Anti-worker budget exposes Accord

South East Asia
- Fretilin Interview
- Philippines
- Conference

Hope Commission
Party witchhunt or “national security”

Franklin Dam
The Aftermath

$1.00
Labor Militant is published by socialists in the Labor Party. We have been producing this internal publication since June 1981, and in that time we have built it up as the only left internal publication with a national scope and distribution.

We published 4 issues in 1981 and 6 in 1982. We now plan to publish monthly. To accompany this step up in production Labor Militant has changed its format from a newspaper to a magazine. We think this change makes Labor Militant more attractive, more convenient and easier to read.

Labor Militant promotes socialist policies for the Labor Party. Each issue carries news and analysis from a socialist viewpoint of events and issues of particular interest to Party members. We have devoted a lot of space to discussing the Prices and Incomes Policy over the past year. In our view the Accord signed with the ACTU last February is a non-event as far as the social contract is concerned, and it is disastrous for British workers under Labour Governments in the 1970s.

Labor Militant looks at the nature of the capitalist economic crisis and the socialist measures needed to confront a crisis of this depth. This crisis is not caused by wage rises and wage cuts will not help resolve the crisis in the interests of the working class.

We also devote a lot of attention to the threat of war and the threats that are already going on. From Central America to the Middle East, the United States and its allies are determined to block progressive movements in order to protect their economic interests. This drive to war by Ronald Reagan increases the danger of nuclear war and Australia’s participation as part of the US war machine must cease.

We also insist that progressive policies must be advanced by Labor on the liberation struggle in El Salvador, on Solidarity’s fight for socialist democracy in Poland, on the Israeli aggression in the Middle East and the rights of the Palestinian people, and on the Indonesian occupation of East Timor and the need to make reparations to Vietnam.

Labor is in Government in four States and federally. Yet never before has there been a bigger gap between stated Labor policy and Government policy, let alone the gap between performance and working class interests. This gap is reflected in the important debate and discussion within the Party, Branches and at Conference. We seek to develop a broad coverage of this process.

We believe that the most far and open debate within the Party and affiliated unions on Party policy and practice is necessary to develop positions and actions that can represent working people from whom Labor draws its strength.

But the current structures of the Party and new undemocratic rules and practices prevent this. So we support moves to democratise these structures, in particular, to make the Parliamentary and Party officers truly accountable to the ranks, unions and branches.

If you agree with these aims we encourage you to help finance and distribute Labor Militant. You can get each issue sent by mail at a cost of $5 for 10 issues.

We can also make arrangements to have a bundle of any size mailed or delivered for you or for you to sell. There are high costs involved in the production of a publication like Labor Militant so any financial contribution will help to ensure its continued regular appearance.

For subscriptions or any further information please fill in the clip-off below or write to any of the addresses below.

Thank you for your support.

For further information

If you want to contact Labor Militant in your area write to

Newcastle
PO Box 166
Newcastle, NSW 2300

Victoria
PO Box 309
6th Carlton
VIC 3053

Queensland
PO Box 44
West End, Qld 4104

South Australia
PO Box 152
Unley, SA 5061

Sydney
PO Box 372
Broadway, NSW 2007

Western Australia
PO Box 372
Perth
WA 6001

Wollongong
PO Box 152
7th Keumbil, NSW 2500

For subscription orders or any further information please fill in the clip-off below or write to any of the addresses below:

Subscribe

☐ I enclose $5 for a subscription (10 issues of Labor Militant) delivered for distribution at my branch. I enclose $5 for this purpose.

☐ I would like to have Labor Militant mailed or delivered for distribution at my branch. I enclose $5 for this purpose.

☐ I would like to donate $ towards the cost of producing and distributing Labor Militant.

☐ I would like further information on the following points:

Name

Address

Postal code

Branch

Return to Labor Militant, PO Box 372, Broadway 2007

Telephone

Signature

SA Peter Duncan cuts through the witchhunt double talk.

Miniature bug--part of ASIO's box of tricks.

Sir Jack Egerton pends the road back into the Party.

Contents

4 The demise of the Left
5 Central America -- October 8 protest
6 Party members speak out
7 Women's prelude to ACTU Congress
8 Wran's record: NSW education cuts
9 Western Australia -- US warships out!
10 Vic Mental-health care unprofitable
11 Industrial relations Burke-style
12 Cain to cut public transport
13 Combe -- Party witchhunt or "national security"
16 Tasmanian Party after the dam
16 AWU delegate on the Franklin dam

Interview John Fulty
18 Anti-worker budget exposes the Accord
22 East Timor--Fremantle tour
23 Perth interview with Abilio Araujo
24 Talks with Victorian Policy Committee
24 Industrial "Groupers" alive and kicking
25 We lost the grey
26 The Philippines

Interview with Bob Manta, Philippines Action Support Group.

30 Conference on Australia-Asia relations
31 Letters
32 Women take on BHP
33 Qantas lockout
34 Right wing manoeuvres NSW South Coast
36 Background on Queensland elections

Signed articles do not necessarily represent editorial opinion.

Printed and published by P. Brewer, PO Box 372, Broadway 2007.
The Demise of the Left

Only a little more than six months ago, when the election of the Hawke Government changed the political landscape in Australia, the Hawke Labor Government's policies and program were praised and supported by many. The government was seen as progressive and committed to making changes for the better. However, as time has passed, the reality of these policies has fallen short of expectations, leading to a decline in popularity and support.

The Federal Labor Government, with its massive majority, continued to see its programs and policies in many respects as a success. The government's commitment to social justice, economic development, and environmental protection was widely applauded. However, the ongoing economic challenges, particularly the rising cost of living and the impact of global events, have taken a toll on the government's popularity.

The Hawke Labor Government has faced significant opposition from both within and outside the political sphere. The opposition parties, led by the Liberal-National Coalition, have criticized the government's policies, calling them ineffective and unaffordable. The Hawke Labor Government has also been beleaguered by a series of scandals, which have further eroded its support among the public.

The Hawke Labor Government's approach to international relations has also been a source of debate. While the government has been praised for its efforts to improve diplomatic relations with other countries, it has also faced criticism for its handling of foreign policy matters.

The Hawke Labor Government's domestic policies have also faced challenges. The government's efforts to address the country's economic challenges, particularly the decline in the mining industry, have not been without criticism. The government's attempts to diversify the economy and reduce reliance on mining have been met with mixed results.

The Hawke Labor Government's foreign policy initiatives have also been a source of controversy. The government's efforts to improve relations with other countries have been praised, but its handling of international crises has been criticized.

The Hawke Labor Government's approach to social policy has also been a source of debate. While the government has made efforts to improve social services and address income inequality, challenges remain in this area.

The Hawke Labor Government's tenure has been marked by significant events and challenges. The government's policies and programs have faced criticism and opposition, and the government's popularity has declined over time. The future direction of the Hawke Labor Government remains uncertain, as it continues to navigate the challenges of governance and policy making.

October 8: Protest US aggression in Central America

As dangerous United States war 'marches' on Central America, international demonstrations against US-sponsored war in the region are being organised in Asia. The anniversary of the foundation of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front of El Salvador is October 15. The call for the protest has been issued by the World Peace Forum in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador.

In Australia, October 8 has been set as the date for national protests in all major centres. The protests are being organised by a coalition of various organizations, including CISPAC, Socialist Alliance, and the Australian National Council on Central America.

Reagan's policy is failing to win the support of the Salvadoran people. The US forces are being used to overthrow the Nicaraguan Government. Reagan faces opposition from the world community, including governments in Latin America, peace, and solidarity organizations, including CISPAC, Socialist Alliance, and the Australian National Council on Central America.

The US and international intervention in Central America and the Caribbean is endangering the peace and prosperity of the region. The US and international forces are being used to overthrow the Nicaragua Government. Reagan's policy is failing to win the support of the Salvadoran people. The US forces are being used to overthrow the Nicaraguan Government.

Reagan's policy is failing to win the support of the Salvadoran people. The US forces are being used to overthrow the Nicaraguan Government. Reagan's policy is failing to win the support of the Salvadoran people. The US forces are being used to overthrow the Nicaraguan Government.

Reagan's policy is failing to win the support of the Salvadoran people. The US forces are being used to overthrow the Nicaraguan Government. Reagan's policy is failing to win the support of the Salvadoran people. The US forces are being used to overthrow the Nicaraguan Government.
Party members speak out on Central America

Concern about United States' war preparations in Central America continues to grow among Parliamentary members of the Party despite the refoulement of the Federal Caucus and its supporters to take a stand in favour of peace in the region.

By Bruce Threlfo
Member of Armandale (New South Wales) branch and the Municipal Employees Union

In June the Victorian State Conference carried a resolution calling on the Federal Government to distance itself from the Reagan Administration's policies in Central America. The resolution also expressed support for the Nicaraguan Sandinista Government and for the Democratic Revolutionary Front of El Salvador.

Also from the Victorian Conference, twelve prominent Party members sent a letter to Bob Hawke demanding that the Federal Party Policy proceed with a consultation and negotiation in Central America in the best interests of the country. Among the signatories was Minister for Defence Support, Brian Howe.

Mr Hawke also spoke to a July 21 dinner in Melbourne organised by the Australia-Cuba Friendship Society to celebrate the 15th anniversary of the Cuban Revolution. In his speech, Hawke called on the Government to pressure the US to stop interfering in Nicaragua's affairs.

In contrast to the comments made in Washington by Bob Hawke which the Australian Government has been reportedly very careful not to comment on, Hawke's comments were an expression of a desire to distance himself from the US policy in Central America.

In response to these developments Hawke moved to put Howe under Cabinet discipline not to make public comments on foreign policy matters.

Hawke was also scheduled to speak at a public meeting for East Timorese representatives visiting Australia. Following the Cuban meeting, he decided not to appear at the meeting, but instead to remain in Sydney to work on the implementation of policy in Central America and to work with the public in Sydney.

This has not been the only public support by prominent Party members for a peaceful solution in Central America and for an end to US involvement in that region.

A further statement was released in Victoria on July 23 in response to joint US-Italian manoeuvres announced by US President Reagan. The statement was signed by the Minister for Defence Support, Brian Hawke, and the Director of Public Affairs, John Howard. It called on the Federal Government to distance itself from the US policy, and to work for a peaceful solution to the conflict.

The statement was issued in response to reports that the US was planning to increase its military presence in the region, as part of its efforts to contain the spread of communism.

Solidarity with Central America on the Caribbean

The statement was signed by the Minister for Defence Support, Brian Hawke, and the Director of Public Affairs, John Howard. It called on the Federal Government to distance itself from the US policy, and to work for a peaceful solution to the conflict.

The statement was issued in response to reports that the US was planning to increase its military presence in the region, as part of its efforts to contain the spread of communism.

Women

Prelude to ACTU Congress

In 1977 the Australian Council of Trade Unions adopted an historic document known as the Charter for Working Women. This Charter was a milestone for working women because it was, in effect, a recognition of the specific problems which confront women as workers and, on the other hand, a series of objectives aimed at facilitating women's movement in the work place and encouraging their rights to be defended and maintained.

By Coral Chambers
Member of Preston (Victoria) branch and the Amalgamated Metal Foundry and Shipbuilders' Union

After seven years of Fraser's austerity and with the onset of the recession, it is clear that many of the demands of the "Women's Charter" have not been realised. This year the Charter, which includes the provision of low-cost, union-supervised child-care centres on site, has been enforced to the extent that for women to enter the "non-traditional" occupations and an end to discrimination in lay-offs based on marital status, have never been seriously implemented.

As a result of discrimination, and the growing sense that women are being held back, women have been demonstrating in increasing numbers in the last few years. A few years ago, in the early days of the Charter, there was a widespread feeling of hope and optimism. This year, however, there is a growing sense of frustration and disillusionment.

As a result of discrimination, and the growing sense that women are being held back, women have been demonstrating in increasing numbers in the last few years. A few years ago, in the early days of the Charter, there was a widespread feeling of hope and optimism. This year, however, there is a growing sense of frustration and disillusionment.

Women workers under attack

The Women's Charter (Lynt Beaton). Working Women's Centre

- Wages and Working Conditions
  - Gail Cotton, Organiser, Food Processors' Union
  - Women and the ALP (Margaret Barden, Vice President, Australian Young Labor)

- Women, Technology and Unemployment
  - Alison McMilland, Industrial Officer, ACTU

- The Accord (The three feature speakers)

- Affirmative Action/Union Priorities (Anne Sherry, ACOA and women from the "Women's Campaign in Wollongong"

The feature speakers and workshop content cover a broad spectrum of women in trade unions and in the ALP—both in official and in the rank-and-file. This promises to be a very important event for women in Melbourne. The Melbourne Trades Hall 663/884 (9a.m.-12 noon only). To cover costs there is an entry fee of $5.00 for non-members and $2.00 for unpaid workers. There will be childcare available as well as lunch for the disabled. Send cheque to: Women and the Labour Movement, 17 Drummond St, Clifton Hill Victoria 3068.
antivar

US nuclear warships-out!

What does the coast of Nicaragua have in common with the coast of Australia? Unwelcome visits by US warships that's what! And, what's more, they are the same ships!

By Barry Healy
Member of Wanneroo (WA) Branch and the Amalgamated Metal Founders and Shipwrights Union

The giant aircraft carrier Ranger graced the port of Fremantle with its awesome presence in September 1982. Its latest assignment is to off load the coast of Nicaragua to intimidate that country.

The US Navy, New Jersey, a battle ship was to be capable of firing 32 cruise missiles at once has joined Reagan's intimidation flotilla. According to Perth's Campaign Against Nuclear Energy, the New Jersey was on its way to the Persian Gulf or Central American battle station.

The menace of nuclear warships is a threat that is being totally unveiled to the WA ALP.

10,000 people marched in Fremantle on July 2 against the visit of the US flotilla led by the Carl Vinson. The rally was organised by People for Nuclear Disarmament and was strongly supported by the Labor Party, the Australian Council of Trade Unions and Senator Bill Litter, an ALP Fremantle Councillor, and Senator Ruth Coleman.

One of the major points on the Platform of the Educational Federal Labor Party was the cessation of the flow of Commonwealth funds to the very wealthy private schools which "give rise to a 'rich man's education' standard". Although this falls short of ending subsidies to all private schools, it does go to the essence of society on social, economic and/or religious grounds.

The WA State Executive resolution that the Federal Executive be asked to approach the Federal Government to secure a conclusion to the regular visits of nuclear powered and armed vessels to WA ports. The Federal Executive be asked to note that particular NATO powers (eg, Norway) do not permit such visits.

The Executive was also asked to note the growing concern in the WA community in the visits. The State Executive notes with approval the Foreign Minister's proposals for a Conference on an Indian Ocean Zone of Peace and proposals for a South West Pacific Nuclear Free Zone. It expresses the view that the visits make more difficult the achievement of these policies. Such policies are essential to reducing tensions in the region.

The Federal Executive be further asked to request the Defence Minister to request the rules on nuclear powered vessels be revised in Parliament last year and substitute the more comprehensive practices entitled in the previous rules governing movement.

Dover Heights—a united anti-cuts fight by parents, teachers and students.

The State Labor Government of Victoria and South Australia, on the other hand, faced with the same decreasing enrollments have agreed to maintain previous staffing levels in order to improve conditions for primary and secondary students.

So severe have been the attacks on State education in NSW that an unprecedented alliance has sprung up among teachers and parents of students attending state schools, to oppose the Government's cost-cutting measures.

The two major issues which have aroused the wrath of parents and teachers are the closure of state schools to make more facilities available to private schools, and the downgrading of programs and standards at primary/mixed schools with the concomitant loss of hundreds of jobs.

In May of this year the WRAN Government was finalising a deal to hand over Dover Heights Boys High, situated on the finest of state school sites to Moriah War Memorial College in a privately run school for a give-away rental.

Boys from the school were to be transferred into overcrowded conditions at the nearby girls' school. Parents and teachers strenuously resisted these moves. Teachers set up a 24 hour picket to prevent temporary classroom being moved into the second site and parents began a series of meetings with the Government and a media campaign to stop the hand-over.

Students at Dover Heights have won a reprieve as a result and can now occupy their school until the end of this year when the battle will be on once more.

The Federal Executive be asked to approach the Federal Government to secure a conclusion to the regular visits of nuclear powered and armed vessels to WA ports.

The Federal Executive be asked to note that particular NATO powers (eg, Norway) do not permit such visits.

The Executive was also asked to note the growing concern in the WA community in the visits.

The State Executive notes with approval the Foreign Minister's proposals for a Conference on an Indian Ocean Zone of Peace and proposals for a South West Pacific Nuclear Free Zone. It expresses the view that the visits make more difficult the achievement of these policies. Such policies are essential to reducing tensions in the region.

The Federal Executive be further asked to request the Defence Minister to request the rules on nuclear powered vessels be revised in Parliament last year and substitute the more comprehensive practices entitled in the previous rules governing movement.
Mental-health care unprofitable

Moves are underway in Victoria for large scale shifting of the mentally disabled and mentally handicapped away from the community. Disaster can only follow if this is not done as it can undermine the creation of a well-coordinated community based system with guaranteed Government funding to maintain it.

By Les Taylor
Member of Vice Fitzroy (Vic) branch and the Federated Hospital Employees Union

A one day seminar on the issue was held on August 19 in Sydney jointly organised by the Victorian Federation for the Intellectually Disabled and attended by over 300 people.

The question being debated was whether the present institutions housing the intellectually disabled people should be scaled down and in many cases closed.

The Victorian Federation want to establish community based homes where small groups of intellectually disadvantaged persons could live and integrate into the community. On the other hand, a shift to a more normal and useful life. One can understand the frustration of parents of mentally handicapped children who are cared for in institutions without any educational program, and are dropped to keep them there.

However, the era of the problem is that there are 30,000 intellectually handicapped in Victoria and possibly 30,000 more who don't appear in the official statistics.

So far there are 34 community residential homes functioning which house 120 mentally disabled people with another 16 homes in the pipeline on which more figures can be added for another 100.

What happens to the other 100,000 mentally handicapped? They would be pushed back onto the family units or into the many group homes.

With the Western World undergoing an economic depression with little recovery in sight, any guarantee of adequate funding for the system can only be illusory. In fact the recent trend of massive cutbacks to welfare spending is the last thing the community can afford.

Many welfare workers have visited the USA and been impressed by the progress mentally retarded people, previously thought to be hopeless cases, have made with proper care and training.

This is not in issue in the debate. The point made from the US experience is that this is only possible for the lucky few who can pay. The many thousands who needed the care were closed down virtually overnight. In America, there are beds blocked in the various states and there has been a virtual reduction in the number of mentally disabled people living in the community.

In NSW the Health Commission released the Richmond Report, which proposed the total treatment of the mentally disabled people to take place in the community. Here in Victoria, we are having a similar type of debate and proposals that the number of people living in the community are the same as in the Richmond report.

The question of community based homes is being hotly debated without any concrete plans in relation to the mental health staff and the full accountability of the functioning of the homes.

It has been suggested that since the Housing Commission would provide only 50-50 with the finance and the rest would be made up by voluntary labour. This, in turn, is supposed to lead to poor working conditions, low wages and non-unionised labour.

This leads to the question of the elderly and infirm who are and have been treated in the private hospitals, who are now inevitably broken down.

The Hospital Employees Federation has sought to prop up the plans. They claim that they can also mean in the long run, the elimination of the union and the hospital staff would be replaced by voluntary labour.

In benefits to the Government if this scheme goes ahead are enormous. The huge cost of running the large mental hospitals would be eliminated to a stroke.

There is also an additional incentive for these institutions in Melbourne which are located on land that is worth millions of dollars. This land is ready to be developed by new private real estate activities. Also, Larradale would lose its beaches and Mont Park is on beautiful land in the very centre of the city.

Faced with a budget blow out, the Government can do the necessary thing. A group of concerned citizens including workers in this field have come together to fight against the possible Victorian version of the Richmond Report and have formed the Committee Against Exploitation of the Mentally Disabled. They fear that the ideas of professionals plus cost effective arrangements by Government for the implementation of their recommendations will see the large numbers of patients being segregated in community care in flexible facilities.

In addition the Committee points out that there has been a political decision to repurpose some of the existing facilities to meet the requirements of the National Health Commission.

Both the unions and the Committee are concerned that the Government increase its funding to the existing facilities to meet the requirements of the National Health Commission.

The hospitals and mental institutions are on the defensive and the community and surrounding areas are main targets in this fight.

In addition, the Committee feels that the Government should fund the existing facilities to meet the requirements of the National Health Commission.

The hospitals and mental institutions are on the defensive and the community and surrounding areas are main targets in this fight.

Committee Against Exploitation of the Mentally Disabled

1. To ensure increased funds be made available to existing facilities

2. To monitor the desirability of consolidation or decentralisation of services that have already been established in one place to ensure that mentally disabled persons are not exploited socially, financially or in any other way.

3. To ensure that any evidence of exploitation is obtained in the form of public statements by community representatives and the community.

4. To prevent the mentally disabled persons from being exploited by the fact that mental health care is not available in the community.

5. To seek wide support in the community to ensure that the care of the mentally handicapped is effective as a body.

Industrial relations Burke-style

During July West Australian workers learned how much support they could expect from the Burke Labor Government when they go out on strike.

That is the lesson from the Perth City Council lock-out/strike. For near six weeks the Council's outside workers battled hard over the issue of how to implement the 38 hour week.

At its peak the dispute drew in council workers state wide who either struck or took other solidarity action. There were dramatic scenes as police heavily-handed moved pickets aside to let trucks drive garbage trucks on their rounds. The workers clamoured for the Labor Government to restrain the police. But the Government stood by the police in their actions. It then made one of the most unique interventions ever seen in the Australian industrial area.

The Labor-dominated City Council was claiming that it could not implement the 38 hour week and that the workers had not been willing to abide by the rules set down by the City Council.

So Brian Burke offered Government money to the Council to keep on the scabs for a year as well as take back the strike. The "natural wastage" would get the workforce back to normal in a year. A Labor Government offered to pay scabs wages.

Moreover the offer was made to the City Council behind the back of the Trades and Labor Council. While the TLC continued negotiating the Government set a deadline for the expiry of its offer for noon on Friday July 8.

The Council and TLC hammered out an agreement on the Government's terms just seven minutes past the deadline. But the Government insisted that the deadline stood and refused to support a settlement that it had initiated.

TLC Secretary Ron Reid described all this as "bizarre".

Days later the strikers were back to work by a particularly sneaky piece of work by Industrial Commissioner Coleman. They failed to reach their strike objectives.

The word around Trade Union circles is that the Government performed its bitter twist due to embarrassment over Burke's off-the-cut decision. Minister for Industrial Relations Des Dans and his special advisor Tom Butler are said to have pointed out the dangers of a precedent of paying scabs wages. The Government's actions can be said to have been merely stupid. But the issue cannot rest there. The Government should have used its power to sack the City Council as soon as it sacked the strikers. It should have reinstated the workers on the 18th hour while investigating the widely-disseminated corruption on the Perth City Council.

How can the future strike place faith in a Government which sought to appease "neutral" while undermining the fundamentals of workers solidarity with its support to scabs?
Cain cuts public transport

NSW rail workers have been under attack since last December by the State Rail Authority's drive to slash jobs. But in recent weeks it has become clear that the Cain Government intends to try to match the ferocity of Neville Wran in attacking public transport.

By Garry Walters
Member of Annandale (NSW) branch and the Australian Railways Union

The first move was on July 14 when Transport Minister Steve Crabb told rail unions of his "cost-cutting" program for ViaRail. The rail union leaders had so far agreed to Crabb's demand that exact details be kept secret at this stage, but railworkers know Crabb aims to "save" up to $10 million per annum, threatening almost 5,000 jobs.

There are similar plans for other transport areas, with the large Melbourne tramway system targeted on the same scale as the railways. Rationalisation efforts have intensified in recent years in rail network nationwide. The intention of such rationalisation is to provide a better service to the public but to cut back on Government expenditure and increasingly turn over, either directly or indirectly, more profitable sections to private enterprise. The cheap bulk freight rates given to companies like TNT are an example of the public sector being used to subsidise the profits of private companies.

The whole notion of efficient profitability has been put forward as the criteria for running public services.

According to ARU State Secretary Jim Finkler, the unions are some of those negotiating on the question of how to cut costs. But the unions want guidelines to include analysis of the total social costs and benefits of any changes with union access to detailed data on all revenue and spending projections for every transport area.

The most immediate threat to job maintenance is a "sugar coating" early retirement deal Crabb offered in a move to off-load the cut-back in the number of workers in rail, tram and other transport areas accepted, more than ten percent of the existing jobs may be at stake. But the unions are not satisfied that the deal, which applies to all workers over 50 years old, offers any real advantage. The rail and tram union on August 4 presented a united front in a meeting with Crabb, Premier Cain and Treasurer Jolly. The unions warned that the early retirement scheme be kept separate from cost cutting.

The next major development may be in the State Budget due late July when economic austerity policies are highly likely to be expressed in drastic cuts to all public sector areas. But when these cutbacks occur, the NSW experience shows very clearly the need for a united and co-ordinated fight to preserve jobs, safety and decent public services.

Party witchhunt or "national security"

Only ten weeks after it was elected to office the Hawke Government has been under attack by a political witch-hunt over the Combe-Ivanov affair.

When the Government exposed Russian diplomats and black-balled David Combe it obviously hoped to prove its ability to handle "national security" questions in a firm and "reasonable" way.

The subsequent unrolling of the whole affair has revealed that it has nothing to do with "national security" and a lot to do with ASIO's manoeuvring to further legitimize its anti-democratic spying activities.

The Labor Government has become a willing accomplice to this exercise. According to Hawke, Ivanov was trying to "cultivate Combe" and cunningly exploit the image of a tough agent to further his cause. However, in the end Ivanov's plans were exposed, and Combe's political career was cut short.

The transcript of the conversation, released on July 6 by the Hope Royal Commission, revealed nothing to do with "national security issues".

At the meeting, which took place at Combe's home, the two discussed the possibility of Combe acting as a special trade lobbyist for the Soviet Union after elections in May and September.

Combe also boasted to Ivanov that his past work as ALP National Secretary put him in a good position to demand future payment in the form of a lucrative and comfortable job. He talked about being appointed Ambassador to Moscow or Beijing.

On the basis of this conversation, ASIO concocted what can only be described as a 1960s McCarthy-style fantasy.

ASIO's twisted view of what the conversation revealed was an attempt by Ivanov to use Combe to channel Soviet funds into the Labor Party with the ultimate aim of influencing—and blackmailing—the ALP.

ASIO presented this fantastic story to the Cabinet's NIS committee, which then decided on April 21 to expel Ivanov as a "KGB agent" and blackball Combe as a "security risk."

In the July 17 Sydney Sunday Telegraph columnist Laurie Oakes revealed the character of the "evidence" presented to the NIS by ASIO: "I have been told, for example, that the original ASIO report to the Government—after mentioning Mr. Combe's ambassadorial ambitions—quoting the Russian in Ivanov saying something like 'Being Ambassador to Moscow, you'll get your hands on files.' That sounds very sinister doesn't it?"

The transcripts made public by Mr. Justice Hope's Royal Commission show that Ivanov actually and being Ambassador to Moscow, you'll keep your hands on the pulse."

There is little doubt that ASIO has defecated transcribers and invented things to make its "case" against Combe and Ivanov.

For example, ASIO made up a story about Combe taking a cruise on the Soviet Embassy's boat in September 1983 when in reality, the Combe took his family on a short trip to the port of Calais.

The Combe-Ivanov affair is part of the Government's "national security" package. The "national security" package is designed to give the Government an excuse to push through its anti-labour, anti-social legislation. If ASIO's "evidence" is used as the "evidence" against Combe, Combe will be blackballed and thus the case against Combe is a case against Combe and Ivanov.

ASIO's case rests largely on its claim that Ivanov was a KGB agent. But the evidence for this is in just as flimsy and laughable as the "evidence" against Combe.

According to testimony given to the Hope Commission by ASIO Director-General Harvey Barnett, ASIO based its judgement of Ivanov on such an amazing "intelligence" work as observing that Ivanov ate at a restaurant while "facing the door." This, in ASIO's "expert" opinion, is standard procedure for KGB agents. Therefore, Ivanov was a KGB agent.

Reacting to the widespread amazement that the Government/ASIO case against Combe rests on such flimsy and fantastic material, Hawke claimed on July 7 that "we were only part of the total context" in which the Government acted.

This "total context" included an international witch-hunt orchestrated by the US Government against Soviet diplomats, who it asserted were on "spies" in the US, Britain and France.

The expulsion of Ivanov coincided with a wave of expulsion of Soviet diplomats from the US, Britain, and France.

Ivanov's expulsion was an early indicator that the Hawke Government was prepared to fall in line with the aggressive anti-Soviet foreign policies of US President Ronald Reagan. It heralded Hawke's scrapping of so much Party policy on foreign affairs—East Timor, Vietnam and military aid to Indonesia, Central America, etc.—in favor of pro-US.
imperialist policy.

Ivanov's expulsion also took place just after the National Times ran a series of articles exposing some of ASIO's illegal activities. Among the revelations were the following:

- In the late 1960s, ASIO spied on journalists, including Bill MacMahon. Their aim was to uncover material that could be used to discredit his bid to become Prime Minister.

- ASIO had supplied material on Labor. MPS to the right-wing National Civic Council and the right-wing MPs.

ASIO passed similar information on to the CIA.

It is very likely that ASIO had got word of the impending expulsion of Ivanov, which may have been why ASIO could 'uncover' a Soviet 'spy' seeking to 'cultivate' a well-known public figure such a scandal would be useful in justifying its spying on Labor, and even Liberal, politicians.

The relationship between former ALP National Secretary David Combe and Soviet diplomat Valery Ivanov was tailor-made for such a counterpy.

In executing this manoeuvre, ASIO correctly imagined on Hawke's desire to be seen as willing to get 'tough' with the Soviet Union.

In his testimony to the Royal Commission, Hawke admitted that he had decided on the dramatic expulsion of Ivanov because he would help ASIO achieve its reputation. The dramatic escalation raised questions about Combe's role in the decision-making process.

If ASIO could have plotted to frame-up Combe with the intention of ensuring the ALP prior to the Federal Election is not beyond the possibility of a campaign to remain in power.

While ASIO was set up by the Chifley Labor Government in 1949 it was always a controversial opponent of the Labor Party, and the Labour movement in general. ASIO staged Just such a spy scandal—the Petrov affair—to embarrass the ALP on the eve of the 1957 Federal Election.

In the following years, evidence of ASIO's anti-social operations became public. In 1974, for example, Labor Prime Minister Gough Whitlam released a list of 67 titles and dates of ASIO internal reports. Only 20 of these pretended to investigate the activities of right-wing organisations such as ASIO spying and disruption included campaigning against the Vietnam war, militant teachers, radical Christians, and Black activists.

Some commercially secured Matheson's news: "There are no company shareholders, and no one is aware of any ASIO Security Intelligence Organisation."

The performance of several like Laurie Matheson in pimping and informing on Australian citizens in a way which leads to them being convicted and sentenced without trial or trial is justification alone for the complete abolition of this incompetent organisation ASIO.," Matheson said.

At the same time, ASIO had also operated outside its statutory mandate, using ASIO employees to obstruct the anti-war movement. For example, Labor Prime Minister Gough Whitlam released a list of 67 titles and dates of ASIO internal reports. Only 20 of these pretended to investigate the activities of right-wing organisations such as ASIO spying and disruption included campaigning against the Vietnam war, militant teachers, radical Christians, and Black activists.

When the Whittlam Government came to office in December 1972, ASIO refused to turn over its files to the Attorney-General's Department. It justified this by claiming that it was "a security risk."

Murphy was forced to use Combe's evidence in the Petrov affair to attempt to pressure ASIO's headquarters in March 1973.

ASIO was shown to be a dangerous, out-of-control force in the community, and was finally abolished in 1975.

That certainly seems to be one of the key aims of Hawke and Evans.

The National Times began its series of articles in early May exposing ASIO's illegal activities. The Government responded by attempting to suppress publication of the materials damaging to ASIO. Hawke claimed that the publication of the documents was "harmful to the national interest." In early October, Hawke then launched a campaign attempting to muzzle public comment on the ASIO affair and has been in complete control of the media organisations including the ABC, and threats of law suits against other media groups.

In response to the Government's claims of "defamation" against the media and Liberal leader Andrew Peacock, Hawke backed up Hawke's attack on freedom of speech by issuing a warning against anyone making statements that "are intended to produce a prejudice of any kind of the issues or conduct or credit of any witness.

Why is the Labor Government so concerned about public comment on the whole affair? Why is it concerned to prevent the national interest?"

Hawke claims that he is acting to protect the "national interest." But ASIO's actions, both past and present, have nothing to do with defending the interests or security of the majority of those who make up the nation.

ASIO has consistently acted against the interests of working people. Its major role has been to spy on and disrupt the labour movement. Its activities threaten our democratic freedoms freedoms that have been won at great sacrifice and which are necessary for the security of our jobs and living standards. That is why it is impossible to reform ASIO. It must be abolished.

The only people who benefit from ASIO's operations are the business owners and bureaucrats who have real material interests to secure—interests vested out of the labour of workers. As a tiny and privileged minority, this class needs a secret police agency like ASIO to protect their exploitative profit system against the political and industrial challenges of the working majority. Peacock, Hawke backed up Hawke's attack on freedom of speech by issuing a warning against anyone making statements that "are intended to produce a prejudice of any kind of the issues or conduct or credit of any witness.

Why is the Labor Government so concerned about public comment on the whole affair? Why is it concerned to prevent the national interest?"

Hawke claims that he is acting to protect the "national interest." But ASIO's actions, both past and present, have nothing to do with defending the interests or security of the majority of those who make up the nation.

ASIO has consistently acted against the interests of working people. Its major role has been to spy on and disrupt the labour movement. Its activities threaten our democratic freedoms freedoms that have been won at great sacrifice and which are necessary for the security of our jobs and living standards. That is why it is impossible to reform ASIO. It must be abolished.

The only people who benefit from ASIO's operations are the business owners and bureaucrats who have real material interests to secure—interests vested out of the labour of workers. As a tiny and privileged minority, this class needs a secret police agency like ASIO to protect their exploitative profit system against the political and industrial challenges of the working majority. Peacock, Hawke backed up Hawke's attack on freedom of speech by issuing a warning against anyone making statements that "are intended to produce a prejudice of any kind of the issues or conduct or credit of any witness.

Why is the Labor Government so concerned about public comment on the whole affair? Why is it concerned to prevent the national interest?"

Hawke claims that he is acting to protect the "national interest." But ASIO's actions, both past and present, have nothing to do with defending the interests or security of the majority of those who make up the nation.
Tasmania

Picking up the pieces

Well it is over! The High Court has ruled against the Gordon below Franklin dam. The sign of relief was almost immediate—party leadership and associated Liberal leadership. But they should have a cause for no greater relief. High Court ruling was against them to a big time.

By our Tasmanian correspondent

The issue has finally been laid to rest. Now the party must take stock of itself. Questions have to be raised and realistically answered. The leadership must not be allowed to carry on as if nothing has occurred. Having caused the fight, the leadership cannot be permitted to stand aside and passively administer itself, the State, then the Federal Government.

Most progressive organisations in Australia opposed the construction of the dam. The Party Leadership is out on a limb, as shown time and again in the Federal elections. In short, it has been the greatest disaster ever visited upon the Tasmanian Branch.

Franklin dam worker interview

John Tully was until recently the Australian Workers Union Site Delegate for 15 months at the Franklin hydro electric scheme, where he was employed by the HEC as a rigger. He is also a member of the Queensland Branch of the Australian Labor Union.

Q. Firstly a somewhat theoretical question. As a socialist, how could you see the Franklin being on a project that was opposed by most of the organized working people in this country?

A. In my opinion, I am a worker and workers’ rights are sacred. We live by selling our labour power. Therefore, I must support the working class and the idea that the system is against us. We are the one that is the main interest. To condemn workers who are forced to work by economic necessity, in the armament industry. To do so is to direct the blame away from ourselves—most workers live in a state of poverty, which is the capitalists state of mind. This is the workers, as individuals, make a lone protest as visibly not—be it a two week wonder, at most. The real way to go about things is to be with the worker, to understand the need for, in this instance, alternative political campaigns and struggle for the establishment of a working class organization that is an independent working class organization. Our policy was to accept the strike, but that we would accept alternative work. We were prepared to struggle for support for the labour movement in the event of the HEC sacking any of our members.

Q. What is the feeling of the workers at the Franklin dam who are still on strike?
A. No one knows. They have been held out of their homes and to be struck from their homes. The strike has been call to get the job done in a long time—this and the strike to skilled as well as non skilled. We must support the workers on strike.

Q. What do you think the future holds for the Franklin dam workers?
A. I think that the workers will continue to fight for their rights. We are not at all in the interests of the workers. We must continue to fight for their rights. We must continue to fight for their rights.

Q. Franklin dam worker interview

John Tully was until recently the Australian Workers Union Site Delegate for 15 months at the Franklin hydro electric scheme, where he was employed by the HEC as a rigger. He is also a member of the Queensland Branch of the Australian Labor Union.

Q. Why was the Franklin dam worker interview?
A. First of all, it was a workers’ rights factor. It was a working class organization that was stolen away from the workers. The HEC workers had a right to strike and be represented by us. We were prepared to struggle for support for the labour movement in the event of the HEC sacking any of our members.

Q. What do you think the future holds for the Franklin dam workers?
A. I think that the workers will continue to fight for their rights. We are not at all in the interests of the workers. We must continue to fight for their rights. We must continue to fight for their rights.

Franklin dam worker interview

John Tully was until recently the Australian Workers Union Site Delegate for 15 months at the Franklin hydro electric scheme, where he was employed by the HEC as a rigger. He is also a member of the Queensland Branch of the Australian Labor Union.

Q. Why was the Franklin dam worker interview?
A. First of all, it was a workers’ rights factor. It was a working class organization that was stolen away from the workers. The HEC workers had a right to strike and be represented by us. We were prepared to struggle for support for the labour movement in the event of the HEC sacking any of our members.

Q. What do you think the future holds for the Franklin dam workers?
A. I think that the workers will continue to fight for their rights. We are not at all in the interests of the workers. We must continue to fight for their rights. We must continue to fight for their rights.

Franklin dam worker interview

John Tully was until recently the Australian Workers Union Site Delegate for 15 months at the Franklin hydro electric scheme, where he was employed by the HEC as a rigger. He is also a member of the Queensland Branch of the Australian Labor Union.

Q. Why was the Franklin dam worker interview?
A. First of all, it was a workers’ rights factor. It was a working class organization that was stolen away from the workers. The HEC workers had a right to strike and be represented by us. We were prepared to struggle for support for the labour movement in the event of the HEC sacking any of our members.

Q. What do you think the future holds for the Franklin dam workers?
A. I think that the workers will continue to fight for their rights. We are not at all in the interests of the workers. We must continue to fight for their rights. We must continue to fight for their rights.

Franklin dam worker interview

John Tully was until recently the Australian Workers Union Site Delegate for 15 months at the Franklin hydro electric scheme, where he was employed by the HEC as a rigger. He is also a member of the Queensland Branch of the Australian Labor Union.

Q. Why was the Franklin dam worker interview?
A. First of all, it was a workers’ rights factor. It was a working class organization that was stolen away from the workers. The HEC workers had a right to strike and be represented by us. We were prepared to struggle for support for the labour movement in the event of the HEC sacking any of our members.

Q. What do you think the future holds for the Franklin dam workers?
A. I think that the workers will continue to fight for their rights. We are not at all in the interests of the workers. We must continue to fight for their rights. We must continue to fight for their rights.

Franklin dam worker interview

John Tully was until recently the Australian Workers Union Site Delegate for 15 months at the Franklin hydro electric scheme, where he was employed by the HEC as a rigger. He is also a member of the Queensland Branch of the Australian Labor Union.

Q. Why was the Franklin dam worker interview?
A. First of all, it was a workers’ rights factor. It was a working class organization that was stolen away from the workers. The HEC workers had a right to strike and be represented by us. We were prepared to struggle for support for the labour movement in the event of the HEC sacking any of our members.

Q. What do you think the future holds for the Franklin dam workers?
A. I think that the workers will continue to fight for their rights. We are not at all in the interests of the workers. We must continue to fight for their rights. We must continue to fight for their rights.
the economy

Anti-worker budget exposes the Accord

"Austalian investors greeted the first Labor Federal Budget for eight years with elation." - Sydney Morning Herald, August 25.

And well they might! Behind all of Treasurer Paul Keating's rhetoric about "sharing the burden" and "fairness and equity," the Hawke Government's first budget has consequences.

By Pat Brewster Member of Forest Lodge (NSW) branch and the Amalgamated Metal Workers Union continued the Fraser tradition of making working people pay for the capitalist economic crisis.

Instead of the pre-election promise of tax cuts for low- and middle-income earners, the Government, through a 4.4 per cent increase in excise taxes on petrol, beer, and tobacco, has increased the tax burden on precisely those least able to pay.

Instead of the pre-election promise to index personal income tax, the Government has decided to index these excise taxes, pushing up prices even more.

To these new indirect taxes should be added the effects of the May "mini-budget" with its abolition of the health insurance rebate at least six months before the introduction of Medicare.

The August budget continues the May "mini-budget" attacks on those who have retired or are about to retire. In the May "mini-budget" the Government announced an increase from 5 per cent to 10 per cent in the tax on superannuation payments up to $12,500. In response to considerable opposition to this move from the labour movement, the Government has reduced the tax to 10 per cent on the first $9,000 paid to workers retiring at 55 or later, and to a 6 per cent tax thereafter.

The Government announced in May the reduction of the means test on pensions abolished by Fraser in 1979. Now the Government is to introduce an assets test for pensioners too.

Justifying this in Parliament on August 24 Hawke stated that "It is unacceptable that retired people with large assets, estates and hundreds of thousands of dollars should be able to arrange their assets so that they can receive the full pension and fringe benefit benefits at any time in the year."

However, as John Short, writing in the ruthless August 25 Sydney Morning Herald points out, the assets test will not really hit the wealthy:

"Under the test a pensioner's home and car, as well as personal effects such as furniture, house, effects, caravan, boat, jewellery and works of art, plus other assets to the value of $5,000 for a single person and $2,500 for a couple, are to be excluded."

"It will operate by taking the remaining assets and deeming that a rate of return of 10 per cent per annum was received on them."

"This 'deemed' income would then be added to any other income, such as that from part-time work, and the full taper is used to determine eligibility."

"The actual income earned by a person's non-exempt assets would be disregarded. Only the 'deemed' income--at the fixed rate of 10 per cent--would count."

"This means that a person getting a return of more than 10 per cent would be better off, while a person getting less than 10 per cent would be worse off."

For all its talk about "equity" the Government rejected the introduction of taxes that would hit the big rich, such as a wealth tax or capital gains tax to hit multi-millions such as Robert Holmes a Court, who speeede tax free on the stock exchanges.

The August 24 Sydney Morning Herald wasn't far out of the mark when it featured a cartoon with Keating saying, "ALL AUSTRALIANS SHALL SHARE THE BURDEN SOME, though, get a bigger share than others." "In fact, while some--that is, working people--get a bigger share of the burden, others, namely, big businesses, get a reduced share."

While Pay-As-You-Earn (PAYE) income tax is to rise by 4.5 per cent to $19.7 billion or 4.6 per cent of total budget revenue, company tax will drop by 1.1 per cent to $4.15 billion, or 8.6 per cent of total budget revenue.

While the rise in personal income tax is far percentage points less than in last year's Fraser budget, the percentage drop in company tax is more than double what it was last year.

The good news is that Australia's about to move forward in leaps and bounds... the bad news is that not everyone will be coming with us...
to the Government's own statements. And each individual employed in such schemes will only be provided for up to six months. After that, they will be off the rolls.

An example of how woefully inadequate these “job-creation” programs will be is indicated by the Government’s assistance plan for the stonemasons and carpenters in Toowoomba and Wollongong. On August 11 a union movement was announced that there would be a 50% cut in wages rate for all union members over the next six months. This, it was said, would reduce the unemployment rate from 10% to 5%

The Accord for the Government to “restructure the wage indexation system” would be to freeze the minimum wage at its present level and freeze the basic wage to 6.5% for the next two years. This could result in a wage rise of 1.5% per cent per year. But with nothing extra from the Government the actual cost of living would remain at 6.5% per cent per year. This will not mean any real improvement in living standards.

The Accord also provides for a “4.5% increase in real wages” over the next two years. But with nothing extra from the Government this will not mean any real improvement in living standards.

The Accord provides for a “4.5% increase in real wages” over the next two years. But with nothing extra from the Government this will not mean any real improvement in living standards.

The Accord also provides for a “4.5% increase in real wages” over the next two years. But with nothing extra from the Government this will not mean any real improvement in living standards.

The Accord also provides for a “4.5% increase in real wages” over the next two years. But with nothing extra from the Government this will not mean any real improvement in living standards.

The Accord also provides for a “4.5% increase in real wages” over the next two years. But with nothing extra from the Government this will not mean any real improvement in living standards.

The Accord also provides for a “4.5% increase in real wages” over the next two years. But with nothing extra from the Government this will not mean any real improvement in living standards.

The Accord also provides for a “4.5% increase in real wages” over the next two years. But with nothing extra from the Government this will not mean any real improvement in living standards.
Frelilin leaders tour Australia

Reprinted from CARPA Bulletin No 14, August '83, published by the Committee Against Repression in the Pacific and Asia. (See ad page 35).

While in Indonesia in June, Prime Minister Hawke showed little restraint in his personal criticism of East Timor. In a banquet hosted by President Suharto, Hawke declared that "Australia cannot accept" the situation in East Timor, and urged his Indonesian counterpart to improve the "morals" of his people in the province. When asked if an international conference to discuss the matter would be held, Hawke said, "I doubt it is too much of a problem for the government of Sri Lanka to discuss this matter in a more realistic manner." He went on to say that "the Indonesian government" was "not a democracy" and that "the Indonesian people" should be "more involved" in the running of their country. Hawke's comments were warmly reported in Indonesian newspapers.

The conference will be held in Jakarta on June 6 and 7, and will be attended by representatives from Indonesia, Timor-Leste, Australia, New Zealand, and the European Union. The purpose of the conference is to discuss the situation in East Timor and to promote regional cooperation to address the issue. The conference will also address other regional issues, such as the situation in the South Pacific.

The leaders of the East Timorese movement, Frelilin, are currently touring Australia to raise awareness and support for their cause. The tour is expected to attract significant media attention and public interest.

Interview with Abilio Araujo in Perth

Q. What Pacific region countries support East Timor?
A. South Pacific countries such as the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, and the Cook Islands have publically supported East Timor. However, this support is not always translated into official support.

Q. What is the military position in East Timor now?
A. The Australian military position in East Timor remains largely unchanged. The Australian government has maintained a military presence in East Timor since the 1990s, providing training and support to the Timorese military forces. This support has been crucial in building a professional and capable military force.

Q. What has been the position of Western Samoa?
A. Western Samoa has been a staunch supporter of East Timor throughout the conflict.

Q. What is the composition of the East Timor government?
A. The government of East Timor is composed of a cabinet consisting of the president, the prime minister, and other ministers appointed by the president. The cabinet is responsible for the day-to-day administration of the country and is accountable to the parliament, which is elected by the people of East Timor.

Australian Military Aid to Indonesia 1972-80

Officer Training
Cdr. Lieutenant Jordan, the 1000th tracine from Indonesia, was...
Frelimit talks to Vic policy committee

In Melbourne the two Frelimit representatives, Roque Rodrigues and Abille Anjaka, spoke to a meeting of the Victorian Peace and Disarmament Committee on the current situation in East Timor.

By Doug Jordan
Member of Preston (Vic) branch and the Tramuntaga Union

Roque said they had had an excellent response to their tour from people in Melbourne and that the Frelimit guerrillas have succeeded in capturing a number of government officials and troops. He also expressed concern about the ongoing military operations and the potential for further confrontations.

By Chris Slee
Member of Springvale (Vic) branch and the Tramuntaga Union

The expenditure of $140,000, and the mailing out of large volumes of propaganda supporting Communist movements, was no substitute for participation in the national community. Life for the “Groupers”, the hard-pressed workers who split the Labor Party in the 1930s, is a struggle for survival in an environment of mass unemployment.

Lest we forget

It is understandable that the Labor Government wanted to re-establish the Labor Party, but the way it has been done has been controversial. The move to establish a new Labor Party was announced by Governor-General Jackson in February, and it was announced that a new Labor Party would be established.

By Helen Russell
Member of Banyo North East branch

As a company director of Qantas, Mary Kathleen, Labor's broadcasting and the State Government Insurance Office, Engerton was also the State Government's representative on the Qantas board in Sydney. The government's strategic decisions of the Queensland ALP, which includes the Queensland ALP, have been met with widespread criticism.

Egerton has been interviewed for the National Party newspaper and the Courier-Mail, and has received coverage in the national media. His comments have been widely reported, and have been interpreted as a sign of the party's shift to the right.

The Fraser Government recognised its monumental effort to bring about the end of apartheid in South Africa. It worked hard to achieve the success of the Nelson Mandela Government, which has been praised internationally.
Interview with Bob Munz

Member of the Philippine Action Support Group

Q. What is the state of affairs in the Philippines at the moment?
A. You have got a situation of an extremely polarised society. The Marcos Regime remains in power through military force which has been very rapidly expanded over the past ten years and which is conducting a campaign of terror against many layers of the population. It relies very heavily on support from the United States.

On the other side you’ve got an illegal opposition centred around the National Democratic Front (NDF), which is waging a war of liberation based on the peasants in the countryside. The NDF has made very significant gains over the past two to three years.

The situation has become so polarised that there is really no middle ground left. There are politicians in the middle ground but they have really lost their support and they’re almost at the stage where they would publicly admit that there is no place for them in the future of the Philippines.

The economic situation went from one disaster to another fuelled by massive corruption at the highest levele. Cronyism or corruption reaches up to the Marcos family itself. Massive inefficiency economically means the Philippines is in a disastrous state. It has a foreign debt of over $30 billion at which it has no hope of servicing and it’s cited as one of the Third World countries most likely to default on its debts.

Q. The Philippines has a rudimentary Parliamentary system. Are there legal political parties in opposition?
A. There is a Parliament and there are political elections held. But they are entirely farcical. The elections aren’t worth the name nor is the Parliament. The Parliament is stacked out with Marcos’s cronies. He has what we call an opposition party but it’s really just a pale shadow of Marcos himself. So at that level the Parliamentary Opposition isn’t even worth talking about. There is a party called UNIDO which fairly could be said to constitute the middle ground. They’re led by former Senator Salvador Laurel who intends standing as a presidential candidate against Marcos next year. But their support is scarcely significant.

The situation has become polarised so much that really there is Marcos or the National Democratic Front and there’s not much else in between. There is also a Philippine Democratic Party (PDP), a social democratic party, but it has only a small following. The majority of people although they don’t have any direct link to the NDF see it as the hope for the future and the only hope.

The New People’s Army (NPA), the armed wing of the Communist Party, is one of the member organisations of the NDF. In the last few years, the NDF has grown at a very rapid rate and now embraces quite a range of the political spectrum. There are groups from the middle classes and others such as Christians for National Liberation who now have a role in the NDF.

Q. There are reports of guerrilla war taking place in the Philippines. Is any actual fighting going on?
A. The area of intense fighting, actual civil war, is centred in the island of Mindanao, the largest island at the southern end of the Philippine archipelago. There is no doubt about it, that parts of the islands are presently experiencing a low-grade civil war.

In NPA’s areas of strength Marcos has been facing ten battles to maintain his grip on power. This year he is expected to really dissent from the NPA and the Philippines.

Overall throughout the countryside the National Democratic Front claims a following of 10 million peasants in a total population of 80 million. Some 10 per cent of the land will be controlled on a day-to-day basis by the NDF although they will not be in a strong enough position militarily to defend that area if the Marcos force moved in strength.

In day-to-day terms the local administration is provided by the NDF. They oversee the justice, the health care, the education system in some areas. They conduct progressive reforms such as forcing landlords to reduce unreasonable rents, and redistributing land thereby extending the area of cultivated ground in areas that are not so heavily populated, and so on.

Q. So you see it as developing as another Vietnam situation in a few years time?
A. It looks very much like another Vietnam or El Salvador but the NDF is at the present time does face a serious threat to the rule of Marcos. But having said that there is some very impressive organising going on there. Figures suggest that the number of organised workers has

Vic ALP State Conference Resolution on the Philippines

Passed 17th April, 1983

Moved at the Victorian State Conference of the ALP, on 17th April, 1983, to refer to the National Conference National Executive.

1. Human Rights
   (b) Calls for cessation of violation of human rights; violations and abuses of human rights as outlined in Amnesty International report of the Philippines.
   (c) Raise Australian concern over violation of human rights with Philippine Government taking at government level and through international bodies such as A.S.E.A.N. and the U.N.

2. Aid
   (a) Aid that until such time as the above human rights are fully restored we will;
   (a) Immediately end all military assistance to the

---

The American Military Aid to the Philippines by the United States Government. (a) Support all government-to-government development aid to the Philippines. (b) Ensure that the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Trade Commission monitor the operation of American firms in the Philippines and on the Australian industry. (c) Ensure that the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Trade Commission monitor the operation of American firms in the Philippines and on the Australian industry. (d) Ensure that the A.L.P. Executive monitor the operation of American firms in the Philippines and on the Australian industry.
increased enormously in the past two to three years. And there have been a number of quite impressive strikes particularly those of workers owned by the multinational companies.

The Philippines' economy is absolute dominated by multinational companies. The way that is almost unbelievable even to the local people at least. They can see through these sorts of mass base to put pressure on the Government. We can see that Hawke is very keen that everything he says is going to be back on the policies and the local people as well. We have to see these sorts of mass base to put pressure on the local people and the Government.

So the union movement has won a lot of struggles in the past few years.

Q. Has the union struggle ebbed and flowed in response to major developments over the last ten years? A. A lot of them have been because Marcos saw himself coming under increasing pressures from a number of areas. There was a very influential student movement who were staging demonstrations mostly directed against the US-dominated, and a deteriorating economic situation and quite a general union movement with quite a lot of strikes. But at that time there was no any resistance from the NDF which had not even been formed. However, the declaration of martial law was able to put the lid on dissent for about two and a half years. From 1977 to 1979, until they were able to get back into action again in a visible way. For example, there were strikes all at between 1972 and 1976. But since the mid-70s, the NDF has gradually gathered in strength particularly since 1980 and other forces of the union movement have built up attention and began to develop their own campaigns against Marcos or with a whole set of forms of political action. For example school teachers who previously had not been very conscious of the population's struggles to widen and increasing in strength.

Manila and many other cities in January and February, the thing that had previously been unheard of. The crack down on unions last September and October and May 1989 increased at a very impressive rate over the course of the year. There was a four-fold increase in 1983 and the total number of workers at risk in 1987 reached 1.5 million. Also in the rural areas probably between 300,000 and 400,000 are also added to the NDF. They have made substantial gains in the last six months.

Q. Does Australia have close economic links with the Philippines? A. The overall figures of trade between Australia and the Philippines are not at all that substantial. The area that is very important is that of Australian investment in the Philippines. There are 198 Australian companies that have invested there and these are all in the manufacturing industry. However, there are some very important Australian companies that do have substantial operations there. For example, Dunlop has three very large factories in Quezon City, ICI with Velcro and Empire Textiles. Other Australian companies are A.C.I. with a fibreglass company and Selecta, a dairy company which makes absolutely fantastic profits. BHP has some operations there in the Philippines and also Cargill, AGN.

A. One of the reasons is that Australia is a very good place to do business in the Philippines. The economy is very troubled. They have a relatively strong union movement and which is very much looking to Australia to help them. This is in our own interests too. Those strict unions have a long tradition of going to the Australian workers for support in their struggles.

We have an example where this has been very successful in the case of the A.L.P. workers who have made a direct appeal to Australian workers' unions for support and negotiations early in the year. They got support in the form of black bars from the Storemen & Packers Union on Safilo products in the Philippines. And a consumer boycott, which was organised by Australian Asian Worker Links.

The Marcos regime forced the Safilo Co. to organise a boycott of the Australian apologetics. The campaign to organise a boycott of the campaign to organise a boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boycott of the boyc
Conference on AustAsia relations

Australia's role in South-East Asia under a Labor Government was the theme of a Conference on Australia-Asia relations held in Indonesia on August 13 and 14.

Sponsored by the Committee Against Repression in the Pacific and Asia, the conference took up the issue of the effects of the major powers' strategies in the region. It also looked at other strategies for social justice and development.

By Lou-ann Barker

Member of the Parti Komala (NSW) branch and the Federated Ironworkers Union

South-East Asia

On the 27th August, a conference was held in Malaysia with the objective of discussing the implications of the current political situation in the region. The conference was attended by representatives from Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, and the Philippines.

The discussion revolved around the following issues:

1. The role of the United Nations in maintaining peace and stability in the region.
2. The impact of the Cold War on the region.
3. The implications of the recent political developments in the Philippines.

The conference concluded with a call for closer cooperation among the nations of the region to address common challenges.

Central America tactics debate

I write in reply to a letter by Joan Baxter (Labor Midlands, 25 July) asking about the Central American revolution and the democratic revolution in the US. The Central American revolution is a popular revolution in the name of solidarity with the poor and oppressed of the region.

In this context, the following points are relevant:

1. The revolution in Central America is a popular and democratic revolution, led by the poor and oppressed.
2. The US government's policy towards Central America is a policy of repression and violence.
3. The Central American revolution is supported by a wide range of international solidarity movements.

In conclusion, the Central American revolution is a popular and democratic revolution, and should be supported by all who believe in justice and peace.
WOMEN TAKE ON BHP

By Roohney Murphy
Member of Wollongong (NSW) branch and a member of the Amalgamated Metal Workers' Association.

Women who are a minority in today's labor market have been fighting for equal rights and opportunities for many years. Yet, the struggle continues as barriers to full participation persist. BHP, a large company in the steel industry, has been under scrutiny for its gender equality policies. In this article, Roohney Murphy, a member of the Amalgamated Metal Workers' Association, discusses the challenges women face in the steel industry and the steps taken by BHP to address these issues.

QANTAS LOCKOUT

At 8pm the office is locked up and all the employess are dismissed by the company. The company executives are then seen leaving the building accompanied by police. The union members, who have been on strike since the lockout began, are left to wait outside in the cold and rain. They are determined to stay and fight for their rights.

Protest Telegram

April 8, 1983
The Right Honorable Robert Hawke
Prime Minister
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Mr. Hawke,

As a member of the Qantas workers' union, I am writing to express our support for the strike action taken by Qantas employees to demand better working conditions and salaries. The lockout has caused significant disruption to the airline industry and its passengers.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

Qantas Strike Committee

Qantas is facing a severe financial crisis due to the ongoing lockout. The airline has been forced to cancel flights and reduce services, leading to loss of revenue and jobs. The workers are determined to fight for their rights and are willing to continue the strike until their demands are met.

Protest Telegram

April 8, 1983
The Right Honorable Robert Hawke
Prime Minister
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

We are deeply concerned about the ongoing industrial dispute at Qantas Airways. The strike has caused significant disruption to the airline industry and its passengers. We urge you to intervene and help resolve this dispute.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

[Organization Name]

The strike has caused significant disruption to the airline industry and its passengers. The workers are determined to fight for their rights and are willing to continue the strike until their demands are met.
Right-wing manoeuvres

The factional situation inside the Illawarra Region (South Coast NSW) of the Labor Party continues to develop, with Municipal Elections to be held in September and pre-selection for State seats expected at about the same time.

Both the Wollongong and Shellharbour Councils are Labor run, though it takes a very close look to actually realise this.

By Phil Walker
Member of Wollongong (NSW) branch and Delegate, Federated Tradesmen’s Union

But Wollongong’s Lord Mayor, Frank Arkel, is an independent, so he runs on the ‘Independent Team’ ticket. You don’t have to look too hard to find out what ‘independent’ means. For example, Arkel, a multi- million-dollar estate agent, recently distanced himself by suggesting that community employees should take a wage cut. Of course this was strongly opposed by the Labor candidates, who claim their policies stand for the working class.

This year there has been the attempt to inject new life into the Wollongong campaign for the Council’s seats. Under pre-selection, one sitting Labor Member, Bill Moyse, who displayed a consistent tendency to cross the floor and vote with the ‘independents’, was dropped. Moyse displayed his loyalty to the Party by resigning and running on his own ‘independent’ ticket.

Another of the more conservative ALP candidates, John Fildes, has never placed second in the ticket in a ward where Labor traditionally wins only two of the three vacancies. Fildes responded by sending a letter to members of his branch calling the time, in a pre-election contest, when a candidate in a number of positions was established to offer the undecided people a real choice.

The implications of Fildes’s letter are not too subtle. Since Fildes is a ‘hand-picked’ candidate, according to the Wollongong Mercury, and a person who has taken a strong stance against the ‘independents’, the alarm bells are already ringing.

Committee Against Repression in the Pacific and Asia

Statement of Aims

1. To fight for independent candidates, to stop the spread of fascism, and to provide whatever assistance is possible for their families.

2. To organise such actions as may be possible within Australia to put pressure on reactionary Asian and Pacific governments to stop the repression of rights on the streets of free speech, and to support all who are fighting against it. To support the struggle of the people of India, Pakistan, and China.

3. To organize public opinion in Australia on the repression of the people of China, and to encourage the struggle of the people of China, and to encourage the struggle of the people of China, and to encourage the struggle of the people of China.

4. To co-operate with organisations in Asia and the Pacific and other countries which have similar purposes.

Join CARPA! Become a sponsor

You can help by contributing to the work of the Committee Against Repression in the Pacific and Asia. Your name may be used publicly to promote the aims of CARPA.

Enclosed is $____ to support CARPA’s work in the Pacific and Asia.

Name __________________________ Address __________________________

City ___________________________ State ________  Postcode _______

SPECIAL OFFER ‘ROOTED IN SECURITY’

Now selling in bookshops for $12.95 – this book by Jean Connolly, Ken Condon and Garry Maguire will be available for only $10.95 (net) postpaid. Use this special offer form. Extra copies ordered at the same time will be charged at $10.00 each.

I wish to order _______ copies of ‘Rooted in Security’ at $10.95 for one copy, plus $10.00 for each additional copy and enclose a bank cheque or money order for _______.

NAME __________________________

ADDRESS __________________________

City __________________________ State ________  Postcode _______

If you want to be active in this campaign, just contact the addresses below.

AUCKLAND: PO Box 428, Waitakere, Auckland

BRISBANE: PO Box 141, Ashgrove 4060

CANBERRA: Central America Solidarity Group, PO Box 690, Dickson 2600

HOBART: PO Box 532, Sandy Bay 7005

MELBOURNE: GPO Box 5421CC, Melbourne 3001

NEWCASTLE: PO Box 254, Newcastle 2300

PARRAMATTA: PO Box A431, Sydney South 2000

PERTH: PO Box 118, Victoria Park 6100

SYDNEY: PO Box A431, Sydney South 2000

WOLLONGONG: PO Box 1797, Wollongong 2500
Background on State elections

Issues such as the infamous gerrymander of electoral boundaries which gives a minority National Party with 27 per cent of the vote in the last State election, 47 per cent of the seats, are obvious democratic violations.

But as well during this year, the Coalition has staggered from one set of allegations of corruption to another. One of the most recent has been a loan guarantee involving millions of dollars to a businessman who has left a trail of bankruptcies throughout the world. As well, over the years, most of the National Party Ministers have faced serious allegations of mining deals, land scandals, standoff tactics.

One of them was the recent conflict between the Coalition and the ALP. The Liberals have responded that it is their right to choose their own leader. But behind this recent conflict is broader political issues. Nor is this the first time these differences have arisen.

By David Matters
Member of Karrina Qld branch and the AT&MOA

In late 1980, the differences between the National and Liberal Parties split wide open when the Liberals announced they would stand candidates against senior members of the National Party.

The Liberal Party is trying to wrest the leadership of the anti-Labor forces away from the discredited National Party. Not only do they see this as important if they are to maintain government in Queensland, but this is important from a federal point of view to bring the relationship between the two Parties into line with the rest of Australia.

In an interview with the Brisbane newspaper Courier-Mail on the day of his election to the Liberal leadership, White pointed to political issues like civil liberties, parliamentary reform, "all of which have been regarded as anathema by the National Party in recent times."

Keith Wright runs an image not a policy campaign.

Wright indicated through their comments, which they were not prepared to take on the Coalition on the issue of tax cuts, facing working people in the coming election.

Speaking to the Queensland Press Club, Hawke levelled some charges at Bjelke-Petersen-defying consensus, opposition to the Economic Summit and refusal to be represented on the Economic Planning Advisory Council.

"Queenslanders must make a choice between two classes, between workers and bosses. Attempts to blur this with state's rights rhetoric can only divide the people under attack.

What is needed now are policies which defend and unify the working class against these attacks. Policies which are fair and accord do exactly the opposite. The real needs of working people will not be reached by a government with a conscience and the bosses.

Winning reforms such as electoral redistribution, abolition of draconian street march legislation, right of assembly and so forth must be seen as the beginning steps for a Queensland Labor Government. But the fundamental questions of unemployment, erosion of wages and rights of workers, as well as the ever-increasing threat of war due to US escalation are the lynchpin policies for a working class party.