South Africa

So much for “peaceful reform!”

SO MUCH for Reagan’s “constructive engagement”. So much for Hayden’s “positive communication”.

The Western leaders were all attention on August 15, when South Africa’s president Botha spoke, desperately hoping that he would provide some sop which would excuse them from taking real action against apartheid.

He did not. Botha’s speech admitted nothing, gave nothing and promised nothing. The Western leaders were “disappointed”.

For the struggle against apartheid, Botha’s speech was a good thing. Because it means that the fighters in South Africa do not have to spend the next 12 months convincing singers Western liberal opinion that yet another round of cosmetic “changes” means absolutely nothing.

The Pretoria regime is in a deep crisis. The South African ruling class is clearly split on how to respond to the wave of demonstrations, riots and strikes against white domination. In the days leading up to Botha’s speech, the South African foreign minister and the ambassador to the US both gave assurances to the Reagan administration that reforms would be forthcoming. If that was the plan, it was overruled by the regime’s hardliners.

shaky

The economy, once the powerhouse of the African continent, is looking distinctly shaky. With the value of the rand plummeting, and a 16.4% inflation rate, it is not surprising that significant sections of South African business are calling for “real change” and “visibly effective dialogue”.

Business can feel the rising black working class breathing down its neck. The increasingly powerful black trade unions have established their right to fight for black workers, and are now moving into action against the regime.

The 230,000-strong National Union of Miners (NUM) has called a massive strike over its demands for a wage rise. In response to the state of emergency, and Botha’s threat to send home migrant workers to neighbouring countries, the NUM has organised a consumer boycott of white-owned businesses.

Consumer boycotts have spread rapidly throughout Cape province and the Transvaal. White and black students have demonstrated together, in their support.

In this situation, speculation was rife that Botha would announce the easing of the pass laws, the elimination of the black “homelands” and the liberation of Nelson Mandela. Yet, how could he? Apart from its super-exploitation of blacks, is crucial to South African capitalism, and doing any of these things would be tantamount to signing its death warrant. The regime has introduced some “reforms” and raised expectations. It can give no more. It must either hold the line, or go under.

Our logo

READERS familiar with working class history will purl with pleasure when they recognise our logo.

It is the IWV’s “sabby cat”. The Industrial Workers of the World, better known as the Wobblies, built a revolutionary organisation of thousands in the US at the time of the World War One.

The “sabby cat” represented industrial sabotage—go-slow and other surreptitious action on the job in line with the IWV slogan of “a poor day’s work for a poor day’s pay”.

Turn to page 3

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DETAILS PAGE 5
How Australian bosses prop up Apartheid

The South African government has been able to maintain its ruling over South Africa because of the support of the Australian government and the international community. This support has allowed the South African government to continue its policies of apartheid and racial discrimination.

The problem is not simply one of economic support, but also one of political and military cooperation. The apartheid regime has received significant support from the Australian government, including military equipment and training.

In the past, Australia has been able to use its influence to maintain its position in the South African market. However, this influence has now come under increasing pressure, as the international community has become more vocal in its opposition to apartheid.

The Australian government has not been able to do enough to change the situation in South Africa. It has failed to take a strong stand against the apartheid regime, and has continued to provide support to the South African government.

The Australian government should be doing more to pressure the South African government to end apartheid. It should not be supporting a government that discriminates against its own people.

The international community must put pressure on Australia to change its policies. It must demand that Australia end its support for apartheid.

The situation in South Africa is not good. The apartheid regime is continuing to oppress its people, and the international community must do more to stop this.

The Australian government must change its policies. It must stop supporting apartheid and start working towards a solution to the conflict in South Africa.
Beyond the ballot box

PEACE is still the issue for many people. The rise of the Nuclear Disarmament Party in the run-up to the last federal election, and the massive Palm Sunday peace marches, are two obvious indicators of that fact.

The task for the peace movement is to translate that large passive support into active participation. The recent election by the No More Nuclear War Network of Australia, and the NPD holding a public meeting, are good examples of this problem. This was an ordinary by-election. Control of the Upper House had been at stake. The campaign to get the government to own up to its mistakes in the Vietnam war, and the working class was organizing a large-scale protest. The peace movement has to continue to build on this enthusiasm.

The NPD had decided not to contest the election, arguing that Labor's record on nuclear disarmament was the same as that of the Liberal Party. However, the main reason was the radical pressure within the NPD to contest the election, and the fact that many members felt the NPD could grow purely through election campaigns and that it can achieve its aims through the ballot box. Demonstrations and the like are seen as secondary. And yet, no radical mass party has ever built itself up through electoral means alone.

An NPD spokesman said: "The NPD does not believe that the NPD can build itself up through electoral means alone. It can achieve its aims through the ballot box. Demonstrations and the like are seen as secondary. And yet, no radical mass party has ever built itself up through electoral means alone."

The NPD remained on the electoral sidelines. Few new people have been won by the conservative campaign, and many activities must now be geared towards winning over those who already support the NPD. It is true that the NPD could win a few seats, but this would not be enough to change the political balance of power. The NPD has to continue to build on its success in the past.

Vacuum exists in the peace movement. An organisation is needed that will push for militant action around the world. It is vital that the NPD could fill this gap.

The recent Hiroshima Day rally in Melbourne proved to be a good contrast. Four hundred people, mostly young, packed out the city centre. The police responded with brutal force and horse charges, but the young marchers refused to be intimidated. A dozen were arrested. Here was youth fighting for peace, not for numbers on a ballot, but action in the streets!

The campaign for nuclear disarmament was not just about winning a few seats. It was about changing the political climate. The NPD must focus on building a mass movement that can win elections and change policy. Without a mass movement, the NPD could not achieve its aims.

Perspectives

REVOLUTIONARY socialists in four capital cities have formed a new national organisation called Socialist Action. In this special feature, Socialist Action members explain our view of the times we live in, where we have come from, and our reasons for forming a new group.

The first task of revolutionaries is to look reality in the face. And undoubtedly, everyday reality presents certain difficulties.

The revolutionary left that existed in the 1960s around the world has largely disappeared since then. The campuses were in rebellion, a new movement opposed the Vietnam war, and the working class was organizing a large-scale protest. The peace movement was organizing a large-scale protest. The peace movement has to continue to build on this enthusiasm.

Despite confronting idealisms — Marxism, Liberalism — revolutionaries were able to build organizations of activists and the like. They were able to gain a modicum of success in the political arena.

In Australia, the upheaval was not as dramatic as overseas. Workers were only able to gain a few gains in the political arena. Workers were only able to gain a few gains in the political arena. Workers were only able to gain a few gains in the political arena.

UNIONISM

This is exactly the relationship that the smaller revolutionary groups often had difficulty achieving. For some, intervention into the trade unions was wasted with the failure of the Australian Federal, the Workers Federation, and the trade union movement.

The International Socialists, or IS, have been an exception to this phenomenon. As many Socialist Action members are members of IS, it is important to look to the reasons for this.

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Socialist Action

Public Forum

5th Africa: Where now?

Mon 9 Sept

7:30 pm, KCA Building Room 10

409 Elizabeth St, Melbourne.

NO AID TO MARCOS!

Rally outside Filipino
Philippines

121 William Street, Melbourne

Friday, September 20, 3:30 pm

(Union press, Sept. 19, 1979, 9-5 pm)

Lights, cameras ... 

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Page 6 — SOCIALIST ACTION
SEQUEB: Can the workers beat Bjelke?

A similar attitude prevailed in the build-up to the 20 August rally. TLC to win Ray 'I've never been a great supporter of the ACC[eed Dempsey]'s few days beforehand. 'It's a piddlyker, but we aren't fighting for a match.'

The day beforehand, Dempsey was even more explicit. 'Mass rallies were basically just to give the TLC the chance to control the campaign and to call stoppages as an ultimatum. It was important we avoid making things worse for our union."

And whatever the failings of the rally on August 20, the fact that it happened at all, after the Brisbane TLC has...
ACTU Congress: So much to do, so little inclined to do it

The biennial ACTU Congress will move to the centre stage of industrial politics this month. And with good reason.

The breakdown of the Victorian ALF union, and the new leadership of the Queensland union movement, could be seen as the death knell of the ACTU's ability to raise money from unions and to organize industrial action.

The ACTU has a long history of being a powerful and effective union movement, but it has also been known for its infighting and internal disputes.

The ACTU Congress will not be able to ignore the challenges facing the union movement, and it will need to take action to address them.

WOMEN

Hot air in Nairobi

INTERNATIONAL Women's Day was celebrated in July with a juncture for thousands of women in Nairobi. They come to a United Nations organised conference, just like the UN, which was launched.

The conference mirrored the divisions and politics of the UN. It was a battle between the US and the former Soviet Union, with the old guard of the Cold War still in power.

The US and its allies wanted to limit the role of women in the world, and to keep them out of politics. The US was determined to preserve its influence over the UN, and its allies had no intention of giving up control.

Steel City Blues

BETWEEN 1983 and 1985, Australia's largest company, BHP, sacked over 15,000 workers in Wellington.

Around the same time, the bubble of the 'new economy' burst. So Australian coal exports and the employment of non-unionists dropped too. The steel and coal industries employed almost half of the Wellington workforce. Even when the economic recovery started, up to 50 per cent of the country's workers were unemployed.

In Steel City Blues, Julianne Schultz looks at why the steel industry was destroyed. She explores the reasons behind the workers' loss of jobs and the impact of the recession on the community. She reviews the union struggles in 1998 over the mass sackings.

Steel City Blues, by Julianne Schultz (Penguin 1995) $7.95

Steel City Blues is a surprising book. It challenges the conventional understanding of the reasons for the steel industry's collapse. It exposes the role of the government in the industry's decline, and the impact of this on the community.

But her suggestions for solving Wellington's problems ignore the depth of the economic crisis and the impact of the government's policies.
The Wealthiest 200: It's a bit bloody rich!

Gimme! Gimme!

Not that the entire capitalist class sits around swanning itself from the labour of the rest of society. A lot of effort. But whether one can call it work in any socially useful way of the word is debatable.

Packer's sacked 120 despite $200 million

Just 210,000 people have about $170 billion out of Australia's total private wealth of $600 billion. So 34 per cent of the wealth belongs to just 14 per cent of the population. So much for Australia the classless society.

Why the bosses hate the BLF (and we defend it)

STH AFRICA: The Road to Revolution

Equal Pay ... a case of comparable worth?
**Masta** Botha

It's too late for reforms now,

**MYTHS**

Many of the myths perpetuated by the government and its supporters are now exposed. The ANC and its allies have been fighting against these myths for years. They have been exposing the lies and distortions that are used to suppress the truth and keep the people in the dark. The ANC has been working tirelessly to bring about change and transform the country. They have been fighting for the rights of the people and the freedom of the oppressed. The government has been using its power to maintain its grip on power and to silence its critics. But the ANC has been standing up to the government and fighting for the people. The ANC has been working to bring about change and to create a better country for all.

**FACTS**

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**NEWSPAPER**

A newspaper is a publication that is printed on paper and distributed regularly to a wide audience. It is a tool for spreading information and ideas. Newspapers have been around for hundreds of years and have played a crucial role in the development of modern society. They have been used to spread news, ideas, and opinions. Newspapers have been used to promote democracy and to hold governments accountable. They have been used to expose corruption and to promote social justice. Newspapers have been used to spread knowledge and to promote education. They have been used to promote culture and to entertain. Newspapers have been a vital part of society and have played a crucial role in the development of modern society.
Labor's "new Accord": Second verse, same as the first

The government negotiated a "second Accord" with the unions in September 1983. Unlike the first one, it involves giving and taking. Workers give up part of their real wages, but bosses take higher profits. Employers have to accept a 2 per cent cut in wages and a 2 per cent increase in profits. In return, we get tax cuts — five million dollars a month. Half-yearly, there will be a review of the Accord to ensure that it is working. If we don't, it will come to an end. The Accord is a profit, not a loss. It's a 2 per cent tax cut and a 2 per cent increase in profits. It's a win-win situation for both sides.

But three other factors got the unions out of Vietnam as well.

One was America's military victory. A second was the growing influence of the Chinese leadership. A third was the growing influence of the Chinese leadership, which was seen as a threat to the union movement.

Obviously, the first Accord was a rip-off for workers.

It continued Fraser's wage policy, and unions agreed to seek wage rises only through Arbitration. Fraser had promised to reduce inflation and unemployment, maintain real wages, and avoid any unnecessary wage rises. The Accord was a victory for the workers, and a defeat for the bosses.

But why should workers pay for the incompetence of Australian bosses? Keating just wants us to subsidize their already soaring profits.

Meanwhile, the tax cuts are basically a fraud (see story below). For the last few years the government has been trying to cut the tax rate, but the unions have managed to keep it at 30 per cent. And last year the government introduced a 4 per cent sales tax, which was supposed to be abolished.

And some government people privately admit that the 3 per cent wage increase is a rip-off, and the 4 per cent sales tax is the same. The government wants to keep the tax cuts, but the unions want to keep the wage rises.

This is a "tax revolution"?

Paul Keating and a band of conservative trade union officials have introduced a new tax cut. People have argued that this is a revolution, but it's just a band of conservatives pushing their own agenda. The tax cut is not for the workers, but for the bosses.

The tax cut is a rip-off for workers. The government has promised to keep the tax rate at 30 per cent, but this is just a promise. The government has already announced a 4 per cent sales tax, which will be abolished.

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The BLF: Making of a Maverick

This has certainly been a great year for union-bashing. Northern Territory meatworkers and Queensland power workers have faced vicious attacks, while John Howard talks of "breaking union power." It is the anti-union drive that has captured the most media attention nationally is the attempt to destroy the Builders Labourers Federation. Tragically and ironically, this union-bashing exercise is being carried out by Labor governments at both State and Federal levels, with the collusion of the ACTU to boot.

Norm Gallagher has been jailed on trivial charges dealing with an ancient and not very interesting case. If he was arrested, he was an innocent man. I don't even think it's a real case. It has since emerged that one juror was given a bad influence. That's why people are glibly vindicated.

With Gallagher behind bars, Bob Hawke and John Howard have been able to rack up the campaign against the union itself. The Federal Court of Appeals has refused to hear any legal status or protection for the union's Australian awards and entitlements. BLF members on State government projects would have to quit the union or be sacked, and the government would seize union funds and property. By threatening the whole industry, the Federal Court has allowed the government to attack the very industry it claims to support.

The Builders Labourers Federation is Australia's most militant and controversial union today. Its leader, Norm Gallagher, is currently in jail, two Labor governments want to destroy it, and the NSW Trades & Labour Council won't even recognise it.

In this special feature, Tom O'Conor explains the politics of the BLF, its rise to power, and why we defended it. On page 10, he recalls an even more radical chapter of the BLF's history — its remarkable NSW branch of the early 1970s.

Employees and subcontractors on State projects were forced to blackball them into taking action.

Hawke's Building Industry Bill would give the Minister almost unlimited power to restrict the operations of the BLF, and to exclude workers from particular projects. Through the Arbitration Commission, the Minister could issue the BLF with a final order to wind up, and impose fines of up to $10,000.

Another action is for the unconditional defence of the Builders Labourers against court action, and to support union-bashing effectively. We need to understand the nature of this, the constitutional issue, its origins, its strengths and its weaknesses, and the reasons why it is being singled out for attack.

W HAT IF ANYTHING is the conscience of the employing class. The media portrayed them as irresponsible brawlers, a threat to their own safety and that of others. These days the Builders Labourers get the same treatment. The media is now attacking the "BLF," as Norm Gallagher is perhaps the most effective trade union leader in Australia.

In response, some people see the BLF as a group of union leaders, with their "Dare to Struggle, Dare to Win" t-shirts. This image is false. BLF workers and shop stewards and their families are ordinary workers, just like you and me. They work as lorry drivers, in warehouses, and in administration. They stand up for their rights and defend their unions. They are the real heroes of the struggle.

These leaders were able to build up the union because the industry began to boom in the late 1970s. With their bargaining position strengthened, the BLF fought for permanent, decent pay, improved safety conditions and higher wages. They did so against a background of struggle in a new,
INDUSTRIAL POLITICS

unpaid projects, their example was followed in Victoria. At the same time a rivalry grew up between the two unions, led by James Cook in Melbourne and Ed Bullough in Sydney. This often led to 4000-5000 picketing at the one time. The workers would meet in city squares and often carry the Diggers' Continental appears to have survived and become more active in the last few months, but the struggle against the employers is far from over.

THE TAFE system has also been affected by the strike. TAFE officials have stated that the strike has caused a loss of approximately $3 million in revenue. The strike has also affected the education of students, with many courses being delayed or cancelled.

The strike has been supported by the local community, with many people donating food and other supplies to the strikers. However, the strike has also caused inconvenience to the public, with many students and workers having to find alternative arrangements for their work and studies.

The strike is expected to continue for several more days, with the TAFE and the unions continuing to negotiate a settlement.
When BLs bossed the boss around

Fidel Castro led his guerrilla army into Havana nearly 26 years ago. He proclaimed a new era of democracy and independence, and an end to poverty and unemployment.

Originally, the regime was strong. Within a few months of his overthrow of the corrupt Batista regime, there were free elections for the peasantry, cheaper rents in cities, and the general level of living and literacy programs began. US companies were nationalized.

By the time America released its clamped-together army of right-wing vigilantes at the Bay Pigs, Cuba’s people boldly opposed the government.

Yet today, although its popularity seems intact, Castro really shocked a right-wing Cuba that has known even the democratic and the free world. The populace of Cuba feels that it is not so much more, and even more, a dictatorship that seems intolerable.

Similarly, as food shortages, housing and public transport get more desperate, Cubans see themselves with the belief that they are at least building something for their children.

Then there is America, peeling 90 miles away, spoiling its impositions, and at least in an armed counter-revolution.

Castro even appears to have a solution to the current economic problems. Cuban businesses are flourishing. Cuba is less than a dollar a day for food. Even the government is careful to monitor the declining living standards in the country.

Finally, Cuba calls itself socialist. But it isn’t.

A few political parties, the Cuban Communist Party (CCP) and the Popular Front, are the only parties allowed. It doesn’t pretend to have the cold war’s strength or management in power.

In the case of Castro, they have a clear program that implies the control of the economy. The CCP has set up some shantytown committees, and basic military projects.

The sort of workers’ democracy that most socialists yearn for is not yet in Cuba. The CCP has set up some shantytown committees, and basic military projects.

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"We workers must spit on their false unity!"

A GROUP of angry SEQEF workers was moved to burn an effigy of Simon Crean outside the ACTU Congress in Sydney on September 11. The Congress had refused ETU striker Ron Keil the right to speak.

As Kertone reported, Congress delegates got only $20 for the Strike Fund in their bucket outside the Congress hall. But, as we have been given $1800 by the Strike Fund, we have nothing to lose in our fight.

The SEQEF strikers and supporters travelled from Brisbane to picket the ACTU Congress in protest at the inaction of the union in the face of the SEQEF lineemen's strike, now in its eighth month. They joined with 1000 others of the United Labor Union officials under attack from the right and left, which called for the replacement of 500 staff who left the union's professional level programs only for the higher salaries, and who are mainly in the executive level.

The Congress is a failure of unity and solidarity and street action. The BSFL's strength is a union with a history of agreement. The BSFL's strength is a union with a history of agreement. The BSFL's strength is a union with a history of agreement. The BSFL's strength is a union with a history of agreement.

As Bernie said, the way to fight back is through organizing solidarity and struggle. The BSFL's strength is a union with a history of agreement. The BSFL's strength is a union with a history of agreement. The BSFL's strength is a union with a history of agreement.

BERNIE: The way we fight back is through organizing solidarity and struggle. The BSFL's strength is a union with a history of agreement. The BSFL's strength is a union with a history of agreement. The BSFL's strength is a union with a history of agreement.

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For THE first time in the long-running ABC staff dispute, there has been an ordered strike action in more than one state. On Friday 29 November, NSW and Victorian members of the ABC Staff Union struck for the day. The strikes featured the picketing at major ABC buildings in both cities.

The ABC workers showed what they consider the tactics of the union. ABC management doesn't meet the union, and ordered the strike action. The ABC workers showed what they consider the tactics of the union. ABC management doesn't meet the union, and ordered the strike action.

TALKSHOWS

THE ACTU Congress: Much accord about nothing

SOME INNOCENT once dubbed the ACTU Congress as a "Bible of Action Statement". The phrase conjures up an image of delegates progressing from factories to offices, a piece of the socialist future rudely intruding upon the present.

The reality, alas, is different. Only you had to walk into the Sydney Town Hall last month to see it. The ACTU Congress is a workers' convention with problems that are well known. We have nothing to gain from legal action.

It is obvious that the Federal government supports Whitehead, and the board will not allow the Union to move. The workers and Whitehead make it clear that they want the Union destroyed, and at least neutralized.

The ABC management is a failure of unity and solidarity and street action. The BSFL's strength is a union with a history of agreement. The BSFL's strength is a union with a history of agreement. The BSFL's strength is a union with a history of agreement.

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WOMEN'S RIGHTS

Courting Equal Pay . . . a case for "comparable worth"?

EQUAL PAY at last! That was one woman's response to receiving the age old question. She was a metal worker speaking at the recent conference in Melbourne, which brought together 10,000 trade unionists. Why do many women have to wait so long? Didn't we get equal pay in 1972?

Only on paper. While there have been several equal pay studies in Australia, the 1972 government report noted that 80 per cent of women's wages were derived from male-dominated industries, and that they were paid 65 per cent of men's wages. By 1979, 1982, and 1985, this situation had not changed.

The 1972 report, however, proposed a comprehensive national program to improve equal pay. This included measures to improve women's wages, such as increasing the minimum wage, and ensuring that women's wages were equal to men's in male-dominated industries.

In 1979, the same government report noted that women's wages had not improved, and that women were still paid 65 per cent of men's wages. The report recommended that the government promote equal pay, and that employers be required to pay equal wages to men and women.

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The report concluded that equal pay was essential for gender equality, and that the government must take action to ensure that women's wages were equal to men's wages.

AN EARLY Equal Pay march by Newcastle hotel workers.

WOMEN pick the Arbitration Commission in 1974.

taking industrial action to force wage increases in 1984, and in 1985, women workers won significant gains in wages and increased job security.

The main issue of struggle, however, was in the metal trades. Women's wages were derived from male-dominated industries, and that they were paid 65 per cent of men's wages. By 1985, women's wages had not improved, and that women were paid 65 per cent of men's wages. The report recommended that the government promote equal pay, and that employers be required to pay equal wages to men and women.

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The day that Kerr sacked Whitlam

THE DAY John Kerr sacked Gough Whitlam, I was eating lunch in a pub.

I saw a group of men in suits at the bar. They were talking excitedly, laughing and clapping. I overheard snippets of their conversation.

One man said, "What a shame! Whitlam was doing such a good job." Another replied, "Yes, but he was too liberal for some people." A third commented, "Kerr was a wise decision. It will help Australia move forward." I felt a sense of unease hearing their opinions.

The next day, I read the newspaper articles declaring Whitlam's dismissal. I couldn't believe it. Whitlam was a great prime minister. I remembered listening to his speeches and feeling inspired by his ideas.

I thought about the impact of such a decision on the country. It was a dark day for democracy. I wondered what would happen next. It was a turning point in Australian history.
CATS EYE

REMEMBER how Ronald Reagan introduced, after the Berlin Wall hijacking, that he felt just as little real knowledge about the next day? 

The evening after the Athens Lauro hijack, and less than two days after the American Embassy skyjack, Ronald Reagan had Sylvester Stallone produce and star in the film "Rambo," which was set to premiere in Philadelphia on August 20, and at Hamilton High School on October 17.

Yet government officials are still demanding "proof" that it has learned lessons from past hijackings against staff and students.

"How much proof do they want?"

Over recent years in Brisbane, authorities have not yet decided to take particular jobs, or have lost their jobs, thanks to Special Branch. People have been stopped and searched in other ways. Some have been caught red-handed by the police, but not before possibly hundreds of thousands of dollars have been lost. Photos of "illegally" carried weapons are shown to the public, but not before millions have been lost.

The Hope enouy in South Africa which made Special Branch's role quite plain.

There are 30,000 firearms examined in that state. Not one of them was a right of the public. Special Branch has to be watched and taken seriously.

As for the idea being pursued by some Kloots supporters that they are responsible for the anti-Anglo outbreak, we suggest they pull their heads out of the six. Kloots is too keen to get a degree, let him enrol externally where he can't be seen on other students.

SNOPES

Camp run-up on campus

THE ENROLLMENT of white students at the University of Queensland, reported in the last issue of Social Action, has triggered an astounding surge in student activism and administration.

Kloots' students have been guarantied every week by the head campus security guard and resident halls of residence, and the Registrar. Numerous leaflets and posters appearing on campus.

Kloots has arrested many staff and students at Brisbane matches in the past. Since his

LAW-OPS

Rank pulls rank

"WHAT is for the employer is for the worker. The former can be a modern, north Vietnamese." It may well be argued in form or another by every worker. (They are also the only ones who can be a modern, north Vietnamese.) 

Perhaps these merits would be more important to a worker at Rank Industries or Rank Industries rather than at the Rank Plan to sack all 500 of them in Christmas.

Rank Pulling made $300 million profit internationally last year. It forecasts a $250 million profit this year and the same amount next year.

This adds up to over one million dollars per sacked worker. But the company says, "Nothing is going to happen in a whitehead..." (It just wants Rank to go.)

RACISM

Shock poll on PCF

A COUPLE of years back, the Communist Party of South Africa came under serious criticism. It was suspected that the party had been led by a racist minority. 

When a shock survey has confirmed that the incident was no more than a rumour. It appears that the party is no longer so racist.

Kloots is no longer so racist, and his parade can be of a racial nature without the need for any other students.

Tacher's interests in Africa

RATHER than embellish the charms of "Commonwealth unity", Kloots' students are seeking to extend the "socialist" unity of the individuals who are part of this movement. It is a lesson the peace movement has gone a long way towards forgetting, so it is good to have this reminder.

The Liberals and Socialists is Tacher's favourite argument that trade unionism and social issues in South Africa.

Of course, trade unionists are the obvious beneficiaries, and this is the case for Kloots too. But that's all it is to be about. Kloots' students are not so concerned with the trade unionists.

More significant than the hot air emanating from the Kloots was the ACTU's industrial

PAGE 2 — SOCIAL ACTION

So much for CHOGM sanctions: union bans are the way

THE LAST month has seen a variety of responses to the CHOGM crisis. In South Africa itself, the new black nationalist, the ANC, has been reading the situation for months. The gold miners' union threatened to begin a hunger strike.

At the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, CHOGM, hypocrisy and token measures were the order of the day. In Australia, at least, union officials promised they would be a week of action.

Like Malcolm Fraser before him, Bob Hawke was given to CHOGM to strikepressive political unions and was told from Black activists that they were coming to Australia. But CHOGM banned black activists from the meeting.

Protecting trends of apartheid: Socialist Action member Sue Dornen was arrested at a Kim Hughes game in Perth.

Action. Mail, telecommunications, trade and travel were all hit. Water front unions banned cargo into and out of South Africa for 24 hours, and building and distribution union announced plans to boycott South African products.

Communication equipment at CHOGM was also banned, and at the South Africa Railways officers were not permitted to travel. 

Of course, there is a great deal of empty image-polishing involved here. Black leaders who merely agreed to discounting of our wages at the ACTU, Congress have now realized the opportunity to look encouraging for a little more cost to the black community. So far so good then.

REBEL TOUR

Hughes & Co harassed

KIM HUGHES' rebels had a terrible few weeks before slipping out of Australia to commence their tour of South Africa.

In Adelaide, batsman Michael Hayman had to quit his job a day early to avoid an angry pitch on his sports store. The school in Mount Martha was also closed down as dark clouds loomed.

In South Africa, the team were to face two of the rebels in a private meeting. That didn't save the club from having its pitch dug up and Graham Yallop's indoor cricket centre spattered overnight.

Yallop says he would play in New Zealand if the game was not cancelled.

Perth's most determined rebels fled to Fremantle and took shelter in a house. Tim Hogan and Greg Shipp were arrested when demonstrators reflected their anger and were attacked.

The next weekend, a series of protests and one at Fremantle featuring Hughes and Alderman was banned. Hayman was in town all the way to the right direction, we now need to make the bans total and permanent.
The Greens: Whizkids with just one fatal weakness

THE WEST German Greens Party is the wunderkind of the modern peace movement. By mid-1982, twenty years after its formation, its vote was second only to that of the traditional political parties in the country.

The Greens, who currently have representation in parliament, were formed in 1980 as a coalition of anti-nuclear activists, environmentalists, and intellectuals. Their electoral successes, the visit of Greens MP Petra Kelly to Australia in mid-1981, and the NPD's vote last December, have created interest amongst anti-nuclear activists here in a Greens-type party. There is even speculation that the Communist Party may dissolve itself next year to form one.

In this two-part series, ALEC KAHN examines the West German Greens' politics and their performance.

The Greens MP Petra Kelly: a maker makes her point in a gasmask.

The Greens' MP Petra Kelly: a maker makes her point in a gasmask.

IN INDUSTRIAL action started on September 30, when nurses stopped wearing their uniforms to work.

The nurses' strike, which began on September 19, has already received widespread support from other workers. The nurses' demands include better pay, improved working conditions, and an end to the use of strike breakers.

The strike has been met with resistance from the government, which has threatened to use military force to break the strike. However, the nurses' determination to continue their protest has been matched by the determination of the workers to support them.

DAVID WHITE and the media used all the traditional methods to attack the nurses. They claimed the nurses were putting their personal lives before the needs of the patients.

But the nurses were not intimidated. They stood firm in their belief that they were protecting the patients. Their solidarity was unbreakable.

The nurses were supported by the workers who had joined them in their fight. They marched in solidarity with the nurses, chanting slogans and holding up signs of support.

The nurses' strike continued for months, with the government's attempts to break it failing repeatedly. The nurses' determination and the workers' solidarity were a source of inspiration to many around the world.

The strike was finally settled on November 15, with both sides reaching a compromise that was acceptable to all.

The nurses were awarded the same pay increases as the workers, and the government agreed to improve working conditions.

The nurses' strike was a victory for workers' rights and the cause of social justice. It showed that when workers stand together, they can overcome even the most difficult challenges.
Whatever happened to the Third World revolution?

FOR SOME years after the second world war, there was a vast outpouring of socialist ideas and activities, which became known as the "socialist wave". This wave was marked by the growth of communist parties in many countries, the establishment of socialist states in Eastern Europe and China, and the spread of socialist doctrines and cultural movements across the world. However, by the 1980s, this wave had begun to recede, as socialist movements in many countries were suppressed or weakened by their own internal divisions and external pressures. Today, the idea of a "Third World revolution" is often seen as a outdated and irrelevant, and many people have forgotten about the role that the socialist movement played in shaping the world order. However, the legacy of the socialist movement can still be seen in the struggles of many people around the world, who continue to fight for a fairer and more just society.

The Greens

The Greens are a political party that was formed in Australia in 1978. The party is based on a platform of environmentalism, social justice and Indigenous rights. The Greens have a strong emphasis on grassroots democracy and are known for their policies on climate change, renewable energy, and environmental protection. The party has been influential in Australia, and has been represented in parliament at both federal and state levels. The Greens have also been involved in a number of international campaigns, such as the movement to stop the construction of the Adani coal mine in Australia and the movement to protect the Amazon rainforest.

Brazil is shaping up as an industrial powers of the future.

Brazil has a large and diverse economy, with significant contributions from industries such as agriculture, manufacturing, and services. The country is a major player in the world economy, with a strong focus on exports and trade. Brazil has a large middle class and a growing middle class, and is becoming an increasingly important player in global affairs. The country is also known for its rich cultural heritage, with a strong focus on music, art, and literature.

This is not to say that Brazil is not facing challenges, however. The country is currently facing a range of economic and political issues, such as high inflation, corruption, and political instability. These challenges will need to be addressed in order for Brazil to continue to grow and develop as a global power. The Greens are committed to supporting Brazil in these efforts, and will work to ensure that the country's leaders are held accountable for their actions and that the people of Brazil are able to participate in the decisions that affect their lives.

(continued on page 8)
INTERNATIONAL

a modern industrialized economy was necessary and this could only be achieved if the state marshalled the entire resources of the country.

In terms of economic development, placing one side the numbers killed by forest collectivization and purges, the scheme was a considerable success. It was no surprise that, when the country was subjected to a war of 1941-1945, it managed to satisfy, in full, the needs of the Soviet troops. It was no surprise that, when the country was invaded by foreign troops, it was able to quickly recover and turn the tables on the invaders.

The construction of state capitalism in Russia proceeded hand-in-hand with a background of world slump and depression. State capitalism in China, Cuba and Vietnam was created during the 1930s and, while it lasted, it fulfilled a function. Russia, former successor to the Russian Empire, remains a dominant player on the world scene.

While Russia was able to survive, China and Vietnam, through not without considerable internal problems, the Third World state capitalism, being that much weaker, have been much more severely affected by the world crisis.

VIETNAM and Cuba have had to solve the problem of their being under the mercy of the USA. Both their economies were close to the brink of collapse. In 1945, the Vietnamese state, which had been created by the French, was being prepared to fall into the hands of the French, while the Vietnamese people, who had already fought for independence from the French, were still fighting to achieve it. In Cuba, the communist movement, which had been established in 1930, was facing the same problems as the Vietnamese.

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Nicaragua's revolution under siege

In October the Sandinista government extended the state of emergency which has been in force since 1982. President Ortega also announced that various civil rights would be suspended.

The press has been required to issue statements guaranteeing the government's version of the truth and subject to government censorship. The Sandinista-controlled press has been able to cover the government's version of events. However, independent observers say that the government's version is often inaccurate and biased.

Violent attacks on the press have increased significantly since the extension of the state of emergency. The government has arrested several journalists and has blocked access to information.

The extension of the state of emergency is a violation of the country's constitution and international law. The Sandinista government is patterned after the former apartheid regime in South Africa, which also suspended civil liberties and used violence against opposition groups.

The Sandinista government has been accused of using violence and intimidation to maintain its power. Women have been targeted specifically, with sexual violence and other forms of harassment being common.

The extension of the state of emergency is a clear indication of the government's unwillingness to engage in meaningful dialogue with opposition groups. Instead, it has chosen to use force to silence dissent.

The Sandinista government's actions are in direct violation of international law, including the United Nations' Declaration of Human Rights. The government should immediately end the state of emergency and allow for free and fair elections.

By: Sandra Chacon

The nutty professor

The "New Right" is pressuring university administrators to crack down on student activism. The recent attacks on universities reflect a wider trend of increased censorship on college campuses.

Students have been targets of authorities who claim that they are not interested in their work but are instead focusing on political activism. The attacks on universities are a clear indication of the growing influence of the "New Right" on campuses.

By: Anna Brown

The KYAP argument

The "KYAP" argument is a popular concept in the world of sports and technology. "KYAP" stands for "Keep Your Ass in Park" and is often used to encourage individuals to maintain their focus and avoid distractions.

In the world of sports, the "KYAP" argument is often used by coaches to motivate their players to stay on track and avoid distractions. The argument is based on the idea that success is not achieved by taking risks or spending time on irrelevant activities.

By: John Doe
ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

SEVEN protesting students were injured by Sydney police on October 18, and thirtysix arrested.

Ronald had occupied the Martin Place QPPO clock-tower, was later laboriously detained and was allowed to occupy the QPPO "vitae" in his student's flat.

The QPPO has already overtaken the QPPO with its own student's flat.

Australia's biggest company, BHP, has announced that it will subsidize the exports of companies which use its steel, through the Steel Manufacturers Export Project (SMEP).

SMEP offers a very credible incentive for the Big Australian to do something smaller but potentially more valuable to the world than the rest of us.

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OS students fight visa tax

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NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE

BHP's "fairly godmother" - not so selflessly really.
The Seven Year Stitch-Up

Tim Anderson had seven years in jail during which to write this book.

Justice was not on the minds of others in NSW: juries, Anderson himself and his Anzac Marga Group. Fremantle prison and Alister were put there by state police, "cells" and prisons. They were convicted of conspiracy to murder Mardi Robert Cameron.

Most other prisoners, Anderson had the backing of a campaign of solidarity and other libertarians working for his release.

The book can say with certainty that Anzac Marga didn't blow his own horn, but didn't say exactly who did plant the bomb.

We can only talk about likelihood. ASIO and the political police gained new powers after the Alister bomb, and originally appeared to be the targets. Anderson, however, provides evidence which makes it more likely that the Alister bomb was planted, like that of a "secret weapon". The bomb, of which public waste product of capitalism called Richard Scott.

Skeptic had experienced lawbreakers with explosives as an exotic and wanted, for reasons of his own, to come from the Alister government. After the explosion, he approached Special Branch and suggested that Richard plant the bomb (p. 122).

This suggestion, however, was too soon for Special Branch (p. 101), who instead of planting Anzac Marga and link them to a second bomb (pp. 36-37). Special Branch wanted not only a false flag, but plot, connivance and terrorism. The government all the nonsense they wanted to hear (p. 36).

To what end was Speck's evidence? Finding note, Special Branch and Speck manufactured a murder plot.

The cops supplied the tribal, Speck supplied the bomb. Savings contributed by supplying anti-terrorist hysteria which they swept away. "Detonate Blackburne" (pp. 121-124) taken over as a special weapon test bed. Anderson, however, provides evidence which makes it more likely that the Alister bomb was planted, like that of a "secret weapon". The bomb, of which public waste product of capitalism called Richard Scott.

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The cracks open up in the Cain facade

WHAT A dire month October was for John Cain.

When it began, he led the country’s most stable Labor government. As it ended, he is being probed by his police force, buffeted by his Governor’s resignation, and by a party secretary who publicly admits organizing the Nuns' waging how-to-vote card scam.

His nurses and teachers have been cut off, and Norm Gallagher has emerged from impeachment proceedings with a 15-week leave from work. Where did it all go wrong for Little Johnny? As usual, Labor’s wounds are largely self-inflicted industrially, theyMK themselves along the teachers and nurses for months. It served Cain right when both jumped on him just as everything else was going haywire.

But the political intrigue is especially fascinating.

It all began with the police anti-corruption taskforce. Utopia twenty senior cops have been under internal investigation since April, for accepting bribes of $50 and even $100 per day to turn a blind eye to Continental Airline’s illegal activities. Some were likely hired as private investigators, and others were listed as airline employees to quote.

The story broke publicly when Assistant Commissioner Stewart was suspended and forced to retire in early August. The cops said Labor leaked the story to the press to disrupt their campaign for early retirement, and that the tickets did not compromise them.

All I can say is that a few cops look like getting their early retirements sooner than they expected and it serves them right. Cops have been taking “freebies” in return for goodwill, for years from the compulsory human rights groups, or the usual anti-war and class wars.

With the tenth anniversary of the Kent State violence coming up, there must be some reason why it has been kept from the public. No wonder Labor is moving so carefully as to be compared.

With ALP’s refusal to talk, the story turned into a NDF media circus. Labor’s loss is covered in all the papers. The cops involved in the investigations have apparently been cleared by Labor.

Teachers were validity at school and heard an announcement. Cops seized an NDF newsletter from one of them’s offices. They even tried to get another to undergo hypnosis to re-channel ALP-supposed stories.

The cops got nowhere. The Labor-SPLCC wing of the Socialist Left decided it was time to defuse a new wave of political wound on their “moderate” opposition members. They had organised the false card.

My information is that four days before the police investigations were due to close, Hartley supporter Tom Flynn of the official Socialists went to ALP state secretary Peter Bishop with a “moderate” view. He demanded that they publicly admit his role in organising the scam, or have it done for him.

Hence Batchelor’s remarkable confession, and his even more remarkable claim that he was acting as a private citizen and not as a party officer. The Hartley wing has drawn the blood he wanted. It closed ranks to protect the Cain government, seeing it as a genuine warning of confidence in Hartley.

E55 fortune was Victorian governor Brian Murray, who stupidly defied Cain’s advice and took a low round-the-world holiday with Continental Airline after the Stewart suspension.

Cain had instructed Murray, a Liberal appointee and ex-Navy man, to take his time. When the press got hold of the story, they simply rejected the idea of a two-week trip, apparently not a little trip. Cain went for it.

But in typical Labor style, it took them a while to realize that they had been hoodwinked. They were committed to the trip and had invited the media to come along. And Labor wondered: the employer like this in Victoria?”

Within three days, the union was fighting in favor of Cain, and even Cain had to announce the story as a “trick.”

Whose is the Labor Left in politics? Not quite where we were before John Cain is less secure so he will work even harder to keep the employers on side.

But this impregnable lack of media credibility, straight away, and nurses in particular have widened the breach.

The worm may have turned in the Garden State.
**Cover Story**

**Arms control: Why the summits keep bombing out**

President II, The Movie

- Jim Nolan - Hearns

OLD Republican act never die. They just adopt political positions.

Ronald Reagan will soon hang up his act for the last time. His party’s power brokers are casting for a replacement.

The first choice is Charlton Heston. What other actor could have grooved so effectively as Destiny’s Billy ‘Burt’ Harg? And that’s before Reagan could brake his moving “light a candle for future generations.”

Heston, like Reagan before him, would stress the need for arms control. And he would take the lead on disarmament issues, just as he had been doing for the past few years.

**PRIVATE UNI**

**Labor sell-out by degrees?**

FORGET John Howard's bluff and puffery. Privatisation, at the level of the universities, is way in Viva, Kaart, of labour premier Brian Burke.

There is no money for public education. Burke is playing with government's resources behind a $160 million private university, to be set up at Yanks, near Melbourne North of Perth.

Burke has announced a feasibility study for the private campus, which will be funded by the Tokyo Corporation. And the attraction of the other private universities, which have been digging their new campuses, might have been lost over the expanding economy.

**Secret**

**Black-out on IC cards**

The much-hyped Commonwealth Bank of Australia's new IC card system is not as good as it is cracked up to be.

NSW Privacy Commissioner has just forked out $600 for a security system on the proposed national identity system.

To the annoyance of the committee’s executive director, Jim Nolan, over 90 percent of the material released was blacked out so that the readable text did not deleted under the guise of being in an unimportant manner for a new period of disclosures. The move according to the Prime Minister, would have given the public access to the information.

- Burs - all for a private uni

FOR the exception of more of my “submissions”, he said that he agreed it was a change of the Prime Minister’s intention to refer.

Burke, too, may.

- Private uni

**GOV Cuts**

Open drain kills girl

AFTE the first of the early summer flash floods, a twelve-year-old Sydney girl has become the victim of another preventable accident.

Michelle Weir, from the inner-west suburb of Camperdown, was killed in hospital after being swept away by an open storm drain. Her mother has warned the council about this danger before.

The girl survived a dramatic rescue mission. She was able to escape from her home, where her mother was watching TV, when the water flooded the street.

**SECRECY**

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PEACE MOVEMENT

Greens blue over parliamentary strategies

Hesse Greens in coalition with SPD

LATE IN October, after a stormy debate, delegates to the Hesse state congress of the West German Greens Party voted out a plea from their national leadership.

They ventured to a coalition with the Social Democrats (SPD) — West Germany’s prime minister, Helmut Kohl’s, pre-eminent party — anathema to the Greens. In return, they get a new environment ministry headed by Greens MP Joachim Fischer.

The vote highlights a debate that has split the environment-minded Greens for years.

The “fundamentalists”, who dominate the party, want to stay independent, and use both parliament and the streets to challenge the system. They are unwilling to deal with the SPD. Only by extracting concessions can the party retain its independence.

The “realists” have the numbers in Hesse, a state very suited to the strategy. Since 1983, Greens have held the balance of power there. The SPD rules with the Greens “toleration”, but has given little in return.

In 1984, the Greens unconditionally tried to lead the SPD to shut two nuclear power plants in Buge. Today, the Greens have an environment ministry. Already, they are in the government arguing about an investment freeze in Hesse. The Kohl government, which will lead the party in the 1990s, is trying to shut the plant in Buge.

The Greens want to slow down the nuclear power plants, and not just in Buge. They are pressing for a freeze on new nuclear power plants. Other parties take environmental policy more seriously now.

But in view of their aims, this is little. The Greens want to slow down the nuclear power plants, and not just in Buge. They are pressing for a freeze on new nuclear power plants. Other parties take environmental policy more seriously now.

Amidst this stalemate, the Greens’ 27 MPs went to Bonn in 1984, making it clear that they would use parliament to build the extra-parliamentary movement and outside parliament. This strategy, they say, is the only way to protect their interests and the rest of the world will realize the environmental risks.

Amidst press hysteria, they vowed to “stay out of power” and not enter any government. According to their party platform, the Greens will not run for office to be in power, but to be in opposition.

The Greens’ 27 MPs took seats in Bonn carrying all politicians. There is the defiance in the Greens, in the Greens, in the Greens. The Greens have not had their share of power, but they are ready to deliver.

The Greens have seen some success in their efforts to bring about a new system that would benefit the environment.

The Greens party, which was formed in 1980, is the only party in Hesse that has not joined a coalition with the SPD. The Greens have won votes in the last elections, and they are now the third-largest party in the state.

The Greens have also been successful in their efforts to bring about a new system that would benefit the environment.

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The shifting balance in Australia's class struggle

SOCIALIST strategies are not worked out in a vacuum. Because we believe the most important factor shaping political commitments is the experience of work and struggle, industrial and political leaders have something that we always watch carefully. You will often hear socialist leaders say about the 'nature of the period we're in'.

What then of our own time? Not just this week, but last few years and more generally the years since capitalism slid into serious crisis in this decade. In those years, what prospects, what opportunities have they offered?

Traditionally, revolutionaries have associated economic crisis with increased revolutionary potential, as particular social classes, by dint of their involvement in the system, and fighting hard about hardship and insecurity, have come to associate economic insecurity with political participation, and generally, by their own hard work, have become more radicalised.

However, the long boom of Mid-70s, the last century, when it was the 'workshop of the world', saw most workers unorganized and voting Liberal. The boom after World War II almost wiped out the revolutionary left in the west.

Likewise, the rise of the New Right became a new, and new, source of political stability in the 1980s, associated with economic and political crisis and the reverse happens. Recession and mass unemployment can lead to more working-class radicalisation. In workers' movements, by the same token, for labour, can make workers aware of their position and more readily follow a revolutionary line.

AS CAPITALISM entered a period of world-wide crisis around 1973-74, the period of new perspectives and new opportunities.

Certainly, there have been important exceptions to the general pattern. The US, Spain and New Zealand experienced a drop in strike action in the last few years. However, mass unemployment and strikes in the mid-70s and the '70s, in the aftermath of the '79 General Strike, have made it very apparent that we have never been able to sustain the momentum of the original workers' movement.

The Latrobe Valley strikes: defeat marked the end of the militancy of the early seventies.

Socialism will not be accomplished by the sudden eruption of strike action. It will be a fundamentally different form of social structure, radically different from capitalism. It will be a fundamentally different form of social structure, radically different from capitalism.

From a socialist perspective, the struggle for socialism is a continuous struggle to transform society, to transform the political and economic structures of capitalism. It is a struggle to create a new society, a society in which the means of production are owned and controlled by the working class, a society in which the decisions about how to produce, what to produce, and for whom to produce, are made democratically by the working class, a society in which the profits of production are shared equitably among all who work, and in which the means of production are co-operatively owned and controlled by the working class.

This struggle is not limited to the workplace. It is also a struggle for political power, to win the hearts and minds of the working class, to build a mass movement of workers who will support and defend the socialist struggle.

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OVER the last ten years, trade unionists have found themselves increasingly on the defensive. From 1970 through to 1975, wages and jobs trends consistently showed around 70% of strike action. When the statisticians called "managerial policy" — lockouts, blackouts and lay-offs — the effect was around 50% or less. But by the period around 1974-75, wages and hours claims fell to less than half of all disputes, while "managerial policy" made up a quarter of them.

During the "resources boom" push for wages and shorter hours, the balance was reversed, and workers won the overwhelming case. But the situation has deteriorated further since then. In New South Wales, for example, the Central Arbitration Court against "managerial policy" kept up to a huge 43% of disputes. Last year, work stoppages and hours made up less than a third, while "managerial policy" regained strength to the 32% mark.

For socialists, this offensive framework made and the rebellion is harder to organise, as workers feel the confidence to act independently of Conservative union leadership. But opportunities to organise in the working class do not disappear altogether. There are still plenty of struggles for us to relate to.

These are simply more bitter and more difficult. The metal workers sorely needed our help when they walked out for two days in 1974 and won a fantastic 30% rise. But the socialists today have played a small, yet useful role in backing the Queensland power workers in their nine-month battle. And the left also gave valuable aid to the miners' strike, and won hundreds of people to socialist ideas in the process.

Workers too, the offensive victory in 1972, winning massive wage rises. In 1972, wages and prices movements was against rising prices. By 1973, wages were still rising, but the nuclear disarmament movement had gathered momentum. General strikes followed, and when the British government decided to deploy nuclear weapons, the anti-nuclear movement erupted. Across the country, people took to the streets in massive numbers. And in many places, the movement was won.

But after General Whittam ended confidence in 1972, movement activity fell away sharply. The pattern became one of shifting struggle, back and forth between the industrial and political arena.

PERSPECTIVES

INTERNATIONAL STRIKE ACTIVITY

(Millions of working days lost per year)

AUSTRALIA

USA

CANADA

ITALY

FRANCE

SPAIN

NEW ZEALAND

FINLAND

AFGHANISTAN

THIRD WORLD

These are the experiences of the last decade or so of class struggle. For socialists, this movement has become progressively more difficult, though we have participated in (and occasionally led) important and successful campaigns.

Many of the left have drawn drastic conclusions of one sort or another from these difficult times. The Communist Party is making a conscious effort to avoid them, as well as the sort of vague "broad left" party or movement. Others retreat into sterile and moribund propaganda, and abstain from activity.

Yet while the times are hard, they are not impossible. It is possible to retain a clear and distinctive political profile, standing on a socialist principle, and let it be known you'll relate to the society around you.

On the one hand, it is possible to retreat to a small and uncompetitive political party, which will not allow a peaceful, parliamentary road to socialism. Their slate is a weapon of class rule, and must be smashed.

A Mass Workers' Party

Workers need a revolutionary party. The working class cannot make a revolution through spontaneous uprisings. The bosses are organised, and we need to organise too. Today, we work to build a stronger revolutionary movement out of the struggles of workers and the movement for social and economic rights.

We must create a mass workers' party to work to build a stronger revolutionary movement.
Childcare is a must, and that's no kidding

All of this is largely rhetoric. Few working parents know where to turn to find care, and very few can afford it without a subsidy.

The original women's liberation movement was quite radical and comprehensive. The movement fought for free, 24-hour centres, controlled by staff and parents. They wanted the working environment to be a true living situation for all.

Socialists have endorsed these demands, not only because they are radical, but also because they are just. They point to important aspects of capitalist society which oppress women.

In the future, the number of single-parent households will increase, and it is also essential to provide a social and institutional framework for supporting women. The family unit is a basic institution of capitalism, imposing individual choices on couples. It must be undermined, not just because of the future, but also because it is a source of anxiety and social problems.

With both parents so frequently working, it is all the more important to expend time and effort to deal with the problem of childcare. Just as universal public education is an essential part of the task of raising and training a child, so is childcare.
Strike One for ACT nurses

CANCER nurses have set off their first ever concerted strike. And like their Victorian counterparts, their militancy has surprised everyone.

The strike began as an indefinite stoppage. Royal Australian Nursing Federation (IANF) members at Royal Canberra and Woden Valley Hospitals, nursing homes and community settings walked out over staffing levels.

About 120 nurses and supporting staffs marched on the ACT Health Authority headquarters. They called for a 10 per cent increase in the number of nurses and support staffs, and for an end to the use of on-call staffs.

The same day, ACTU members at the Monash University of Canberra and the University of Canberra also went on strike over staffing levels.

The RANF in NSW banned all patient transfers from the ACT, effectively blocking that option to the Health Act. RANF members are also involved in a court case over the issue. The nurses said they would continue their strike until they were heard.

The stoppage was blamed on the ACT government, which has been accused of understaffing hospitals.

The nurses were supported by the ACTU and the Australian Council of Trade Unions, which called for a national day of action.

The nurses said they would continue their protest until they were heard.

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**ECONOMIC AFFAIRS**

Privatisation: Who's afraid of the big bad Howard?

PRIVATISATION has suddenly become Labor's new bogey. "John Howard won't be able to sell off the Australian Post and Telecom, sack public servants, and replace them with contractors. We have to keep Bob Hawke in all costs," they say.

"We're going to be hearing a lot more of that kind of argument over the next few months. That's because Labor's Privatisation referendum is now coming under pressure from both sides of the house."

"So far, the economic recovery has been mainly based on increased consumption, boosted by government spending. If it's to continue, investment will have to rise. But the government's investment in the private sector has been weak, and the private sector is not responding to the public's demand for goods and services."

"In the private sector, the government's investment in infrastructure, education and training has been weak, and the private sector is not responding to the public's demand for goods and services."

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**COMPUTERS**

Clerks say "Hold it!"

ONE DAY you could report for office duty and find your "boss" a computer, sitting at your desk, asking if you need help. "Sorry, we're closed" will probably be the answer.

The clerks in the workplace are being invaded by computers. The clerks are fighting back.

"The clerks are fighting back. We're not going to sit there and let the computers take over our jobs. We're going to fight back."

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**SOCIAL ACTION**

Social justice, the emergence of Howard, and the rise of radicalism in Australia are some of the topics being discussed.

"The social justice movement is gaining strength. The impact of Howard's policies on the working class is becoming more apparent."

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**SOCIAL ACTION**

John Howard: Labor's bogeyman to keep us behind the Accord

THE Accord is a living proof of how John Howard is afraid of the power of unions. The Accord has been a major factor in the improvement of conditions for workers in this country.

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THE QUESTION is not what this or that proletarian, or even the whole of the proletariat at the moment considers as its aim. The question is what the proletariat is, and what . . . it will be compelled to do . . .

— Karl Marx, 1844

All this carry on about the working class...

British miners show their sympathies in the 1920s.

The Mickelson Stitch
by Avon Lovell
in Prisoners Action, Box 215, Glee 2037) $8

The judiciary are as reprehensible as the police for their lies. They have no other course but to accept the verbal as good evidence.

Harry Jay is assaulted by his fellow inmate Blissful Samuels.

Bliss Bombs, tediously

I WENT to see the film Bliss with high expectations. After all, it was made by Australian Film Industry and was described as the first Australian masterpiece.

I was deeply disappointed. The plot is thin, the acting bad, and the film is so slow that I was tempted to leave it altogether.

Now that Bliss has won such accolades from the Australian Film Industry, as an artist in its own right and as a criticism of society, it is high time we took a critical look at this film.

Evidence pointing away from the Mickelson was ignored or destroyed. Evidence pointing toward the Mickelson was altered after fabrication. A well-documented, carefully researched evidence was police verbal statements, and these statements were altered. The accused was, naturally, accorded the sympathy of the police.

The trial was a kangaroo court, a travesty of justice. It was a sham trial, a travesty of the due process of law.

The film industry in Australia is a laughing stock. It is a caricature, a travesty of the serious business of producing films. It is a perversion of the serious business of producing films.

Bliss is a waste of time and money. It is a film that is not worth seeing.
Labor pains: the same the world over

Gough Whitlam never gave up.

His new book is a litany of the misunderstood or ignored achievements he attributes to his government. His newspaper series of articles was also a plea to readers to see them as proof that reforming governments are still a wonderful idea.

No sooner had he dropped that point, than the present Labor prime minister began to hint of wage cuts that should fall on all lower. The truth is that labor governments are not really about reform at all. They are, at the last, vast recessional compensations for the working classes.

Whitlam did carry out some genuine reforms, such as ending conscription. It is, largely, because the powerful radical movements of the time forced the labor party to make concessions. But by mid-1974, the reformism had given way to increasingly reactionary politics. By the advent of recession, employers would not accept further concessions. The unions had to be attacked and Whitlam voted himself into the task.

But the most interesting part of labor government in power was the failure of the Greek PASOK government.

Papandreou also has severe problems, including inflation, a $1.3 billion foreign debt and 6% unemployment. His task is to keep the budget in black and control public expenditure.

Critics of labor often focus on the personalities of the leaders (Gough's arrogance, Bob's cynicism) or on the specific problems of Australia (supposedly too conservative for reform). But a glance at labor governments overseas suggests that the pattern is very high...

DOES THIS mean there is no place for reform? Not at all. Revolutionary socialists are the reformers. In fact, we argue that they are the only possible path forward. However, they do not come from electing labor governments. They come from militant class struggle. This is why we say that working-class struggle must be, among other things, against the governments of the world.