentage of GNP and relative Committee and proposals were discussed idea, put forward by some at the meeting, WHAT ABOUT RUBBER BULLETS? that the Palestinians should compromise average wage. Hardly a just reward for and agree to settle only in certain areas The army is at present studying ways that would solve none of the long term out of South East Asia is our suggestion. problems of the Palestinian people,

DOUBLE JEOPARDY

Victorian teacher Keith Jepson was in November 1971 found guilty by a magistrate's court of growing four marijuana plants at his house and was fined \$200. He was relieved of teaching duties at his school and has since worked for the Victorian Education Department on nonteaching duties. A report of his case was sent to the Education Department by the Police Department. As a result Jepson was summoned before the Teachers' Tribunal and fined another \$200. No evidence was offered that Jepson's offence are too stupid to be allowed such a was in any way related to his performance right. Burns is a Presbyterian minister, as a teacher.

VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT GETS TOUGH ON INFLATION

It was recently revealed in the Victorian ber who stands against the Labor Party parliament that the allocation of toilet would be expelled without ceremony. paper for high schools provides for three No such action has so far been taken. pieces for each student daily for a total of 200 days per year.

MASS MEETING (1)

The Melbourne Wattie Creek Group is Following meetings on the University of meeting one of the largest ever held on



Bob Hawke

that campus. The enthusiasm of the students for the ALP programme, particularly the abolition of university fees left no doubt about where their sympathies lay. Over 1,500 DIRECT ACTION 'Labor to Power" broadsheets were handed out and were well received.

The sectarian Socialist Labor League also attempted an intervention. One of their members asked a question about Dunstan's anti union legislation, but phrased it in such terms that no measure of support for the ALP was stated. This, combined with repeated interjections from the same person afterwards, led some students to comment later that the interjector must have been an agent for the extreme right wing National Civic Council.

MASS MEETING (2)

Two days later the SLL sectarians held what they had advertised as their own "mass meeting" on UNSW. The audience consisted of Sol Salby and a friend.

of Palestine was rejected as a capitulation of making life easier for soldiers. Getting

AND IF A PRO ABORTION CANDIDATE STOOD AGAINST WHITLAM?

ALP member Arthur Burns who recently announced that he would stand against the endorsed Labor candidate for the ACT because the endorsed member (Kep Enderby) advocates legalisation of abortion, said recently:" My only regret in standing is the offence I might give to many women and girls to whom the very mention of this subject is emotionally disturbing." Burns' opinion appears to be that not only should women be denied the right to control their bodies, but that the poor emotional creatures which may explain his detachment from reality.

The strange aspect of the affair is the leniency with which the Labor Party is treating Burns, Normally an ALP mem-

.... STEVE PAINTER

ECONOMIC CRISIS

CONTINUED FROM P. 8.

next three years." It is certainly not consultation and cooperation with industry" which will enforce full employment in the next few years. For industry has chosen unemployment as one of its weapons against the working class - a means of attacking the current problems of overproduction and working class

The trend in unemployment requires closer scrutiny. The October official figures for the number of jobless showed a slight fall of about 6,000, a rate of 1.96%. But this represents still 110,000 (in seasonally adjusted figures) officially looking for work. This figure is, of course, understated by many thousands for all the people, especially women, who have not bothered to apply. And

as the Labor shadow treasurer, Mr Crean, points out, the imminent influx of school and tertiary leavers will probably raise the figure to well over 200, 000. This is a good debating point for Mr Crean to make against the Liberals who have callously helped to produce this high unemployment. But what exactly is Labor's programme to solve this problem?

We look in vain. The real solution is only to be found in a class struggle programme - one which the present conservative Labor leaders consciously reject. Such a programme includes a marked reduction in working hours for all workers, and wages related to cost of living rises (supervised by the unions). Inflation is a pervasive problem throughout the capitalist world in this period as another consequence of international big business's attempts to resurect their profit rates by attacking living

standards, As "The Age" (14/11/72) pointed out:

Inflation . . . will remain with us. The consumer price index rose in the September quarter at an annual rate of 3.8%, far too high for comfort but still a relief from the 7% level at the turn of the year." Not much relief though! And certainly no guarantee that the rate will reduce next year. Rather, after the elections, and through international factors it could well begin to rise again,

"The Age" again: "Government authorities have refrained from increasing their charges in recent months though they can't hold their hand indefinitely. In addition the growth of average earnings has slowed markedly in recent quarters from 13% in 1971 to an 8% rate by June 1972. " Labor's Prices Justification Commission is certainly no answer to the problem either of so-called "price control" or of the overall trend to falling real earnings.

The Liberals, of course, have no interest in protecting the living standards of Australians. Their hostility to the needs and rights of everyone except the tycoons, their backers, is why so many are turning to Labor, sometimes for the first time. The Labor Party has a challenge before it. McMahon believes that "socialism is still a threat with the ALP", Whitlam doesn't, Many thousands of Australian workers think otherwise. It is their power which can be mobilised around a class struggle programme which can create a real alternative for the mass of Australians who are looking towards the ALP for solutions, Labor must be returned, but for a real solution to the economic problems facing Australian workers, the timid policies of the right wing ALP leadership must be replaced by a socialist class struggle programme, and those misleaders must e replaced by people prepared to fight for that programme,

... there is a broader aspect of society's ignorant historical analogies and his

By JAMIE DOUGHNEY

So far the response to Whitlam's speech has been varied but predictable. Standing squarely on the side of the most conservative sections of big business, Prime Minister McMahon not surprisingly reacted to the imminent election of an ALP government with statements like the following from his televised election address:

address:
"... The Labor philosophy of social-ism and the all powerful State in a society where the Government is the master and is dominated by the left-wing and the powerful militant trade unions..."

Particularly interesting is tile reaction of the capitalist press which clearly reveals the divisions among capitalist in regard to the question of a Labor government. The ultra conservative Sydney "Sum" of November 14 carried as its headline a statement from New South Wales Liberal Premier Askin, "Election of Labor Means End of NSW", From those sections looking toward Labor for "sounder management" of the capitalist system came various statements of praise. The Melboume "Age" of the same date spoke of Whitlam's address in its editorial in the following terms: "The programme is notable for its range and scope, even if not all its proposals for change and reform can be accepted without qualification or questioning. The best things about it are its blend of idealism – legitimate idealism rather than the hollow working-class idealism of other elections and other years – with realism; its concentration on long-neglected issues; its attempt to make articulate policy out of issues which have in recent years become trendy catch-cries."

trendy catch-cries,"
However, perhaps the most forthright
and startling comment was to be found
in the finance pages of "The Australian",
Under the dual headings of "Whitlam's
Plan NoThreat To Business" and "Goals
Impressive; But Policy Fayours The Rich's
economist for the "Australian" Kenneth
Davidson, wrote:
"The political manifesto presented to
the Australian people last night by the
leader of the Opposition, Mr Whitlam
is bourgeois in its appeal and elitist in
its Intent. . . . under the superficial
trendiness of some of the specific

proposals is some nasty equity implicat-ions for Labor's traditional working class supporters."

Certainly strong words from one of the most eminent newspapers of the employ-ers in this country. Nevertheless it provides an indication of just how mealy-mouthed the proposals of Whitlam were.

What the response of the press reveals, and this is borne out by examination of the AIP platform, is that the proposed answers to pressing political questions are of a contradictory nature. At best they offer pseudo-solutions, when attempts at solutions are really offered at all, reflecting once again the unique position of the AIP in Australian politics.

position of the ALP in Australian politics.

On the one hand Labor's policies are responsive to the pressure for elimination of the ills of this society and the demands of the working class for a better standard of living, an end to unemployment and inflation etc. All of which pressures the Liberals stand firmly opposed to, trying to block them at every opportunity. The ALP is subject to the efforts of working people and the oppressed to act in their interests against the parties of the capitalists, Hence its policies must accommodate these pressures to a certain extent, giving rise to such attitudes as opposition to the Indochina war and conscription, calling for an end to unemployment, better education, higher social services etc. This was well illustrated at the Blacktown meeting, where the youthful audience responded the most enthusiastically to the most concrete and radical proposals such as an immediate end to conscription.

Vet on the other hand the ALP leaders.

Yet on the other hand the ALP leaders, imbued with the spirit of conciliation, are unwilling to press these issues any further than the bounds of "respectability" permit. In fact it avoids them wherever possible. The ALP then becomes the instrument for the development of "the spirit of national cooperation" between the implacably opposed interests of the working people and the employers, with the aim of managing the present capitalist system more efficiently than the Liberals,

This side of ALP policy is strikingly pronounced in Whitlam's policy speech socialist solutions being deliberately

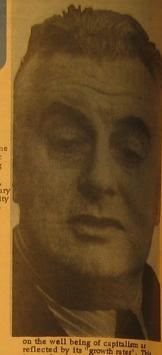
avoided in the hope of catching the middle income vote with a policy of "moderation" and "mediation". This attitude is exemplified by statements like the following from the election speech:
"The key to financing Labor's programme must be strong and continuing economic growth based on sound national planning and national cooperation between Government, employers and employees. To obtain that cooperation it is necessary to convince all sections of the community that responsibilities, burdens and opportunities are being shared equally by all sections of the community. Employees, as consumers, must know that their national Government requires equal cooperation from all powerful sections of industry."

It is not supprising that with this style.

It is not surprising that with this style of politics up his sleeve Whitlam is able to attract certain sections of the capitalist class to his side. The more subtle approach to quelling industrial and social discontent, to say nothing of the benefits of increased state support for the economy through the manifold establishment of new bureaucracles in the Fabian model, offer new promise for those more up to date capitalists who are dissatisfied with the perennial backwardness of the L-CP coalition.

On the question of the Indochina war and Australian involvement the ALP should enact its stated policy immediately, severing all bonds with the Thieu and Lon Nol regimes. No equivocation can be tolerated on this score, as more than once Whitlam has hedged when confronted with this question.

With unemployment at its highest level for 10 years and inflation at its highest for 20, a Labor government should be at the forefront of the fight for a at the forefront of the fight for a reduction of the work week with no loss in pay. This provides the solution for unemployment by sharing the available work, Similarly for inflation the Prices Justification Tribunal as proposed by Labor only goes part of the way; what is required is a total price freeze. In addition wages should be pegged to the cost of living to counter any price increases, But Whitdam has rejected these real solutions for a fallacious scheme which makes workers depend



on the well being of capitalism as reflected by its "growth rates". This is not the answer!

On industrial relations we need a Liby government ready at all times to defeat the working-class and its right to strike a gainst the ever profit-hungy employed. However Labor proposes a glib "hammy and would attempt to limit the right to strike through the infamous Cameron proposals, And so it goes on. Over the rights of women, blacks and homosemulate Labor leadership continues to equivocate, dodge and present superficial solutions.

Although the AIP is the mass party of the Australian workers, and should be supported in the elections by virtue of this very fact, nowhere does its leadership present a challenge to the capitalist system and the misery it creates. What must be done is to project the AIP as a real class-struggle alternative to the Liberals, championing the needs of the oppressed. This it can do, being based on the forces of organised labors, and it should have no perspective of loyally maintaining the status quo.

It's time for some socialist policies!

THEECO

By JIM MC ILROY

More and more signs are apparent that December 2 will see the fall of the Liberal-Country Party coalition from power after 23 years but not before time. The Labor bandwagon is fully under way with large enthusiastic meetings in several states. Gough Whitlam in his election speech outlined his potential government's platform, His eyes are firmly fixed on the PM's job but there are many others in this country who would be happy with any job. What does Labor really offer to these people and to all the others who are suffering under this capitalist system? If one is to judge from the campaign promises alone, the simple answer would be - very little.

the simple answer would be - very little, Labor's programme consists of a series of give-with-one-hand-take-with-the-other proposals, and an elaborate network of new bureaucracies to oversee the various aspects of the economy. Both aspects reflect the "change by gradual ranges" ideology which has always dominated the thinking of Labor leaders, and has invariably (e.g. under Chifley) led to an augmentation of centralised power and no real improvement for the majority of working people. Whittam promised at least 20 new bureaucracies of various kinds, including a Prices Justification Tribunal, a Schools Commission, a Pre-schools Commission, a much enlarged Commouwealth Grants Commission, and a "takeover secretariat". Most of these new organisations are seen as means of making society run more "efficiently", through the creation of more and more technocrats. The actuality is that this "efficiency" can only serve to increase the profits of big business, and not serve the interests of the working class.



Workers in the Depression of the 1930's.

Workers in the Dep A number of Whitlam's proposals were quite specifically anti-egalitarian, aimed only at making things harder for the lowest income groups. Even some commentators in the big business press noticed this, 'The Australian's economist commented (14/11/72);

"For a start, Mr Whitlam's proposal to make interest charges on housing finance tax deductable is quite explicitly inflationary as well as being viciously regressive,"

Another example is the abolition of the means test. "The Australian" continues

"Abolition means that about 60% of the work force will be paying higher taxes to support a \$20 boost to incomes of people who are already better off than they are."

And yet Whitlam maintains that no tax increases will be brought in by Labor. What this means in practice is that the working class will lose out once again with inflation and the extremely regressive tax structure which exists at the moment eating into earnings. The proposed "closing of loopholes in the tax structure" will solve nothing. Nothing

but an inversion of the tax structure including for instance, a rise to 100% for incomes over \$10,000 and no tax for incomes under \$100 per week car earlly produce any move in the direct of equality in incomes. But of course this is only a start in what is really required to produce equality in this society. Fundamentally, the system of production for private profit must be eliminated for all time through social ownership and control and distribution according to need. according to need.

The ALP leadership does not dare to mention the word "nationalisation". Instead we find Whitlam offering all things to big business, "We shall give priority in public cooperation to setting up economic planning machinery wid industry and employers' representative to restore strong and continuing economy. Labor leaders plan to offethemselves as super-protectionists, Protecting whom? Well, Australian workers (but also just as willingly whothem out of work). Insurance companies" guaranteed, How companies" guaranteed, How can an companies guaranteed, How can an opposite the strong on the provide grant be "approved"? Certainly not by Australian workers. But their "representatives" have other ideas.

Labor has made a verbal commitment to full employment. Whitiam again "Labor's first priority will be to restor genuine full employment - without qualification, without hedging. The requires that the national government by consultation and cooperation with all sections of industry achieves growth rate of 6% to 7% in each of the CONTURISE ONL 7.