35-HOUR WEEK WILL BE WON BY STRUGGLE

The 35 hour working week will only come after vigorous, united action by the trade union movement of Australia. Efforts by the McMahon Government to deprive waterfront workers of a 35-hour week to which the seamen who employed had agreed is part of that Government's general attack on workers living standards and their unions.

Leading a chorus, which includes many groups of employers, chief spokesmen for this Government have vigorously attacked the very idea of a shorter working week.

A similar attack has been made by the same type of forces everywhere time workers have sought to reduce standard working hours. This opposition was referred to by the Ben Chifley Arbitration Court in 1947 when the union won the 40-hour week. That decision said it is:

Historic

"It has been the historic role of employers to oppose the workers' claims for increased leisure. They have, so far, been opposed in parliament and elsewhere every step in the direction and this case is no exception."

"The arguments have not much changed in 100 years. Employers have from time to time changed in a short time to produce; an added obstacle to production; a limitation upon individual expansion; and a threat to internal and international trade relations."

It is interesting to recall this statement when reading the extraneous views of Treasurer Sneddon and Immigration Minister Forbes. Sneddon said the 35-hour week would cost $7,800 million a year while Forbes said it would cost $2,500 million a year (which is $400 million between them).

Sneddon said the loss of production and cost in living standards would be 9%. Forbes added it would be done by 40% and all income would drop 25% and what cost of production would rise 13 cents a haiku.

Everyone knows that the horror stories which accompanied the 49-hour week and to which the Court referred did not come true. Production soared ahead.

The full bench of the Arbitration Commission agreed the 35-hour week agreement on the waterfront just before "SPA" went to press.

Not flow

The 35-hour week for waterfront workers, however, will not automatically flow on to other awards.

Significantly enough the demand for the 35-hour week is being pressed most vigorously in industries where job opportunities and the volume of employment are affected by technological change, e.g. steelworks, electricity generating, oil refining. More and more workers are beginning to see that concern about such development and the winning of a 35-hour week by waterfront workers will assist the campaign for a general 35-hour week.

Militant

The McMahon Government is not unaware of this, or in addition to opposing this change for waterfront workers it is concerned to hold at bay any movement towards a general reduction of hours. Treasurers of the extension of the 35-hour week to waterfronts, this strong opposition will be maintained and the 35-hour week will not come easy.

The history of the struggle for reduced working hours is marked by militant action taken in this. The 40-hour week was granted by the Arbitration Court in 1947 immediately after the ACTU Congress had made a decision for national strike action. Undoubtedly such action will be needed to win the 35-hour week.

DANGER IN McMATHON-SUHARTO LINK

Prime Minister McMahon's visit to Indonesia means Australia is close to a new agreement with the reactionary and ruthless Indonesian state. McMahon has no intention of pursuing any policies which would put Indonesia on a path to the development and social democracy.

The Indonesian government, under the leadership of President Suharto, is preparing for the next election with an iron grip on the country. McMahon's visit is part of this process.

The McMahon government and the Indonesians have a long history of collaboration. McMahon's visit is part of this process.

Prime Minister McMahon's visit is a dangerous signal to Australian workers and the people of Indonesia who are striving for democracy and independence.

Aid plan

Direct Australian Government assistance in a commitment to a $30,000 million five-year plan in 1977. About 49% of this amount will be for military aid.

"The Australian Financial Review" reports that the military programme includes training of Indonesian soldiers, a $20,000 million five-year programme in Australia, exchanges of military intelligence, official visits, Australian Army mapping surveys to Indonesia in cooperation with the RAAF and a gift of 16 Sabre jets to the Indonesian Air Force.

Another consortium (AUSCO) consisting of 11 Australian companies is also likely to provide a financial package for high level economic cooperation. Many of those are generous to McMahon's government in the army, navy and air force.

Such " Generosity" is being spent on the Indonesian war against Indonesia.

Another group of workers are the workers in the bloated bureaucracy of the Indonesian regime. They are the backbone of the Indonesian war against Indonesia.

The USA and Japan have left the list of single-power donors but countries that desire to help must step up to take the position of the USA and Japan.

Developments of this kind are worrying for the future of the McMahon government and the Indonesian people.

Contrast

The Australian Government's two main concerns are the Indonesian independence movement and the Indonesian people.

The McMahon government is not concerned with the Indonesian people, this is what McMahon wanted to achieve.

Instead of helping the Indonesian people, McMahon's government is working against them.

It is in this earlier period that friendly relations between the Australian government and the Indonesian people were forged.

For example, Australian workers' and peaceful students' groups planned to send help to Indonesia independence following the Suharto coup in 1965.

There is a sound basis for this. McMahon's government is working against the Indonesian people.
AUSTRALIA IS FOR SALE

The million foreign social has almost doubled in the past 5 years from $50,000 to $170 a month. But now the figures indicate that foreign money is twice the price of the $2,000 a month.

PERTH EXAMPLE

The present rate of foreign social is $1,400 a month. The last year, the rate was $800 a month.

Youth body in Brisbane

A new youth body in Brisbane has been formed to fight against the foreign social. The body is called the "Youth for Social Justice" and it has already held a rally in support of the foreign social.

$20,000 FUND: Seamen's effort

The Seamen's Fund in Sydney has reached $20,000, with the backing of the Workers' Party. The fund is being used to support foreign socialists in Australia.

Central Cttee. meets

The Central Committee of the Workers' Party met this week to discuss the foreign social issue. It was decided to continue the fight against foreign socialists.

French tests protest

Pat Casey addresses the Sydney protest

PROTESTS LISTED

The following are the protest groups listed by the Workers' Party:

- Stop French Testing
- Australian Workers' Union
- Socialist Party

HEMM ELLIOTT

Locomotive Strike on 50-Year-Old Claim

The Strike in Sydney was called by the Australian Worker's Federation and the Socialist Party.

The "Iron Somersby" story

The "Iron Somersby" story has been told by several people. The story is about a man who was imprisoned for 20 years in the Soviet Union.

PROGRESSIVE VICTORY TO MANKIND

The Workers' Party is fighting for a progressive victory to mankind.
FARMERS SHOW MILITANCY

Two developments among South Australian farmers indicate a growing anti-liberal, anti-monopoly mood - the attitude of the members of the South Australian Farmers Union. The work of the Hervey Bay region farmers is prominent among those union members. They have been involved in a series of protests in recent weeks, including a recent demonstration against the state government's policies on grazing rights.

The government called "Mischiefous humbugs"

Widespread work stoppages were reported recently due to the actions of farmers in response to the government's policies. The farmers have stated that they believe the government is not acting in their best interests.

Direct rule in Ireland

"Direct rule" in Northern Ireland has been a major issue in recent months. The government has announced plans to introduce direct rule from the rest of the United Kingdom to Northern Ireland.

18 VOTE MOVES

The government has announced a series of measures to increase voter participation in the upcoming election. These include expanding the voting period and providing more accessible polling stations.

SOCIALIST WORLD BOOKSHOP

I LOVE YOU WAY TO ABORIGINES DAY JULY 14

SPA barbecue was success

About three or four hundred people gathered at the Avenue on Saturday to enjoy the barbeque provided by the SPA. The day was clear and there was a general feeling of enjoyment. The barbequed beef was excellent and the atmosphere was very pleasant. The event was well organized and the proceeds will go to various welfare organizations.

Qld. comment

SEATS BEFORE VOTES - PREMIER

It is not the number of seats that count, but the number of votes, said Mr. H. W. Prior, after the Country Party (Liberal) Party coalition was returned in the recent Queensland election.

The government moves

The government has moved to introduce several legislative changes to address the current economic challenges. These include tax reforms and increased funding for education and healthcare.

What's on

Several events are scheduled for this week, including a Christmas concert by the Young Socialist League in Sydney, and a series of speakers' forums on various political issues.

SUBSCRIPTIONS:

New Times: $2.00 per year
International Affairs: $3.00 per year

Byカラダ

Charlotte Carter

The great Canadian actress and working-class heroine, Charlotte Carter, died recently. She will be remembered by many Australians for her brave and honest portrayal of social and economic issues.

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