Hayden/Hawke bloc exposed

Right hijacks the Party
Challenge to ranks

British miners take on Thatcher
Response of the British Labour Party

How the NCC works
Focus on the AMFSU

60¢ PER
Labor in government in four states and federally. Yet never before has there been a bigger gap between stated Labor policy and government performance, let alone the gap between performance and working class interests. This gap is reflected in important debate and discussion within Party branches and at Conferences. We believe that the most free and open debate within the Party and affiliated unions on policy and practice is necessary to develop positions and actions that can represent the working class from which Labor draws its strength.

But current structures of the Party and new undemocratic rules and practices prevent this. We support moves to democratise these structures — in particular, to make Labour members and Party officers truly accountable to the rank, file and branches.

Recently Labor Millitant amalgamated with another left Party Journal, Socialist Fight. This has strengthened our national coverage and distribution. We have now opened up the pages of the combined journal to a wider debate and we have invited contributions from those in the Left who have viewpoints which differ from those expressed in Labor Millitant. We also encourage debate through letters and reviews.

If you agree with our aims we encourage you to help finance and distribute Labor Millitant. You can get each issue sent by mail at a cost of $5 for 10 issues. We also make arrangements to have a bundle of any number mailed or delivered for your branch or for you to sell. Any costs involved in the production of a publication like Labor Millitant 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 on the following page.
Left gains in Vic elections

Victoria’s June State Conference was clearly divided by the bitterly fought union-reconciliation issue. So we saw the watershed two-week vote to keep out the union—without the Industrial Action Fund links. But the polarization occurred on yet another level. It was reflected in the vote for the policy committee. Where the Socialists left would normally expect to lose 20 of 20 places, we gained approximately 10 of 10 places.

Winning implications now show from both sides that left could have a major influence on regional policies, and that both forward policies which are in the position of a vast majority of Australians.

For example, in transport we can argue for a massive expansion of services instead of relying on the small private bus lines (where profits are paid directly to the Government), and again on the world’s most environmentally destructive form of transport.

In health, we can take on the policy of the trade-off of closing minority hospitals in rural areas, and in the two-halves of the country. And we can argue for increased industrial action by workers involved in the ongoing world-class workplaces.

In my own committee, Aboriginal Affairs, we can go back to the demands of the Aboriginal Land Rights and Compensation Commission, and the self-determination—ultimately on the Government’s implementation.

We can push for the establishment of an Aboriginal Authority which can be used to deal with the demands of the Committee for National Land Rights and Compensation.

On the other side, in the Socialists Left, and in the Conference as a whole, the numbers must be responsible. It must be made a matter of account of the financial and political support of the Government. If we go to the fact, we see that the Entente has set the next election.

It is true that we must be responsible. But it is true that the policies we have won in the published Nuclear Emergency Plan will be of no use to workers, the unemployed, blacks and other communities unless there are decisions from the Government attacking their living standards, conditions and organisation.

Richard Lacy
Member Aboriginal Affairs Policy Committee
Vic ALP Branch

Uranium

The following letter was circulated to ALP Branches around the country.

Dear Branch Member.

The Boorung Branch of the ALP believes that worldwide nuclear proliferation is the greatest threat facing the world today. We are urging all Australian citizens and residents to take action.

1. That Christians protest publicly in support of the Australian nuclear disarmament movement.
2. That Australian citizens and residents write to their Federal Member of Parliament urging him or her to support the Australian nuclear disarmament movement and to participate in international disarmament negotiations.
3. That Australian citizens and residents urge their Government to participate in international disarmament negotiations and to support the South Pacific nuclear tests ban.
4. That Australian citizens and residents urge their Government to support the International Atomic Energy Agency’s efforts to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons.
5. That Australian citizens and residents urge their Government to support the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and to negotiate with other countries to achieve a nuclear-free world.

We believe that it is the responsibility of every Christian to take an active role in addressing the nuclear arms race. We urge all Australian citizens and residents to join us in this important task.

The Boorung Branch of the ALP

Bob McIlroy
President
Boorung Branch

Policy brought into line with practice

Right wing hijacks the Party

There has been no other conference like it in the history of the Australian Labor Party. Sixteen months after winning office, leaders of the Federal Government—Hawke, Hayden, and Keating—approached the 40th National Conference with a single-minded determination to win endorsement for a thoroughly right-wing capital strategy that openly supports the interests of big business above all other considerations.

They were determined to push the platform of business interests and to undermine the gains made by the workers in the last few years. They also took advantage of his popularity with the big business press to warn delegates that they had no option but to accept his dictats.

The Government’s major policy achievements were won endorsement of the “free market” economic platform, to bring foreign policy into line with right-wing domestic policy, and to finally destroy the Party’s highly popular and anti-nuclear policy.

Letters to L.M. should be sent to Labor Militant PO Box 372 Broadway, N.S.W. 2007. Please keep them reasonably short so we can print as many as possible.

Editorial

In the process they stripped the Conference of its importance as a policy-making body of the Party and turned it into an elaborate promotional media event for themselves. Hawke took advantage of every opportunity to indulge in self-promotion and to cover up his own culpability and of the State Labor leaders. He also took advantage of his popularity with the big business press to warn delegates that they had no option but to accept his dictats.

The Government’s major policy achievements were won endorsement of the “free market” economic platform, to bring foreign policy into line with right-wing domestic policy, and to finally destroy the Party’s highly popular and anti-nuclear policy.

Continued on page 6.
The economy: Was there a debate?

Paul Keating

Bismarck the evil of the multinationals.

The Right had a twin day pointing out the ludicrous dilemma for the socialists of the Left who, for their support for a perceived virtual monopoly by the major Australian banks, with their control of 85 per cent of the financial system, Ferguson summarised the Left's national chauvinism in a fairly stark way: "If we have to choose, I would choose our Australian banks over international capital!"

But as Keating so acutely pointed out, patriotic fervour was erroneous. International capital was in the form of the merchant banks and finance capital, and this was already well-established in Australia.

To ignore this is to deny the reality of capitalism as an international system, and to ignore Australia's success in the international market, and its role as a major imperialist power. But it is just this reality that the Left has rejected.

It ignored the real class relationship of forces when it accepted the Princes and Incomes Accord, with its logic of class collaboration and commitment to the capitalist system in Australia.

Commitment and support for the Accord has dragged the Left and the Right open slather. Left figures like Victorian SCLD Andrew Thapar are the ones pleading for amendments on the basis that 'we haven't put in any clauses that require nationalisation or anything extreme.'

In fact, the economic debate and the policy adopted at Conference just elaborated the terms of the Accord and incorporated all of its policy implications. But the various factions of the Left have been reduced to protest the nonsense of speaking of 'nationalisation,' of the isolation and sitting on the sidelines of the Left.
National Conference

Labor Left anti-uranium statement

The struggle will not cease

At the conclusion of the Conference debate on uranium mining some of the leaders of the Left went outside to address the anti-uranium protesters. On their behalf Senator Bruce Childs read out a prepared statement which was later given to the press. It read as follows:

"We hereby state our intention of pursuing our long-term aim of closing down the uranium industry in Australia.

"The policy as it stands does not support the radiation safety and health of the community throughout Australia. A report from the uranium sub-committee of the ALP Secretariat concluded that an overwhelming majority of the evidence from Branches was against the mining and export of uranium, which the final draft proposal of the committee should reflect. But there is no indication that this rank and file position is pursued by the new policy that the views reflected and adopted at the ALP Conference throughout Australia. All Area Branches and the majority of local Branches have strong policies opposed to the mining prospect of uranium except in NSW where the state Conference acted a little way in uranium in deference to strong anti-uranium resolutions from local Branches.

"The question of the environment and frustration that this policy will unsettle throughout the ALP and supporters of uranium mining will be useful for the mining companies and the uranium industry in Australia.

"The question of safe waste disposal facilities has not been adequately answered by the supporters of uranium mining. The Three Mile Island accident was a warning which was largely ignored. Accidents have occurred and it is estimated that 1,000 people are being exposed to radiation from uranium mining.

"We refuse to accept responsibility for these decisions and will continue to find the right course of action for the community. We will continue to protest against the mining of uranium in Australia and will continue to campaign for the closure of the uranium industry in Australia."

Branches' views ignored

Full steam ahead on uranium mining

Anti-uranium protesters began pouring into Canberra on the weekend before National Conference opened on Sunday. When the delegates arrived for the opening session they were greeted with a wave of banners, placards, and slogans expressing the anger and concern of the people. There was a huge effray of Hawke. Anti-uranium songs were sung in the streets of non-stop Gregorian chants.

Martin Tuck
Member Livingstone (NSW) Branch

"On the day of the uranium debate, Tuesday July 19, over 1000 protestor crowded into the lobbies of the hotel. They surrounded the doors of the Conference hall and crowded into the staircases leading up to it. In unison they sang: "Where are you? Where are you? Where is your head in the middle of the human mass. Some of us even swung a telegram of support from the women of the Greensboro Common peace camp in England.

"The police public gallery inside the hall was packed with police who held up placards and cheered or jeered the speakers. The debate could also be heard by those outside and their roar helped create the atmosphere of a bullfight.

"Minister for Minerals and Energy Senator Peter Walsh opened the debate with an agonising speech in favour of the draft policy submitted by the policy committee.

"This recommended indefinite mining at the Ranger and Murchison mines in Northern Territory and approval for the development of the huge Roxby Downs mine in South Australia. It proposed to open the way for the signing of new export contracts.

"Walsh's main arguments were that uranium mining is no more dangerous than coal mining; that labor had never had the chance to express its views; and that there is no evidence to suggest that uranium mining would have a negative impact on the lives of the people in the area.

"Minister for Minerals and Energy Senator Peter Walsh then called for the decision to be left to the experts.

"The decision was further elaborated by Hawke's chief number crunchers, the OECD's, who ignored all the evidence of the recent report on the uranium industry to suggest that by 1990 50 per cent of OECD electricity would require new nuclear power to some degree for the generation of electricity.

"What right have we?" he implored, "to deprive people of light and power.

"Victoria's Premier Lang Hancock led the opposition to moving an amendment which would ban all new mines and contracts, and the regulation of contracts for exporting uranium to any country already involved in the production of nuclear weapons. Although her amendment was a compromise to the extent that it would allow, for example, the export of uranium to Japan until the expiry of existing contracts in 1990, Consideege put forward a strong case for closing down the industry.

"She pointed out that she knew of no safe method for disposing of nuclear waste, and she backed the arguments of Walsh and Richardson by pointing out that nuclear power currently contributed 1 per cent of world energy needs and this proportion is shrinking.

"She said the argument that Australia must continue exporting uranium in order to gain export earnings is a false argument, emphasizing the safeguards in the nuclear non-proliferation treaty and the reality that none needs to become a nuclear power in order to control crime.

"Furthermore, the new uranium sentiment had grown stronger in the Party ranks since the set-out of anti-uranium policy at the national Conference, and that the majority was obviously in favour of a strong anti-uranium policy.

"She was well supported by NSW delegate Frank Walker who reminded delegates that the massive disarmament rally in Sydney on April 10 had been good, when a message from Bill Hayden had been read out. These could be no guarantee, he stressed, that the ranks of the disarmament movement would stick with the Party if it continues to betray their interests. He urged the Australian Democrats or even a new party like the Greens Party in West Gorean, Amherst, New South Wales.

"Peter Dunscomb from South Australia moved a motion similar to that of Consideege, except that it proposed to exclude Australia from all future uranium deals. He said the Bill Hayden an opportunity to attack the Left. His motion was seconded by Bob Dowha. He pointed out the base of a proposed 1.5 million tons over 10 years for the uranium mining and production of nuclear power which ignored 600,000 tons in all other Australian deposits combined. If the Left maintained a consistent argument on the dangers of nuclear power and the proliferation of nuclear weapons, he suggested, it would present formidable arguments. But in demonstrating a willingness to bargain with principles it undermined its case.

"Consideege's amendment was defeated overwhelmingly on the voices. But Consideege's amendment went down by the relatively narrow margin of 50 to 44.

"Victorian Premier John Cain and Attorney General James Quinan and the Queensland "Old Guard" faction broke ranks with the Right to vote for it. But the Left lost the voice of officials of the Miscellaneous Workers Union to the Tasmanian and South Australian delegations.

"The pro-uranium platform was adopted.

"Protesters outside the hall were angered by the result and a couple of the delegations, including Hayden, were ejected as they left. It is a wonder they left the hall. They didn't throw down the stairs."
National Conference

Ramos Horta comments: ‘Horse-trading’ on East Timor

East Timor: betrayed but not beaten

The Timorese protest at Conferencen

Jose Ramos Horta is the official representative of Fretilin at the United Nations. He was in Australia for about a month leading up to the Conference and attended the Conference where he took part in some of the final rounds of negotiations on the position East Timor.

At the conclusion of the debate he expressed anger at the hypocrisy of those who suggested that Australia must recognize the annulment of East Timor because it was an accomplished fact. Australia, he pointed out, had not recognized the invasion by military aid to Indonesia and had provided diplomatic cover for the whole exercise.

The whole foreign policy debate revolved around the question of Australia’s aggressive role in the region.

Before the debate began the following comments to Labor Militant.

"It is disappointing that an issue which is of principle and which involves a universally recognized right - the right to self-determination for all colonized people - has become such a difficult point for the ALP National Conference. It is as if the issue of self-determination for East Timorese people is something we have never even been on the agenda of the United Nations.

"It is simply outrageous that within the ALP National Conference our stance is not even acknowledged as a rights issue for East Timorese people. We are planning a big national conference on East Timor, but the East Timorese people have never been acknowledged as a rights issue for the U.S. The issue of self-determination is older than the Labor Party itself and is about to come to Canberra to debate it again.

"I have been watching this debate and it has not been a debate about principles and rights but more about horse-trading or a cattle auction.

"To a large extent what happens here is irrelevant anyway because the Australian Labor Government has found ways and means to evade implementing the old policy.

"I have been watching this debate and it has not been a debate about principles and rights but more about horse-trading or a cattle auction.

FOREIGN POLICY

Hayden’s charge to the right

Bill Hayden’s performance in the foreign policy debate at the Conference attracted a lot of attention. It was highly provocative and had the effect of mobilizing all the Party against the right while attempting to ridicule and isolate the Left. In particular the Victorian Socialist Left.

Martin Tuck
Member LS (NSW Branch)

He began the debate by saying that the Labor Party approach to foreign policy has been "tainted" by its involvement in the "tainted" Vietnam War. He went on to say that the Labor Party has been "tainted" by its involvement in the "tainted" Vietnam War.

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Hayden pushed platform hard right

Hicks and and attacked Costa Rican militiamen in early May. Hayden knew the Costa Rican militiamen were involved in the uprising staged by a right-wing section of the Chilean military. Hayden worked closely with the Costa Rican counter-revolutionary forces operating out of this country. He also knew that the Costa Rican government was not involved in the uprising staged by a right-wing section of the Chilean military. Hayden worked closely with the Costa Rican counter-revolutionary forces operating out of this country. He also knew that the Costa Rican government was not involved in the uprising staged by a right-wing section of the Chilean military.

But Hayden did not push his platform hard right. He accepted the Chilean government’s position that the uprising was a result of the policies of the Costa Rican government. He accepted the Chilean government’s position that the uprising was a result of the policies of the Costa Rican government.
National Conference

Who really ‘owns’ the Labor Party?

During his keynote speech to the National Conference, Bob Hawke told delegates: "When I took over in 1983, the Labor Party was in a very bad state. In 1983, I promised that Labor would be a party of the people, not for them, and the Labor Party has come a long way since then."

But at Conference Hawke went on to say that the way to fix the independence of the government from the Labor Party was to strengthen the power of the government from the inside. He warned that the Labor Party was increasingly beholden to the interests of big business and the wealthy, and that this was making it more difficult to govern for the people.

Conference also endorsed a decision to intervene in the Australian Capital Territory by-election to bring its rules into line with those elsewhere. This followed a dispute over the result of the election of ACT delegates to National Conference which resulted in a Conference vote to replace the elected delegate with a supporter of Hawke.

Bill Hartley

‘Left can gain support’

One of the leading left delegates at Conference — Bill Hartley from Victoria — said at the conference that the left could win elections if it stood together. He said that the left needed to present a united front if it was to have any chance of success.

Abortion: ‘Conscience vote stays’

The right of women to have free choice and to choose not to have an abortion has been a central demand of the women’s movement for about 15 years. In that time access to abortion has increased dramatically, yet again laws against abortion remain on the criminal code.

Another ASIO inquiry

Combe ‘not guilty, but no compo’

In reality Bob Hawke had his hand cut out to prevent Hawke from taking a lot of criticism on the floor of the House of Representatives when he was elected. By 1984, he had to support party policy on abortion rights, while the Labor Party had already passed.

Martin Tuck

Member Lowerhouse (NSW) Branch

For a moment he was reduced to a motion exonerating David Butcher for his role in the so-called Combe-Davies affair.

David Combe

The national security review committee chairman, Senator John Brown, said in Parliament on their work, that they were not in a position to do anything to bear and determine the action of security agencies.

Coasey described the situation in Victoria as that of the old Combe affair. The three Andris Marga members of the ASIO had been asked by the government to report. They had been told to report on the truth of the story. The ASIO had also been told to report on the truth of the story. The ASIO had been told to report on the truth of the story. The ASIO had been told to report on the truth of the story. The ASIO had been told to report on the truth of the story.
Britain

Labour: growing support for the miners

Since the miners' strike began in early April, there has been growing activity in the Labour Party to support the miners.

As the strike spread across the country, the miners declared that they were prepared to strike until Christmas, or as long as necessary. This was a clear indication that their demands were being met, and that the battle was far from over.

The response from the Labour Party has been strong. Many local Labour Party branches have been instrumental in establishing many local support committees which have raised thousands of pounds for the miners and collected food for the miners. In areas where there are no mines, some support committees have been set up.

Examples of Labour Party local support include a delegation visiting local miners from a large city, and visits to miners by Nottingham miners to raise funds. Women's sections in the Labour Party have also been playing an active role in the mining crisis.

In mid-May, the National Conference of Labour Women established a meeting to discuss the miners. Labour Women were invited to the meeting and many attended. The meeting was well attended and many people showed their support for the miners. The meeting was a great success and many people showed their support for the miners.

Miners at Clavgraves Colliery in Notts.

Left MPs call for industrial action

As members of the Campaign Group of Labour MPs, we have participated in many meetings and rallies on behalf of the NUM. At every one of the meetings, attended by members of all trade unions, we constantly hear references to the miners' victory being a victory for all workers and for the broad trade union movement and movement. That statement rings true today more than it did at the beginning of the strike because now the miners, by their tremendous fighting spirit and sacrifice, are in sight of the winning post.

Yet, as all trade unionists know, the Establishment facing defeat will use the police, judges and every means of the propaganda in order to attack them and their families. Therefore it is important that all trade union executives should now consider not only how much more money they are prepared to contribute to the NUM's fight against the Establishment, but also what other steps, including industrial action, they are now ready to take in order to clinch victory in the next few weeks.

In 1972, the trade union movement, in its fight against the Industrial Relations Act, served notice on the Government in several places, including taking industrial action to remove the five dockers from Fawley and put the port back in operation. That kind of collective action is absolutely necessary now.

We ask you to place this letter before your Executive Committee and urge you to take joint action with the NUM in a more effective way and turn financial and moral support into broad political pressure. We look forward to an urgent response to our plea on behalf of the miners who we all recognise are, with the help of some railway and other workers, carrying out the industrial side of the battle single-handed.

How you can help

Move resolutions in your Party units and trade union branches supporting the miners and condemning the British Government and the National Coal Board. Forward these to the British Red Cross, London. N 1, or send a copy to the National Union of Miners and the Miners' Federation of Australia, 117 Sussex Street, Sydney, 2000.

Raise money with meetings, and by taking up a collection. Donations should be forwarded to the Australian Miners Federation at the above address.

Why the miners are striking

(Reprinted from the National Union of Miners' pamphlet "Coal not Bolts")

The future of our pits and towns is in jeopardy.

- 30 pits and 20,000 jobs at least are to go by 1980. Over 100,000 jobs will go by the year 2000.

- Government and management are attacking all fronts. Basic wage rates are falling. Management threatens miners with the closure of over 100 mines. Coal reserves are reduced and by-passed as miners are sacked.

- Our villages and towns face decay and misery. They will be left with unemployable young people.

- The nuclear programme will be halted instead of being used to crush the mining industry.

- The miners should be stopped. Wrong goals, such as atomic power, are not presently available in great enough quantities, investment should be undertaken to produce them.

- The Government's proposals are not self-sufficient in energy. Yet it imports over 70 million tons of coal, including large quantities from South Africa.

- The Government must support new ways of using coal. Many of these are already well advanced in other countries.

- By the year 2000, if the Tory Government has its way, nuclear power will provide almost half our electricity. That may mean over 500 million tons of coal pushed out of production or over 100,000 jobs lost.

- And the Tories have not been able to conceal their intentions.

- A Cabinet minute of 29th October, 1978, noted that a nuclear programme would have the advantage of removing a substantial portion of electricity from the industry, and that it could take a great lead in the alternative leadership. This is in line with what is likely to be miners' strike demands.

Left MPs also call for industrial action

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What is your trade union prepared to do in order to broaden the action and build on the support already given?

Yours sincerely,

Jo Maynard and 38 other MPs including Tony Benn, Jo Richardson, Stuart Holland, Eric Heffer, Jeremy Corbyn, Audrey Wise et al.

Labour Militant, August 1984
Petition drive against repression in Turkey

The following petition is being circulated around the world on behalf of the Tyne Valley Women's Association. Signed, dated 24 March, and sent to the Turkish government, the petition demands the release of imprisoned women and the end of human rights violations in Turkey.

On April 24, 2000, the Turkish government released 39 women from飨e prison. The petition was signed by thousands of women worldwide in solidarity with the imprisoned women in Turkey.

Social Rights Campaign: A seminar on the situation of women's rights in Turkey

The Social Rights Campaign is holding a seminar on the situation of women's rights in Turkey. The seminar will take place on May 15, 2000, at 2 p.m. at the Ankara Women's Centre. The seminar will be led by fighting women's rights activists, including some who have been imprisoned in Turkey.

Women and Labor Conference on racism theme

The main theme of the conference this year was racism. The conference was held on May 10, 2000, at the Labor Ministry in Ankara. The conference was attended by activists from various organizations, including fighters against racism. The conference was also attended by some of the imprisoned women from Turkey.

Cuban women visit Illawarra

The two members of the Cuban women's movement, visiting Illawarra, are now in the Federal Parliament. They have been invited by the Labor Party to discuss their experiences in Cuba and their work for women's rights.

Gerritje Schipper

Significant gains made by women through the Cuban Revolution and the leading role they continue to play in Cuban women's life. Schipper described the desperation experienced by women in South Africa. She also discussed the ongoing struggle against the apartheid system.

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unions

How the NCC works

The following are extracts from an eight-page broadsheet called "The National Council CONSEQUENT produced by the Union Printing Cooperative, Box 126, PO Abbotsford 2007. The broadsheet contains material on the history of the NCC, its methods of operation and a number of specific case histories.

The ACTU Executive in March unanioumly condemned the outside interference in trade union elections. The ACTU المسلفot was informed by 37 unions over interference and deceptive practices in recent ballots in the Amalgamated Metal, Primary & Shipbuilders Union (AMPSU). Speaking at the meeting, ACTU President Cliff Dolan revealed that he had an advisory role in the fact that the campaign was carried out by the National Labor Council (NLC). The ACTU and the AMPSU have a number of concerns about the conduct of the ballot and the way the ballots were conducted and the community generally about the conduct of the National Labor Council and the broader campaign against the interests of Australian workers.

Every active member of the NCC is fully aware of the significant role played by the NCC in the conduct of the ballots in the community, and more recently in the public service and media communications.

Case study: The Metalworkers

The AMPSU is the largest and longest established of Australia's trade unions, with a membership of over 250,000. The union has been a consistent advocate for the rights of workers and has played a key role in the development of the labor movement in Australia. In recent years, the union has faced significant challenges, including cuts to funding, increased competition from other unions, and changing economic conditions. The union has responded to these challenges by focusing on organizing new members, expanding its bargaining power, and advocating for workers' rights.

The union has a strong tradition of political activism, with members actively involved in the labor movement and working to ensure that workers' rights are protected. The union has a long history of support for workers' rights, including in the early years of the 20th century, when it played a key role in the development of the Australian trade union movement.

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unions

NSW unions launch anti-racist campaign

Following the major debate which has broken out in recent months over immigration, and the growing of racist attacks on Asian migrants in particular, a committee has been established in Sydney by the major unions to combat this political threat to the labour movement.

The Combined Unions Against Racism group was originally established following a series of violent attacks and threats against migrants and progressive organisations in Sydney over the past six months. Responsibility for these assaults has been claimed by racist and neo-fascist forces identifying themselves with the New Action and other extreme right-wing groups.

At a public launching on July 24, the CLC and AEFU released a mass-circulation pamphlet to begin a campaign to combat the influence of racist ideas and organisations.

The pamphlet entitled, Racism: dividing workers, has been printed in an initial run of 30,000 for distribution throughout NSW at various workplaces.

Remote speakers at the launching were Federal Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, Stewart West and State Youth and Community Affairs Minister, Frank Walker.

Both ministers condemned the spreading of racist ideas by right-wing groups and organisations, and the encouragement of this campaign by the Liberal Party. Walker also called for a strong fight against racism and fascism, like that now being waged in France, Spain and elsewhere for economic and social justice.

‘No and my shadows’

Racism: dividing workers

Racism — attacking someone purely because of their race — is more common in Australia. It affects not only the most discriminated situations in the workplace, but some people are starting to feel it everywhere. And it is the new arrivals — particularly the Indigenous refugees who are being singled out. But if all ethnic groups were to unite in the same way, some workers would be better off.

While Australia has the most mixed societies in the world, some people are starting to feel it everywhere. And it is the new arrivals — particularly the Indigenous refugees who are being singled out. But if all ethnic groups were to unite in the same way, some workers would be better off.

During an employment interview, for example, some workers blame other workers for the job rather than blaming the system. This is what trade unions are opposed to it.

And this is why the CLU and their ‘friend’ in the Liberal Party are fighting to win votes by distorting the truth and exalting the policies of their political friends.

Are there more South East Asian migrants than other groups?

There are approximately 2,000 merchants and refugees in human rights groups. Now, they are exercising their rights to

bring out close family members to join them in Australia, like other immigrants can.

But this year there are only 10,000 Indo-Chinese migrants to Australia. That’s about 12 percent of those who left.

Why don’t more people migrate from Britain?

British people are still the largest single group migrating to Australia. But because of their high unemployment, fewer of them are interested in coming.

The Fraser Government brought British trade unionists out here to work for OIP, but after a couple of months they got the sack along with 70,000 others. Over 90 percent of British workers under our unemployments, fewer of them are interested in coming.

Do migrants take jobs?

Immigrants don’t cause unemployment. That’s caused by a combination of things: the capitalist system, the worldwide economic depression, and the politics of the Fraser Liberal Government.

Employers sack people because they don’t have enough work. Workers, not matter what nationality or unemployment.

In fact, if anything, it is the capitalistic employers who suffer most, when looking for their jobs before others.

Do migrants break down wages and conditions?

Employers have always tried to exploit migrant workers, giving them the worst paid jobs, often in unsafe conditions, trade unions have always tried to improve the lot of workers, sometimes this will fail.

All that’s important for all workers to campaign for the right to live English on the job, so all workers understand

whats going on and can be fully involved in the union. It’s one sure way to stop migrant workers being exploited and to protect everyone’s wages and conditions.

Many migrants are active trade unionists in their home countries. Some have had little experience. It’s up to others to involve them in Australian unions, not all workers can organise to demand better conditions and defend the union.

That’s happening now with recent arrivals, such as in the factories, furniture, and the clothing industry.

Who are the behind massive attacks against Asian migrants?

There are basically two groups of migrants against Asian workers, one is the Liberal and National Party, who try to divide workers from each other and make people forget the issue. The others are groups like National Action, the White Australia Movement and the Union of Rights, who want to hold open racist and fascist views.

Fascists? Sure, with no doubt would take any opportunity.

These groups aren’t large, but they use terrorist tactics against migrants and other people they say are ‘foreign.’

National Action and other groups have attacked Asian people and other migrants. They have disturbed the offices of people opposing them, and attacked homes of trade unionists. They have attacked migrants as different as the Community Aid Abroad, the Movement Against Uranium Mining, bookshops, overseas students, and representatives of ethnic groups.

They are the small group who paint stigmatises on walls and railway tunnels, always under the cover of darkness.

Is it only Asian people they oppose?

While Asians have borne the brunt of attacks, all migrants, particularly progressive migrants, are under threat. While in government, the Liberal Party has always had a history of trying to stop trade unionists and other progressive people from migrating to Australia.

Why are the Liberals making such noise about it now?

The Liberal Party is a corrupt corporatist body in support of the next election. They’ll do anything to try and win votes. They are deliberately trying to exploit sectarian and fear, among working people, based on the colour of someone’s skin. If they succeed, they’ll take a long way back to the Fraser years, with record unemployment, inflation, and all the other problems.

Under the Liberal government, unemployment and inflation got worse while wages were cut. Fixing the success of the Labor government, they have sided on the migration question to try to win a few votes.

Does that mean the Liberals are racist?

The Liberals say they are not, but from what we’ve said on migration, they certainly sound like they are. By raising the issues they say they have, they have provided a respectable front for the violent racists. And many in these groups are quite openly anti-semitic and racist.

That’s the problem, they get muddy, no matter what they say they are doing.

Is there any talk about Asian anything new?

While anti-racist feeling is getting the headlines, all migrants have been ignored and persecuted from a minority when they first came here.

Ask your Italian, Greek, Lebanese or Latin American family what happened to them when they first came to Australia. And all racial groups still suffer from the same conditions.

But its need to find the Liberal Party trying to whip up hatred against each other. They are also trying to stir up hatred against Asian migrants, they are the big mining companies and the fascist groups in a campaign against Aboriginal land rights.

Australia is made up of hundreds of different communities and cultures. They have all been a part of multi-cultural Australian society, while keeping their own culture Australian society is better off and this most people live together.

The small group who try to keep racial hatred alive. Tolerance of racial, religious and cultural differences is essential for our way of life. Hatred and bigotry will undermine it.

Labor Militant, August 1984

This leaflet has been produced and authorised by the Combined Unions Against Racism. CLU is a group of trade unions which have joined together to promote equality and to fight racism in our society. CLU includes the Plumber and Carpenters Employees Union, Australian Workers Union, Printing and Allied Workers Union, Amalgamated Metal, Foundry and Shipwrights Union, Australian Electrical, Electronic, Manufacturing, Allied Workers Union, Federated Trade Unionists, Administrative and Clerical Officers Association, Federated Engineer and Shipwrights Association, Australian Journalists Association, Water and Sewerage Employers Association, Australian Railways Union, University Academic Staff Association, Building Workers Industrial Union, Transport and Communications Union, Australian Meat Industry Union, Builders Labourers Federation, Federation of College Academic, Builder's Equity.
Interview with Andrew Jacobowizc

Racism, migration and the labour movement

Times of recession are marked by an intensification of attempts to divide and divert the working class from the real causes of the problems they face. One classic example of such divisive tactics is racism. It is not surprising to note the increase in racist statements made by prominent political, business and academic figures over the past year. Such statements have, of course, been picked up and amplified by the media. Land rights and Aboriginal settlements have been rapidly eroded, sparking growing interests like Mugger Morgan and the National Farmers' lobby.

Peacock, Hengsten and Blainey have concentrated on the question of immigration policy.

In this climate of escalating racist statements Labor Militant interviewed Andrew Jacobowizc, a member of the Board of the Special Broadcasting Service, which runs the Government's anti-discrimination program and the Manus Island prison on Manus Island.

What do you see as the signs of a new wave of racism in Australia?

One of the more obvious examples can be found in the philosophy of multiculturalism, taking firstly settlement issues, and then migration policy. The settlement issues which are covered basically by the Gailey Report and implemented by the Fraser Government.

The Gailey Report was set up to examine the problems in relation to the introduction of policies to reduce the number of persons, whether Australian or non-European, who are not interested in the mainstream of the conservative parties or are in some way excluded from the political activities which are concerned with the interests of the working class in Australia.

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party machinery

Migrant Branches develop in Vic ALP

One of the phenomena over the past six years in the Victorian community, instead of reaching out to the rest of the Party, and getting involved in the life of the Party. We also had a large turnover in members at one point because they could not see how the Party related to their activities and lives.

"But we have seen some results in getting action around some of the demands of the Turkish migrants. This was mainly in the area of funding, in getting more Turkish teachers, etc.

So such short-term solutions could be found through the Party. Migrants should organise as a pressure group, as a lobby if you like, to put pressure on the Party to get some of their needs met.

The Turkish members are also looking for issues such as unemployment and inflation. We have always known that unemployment and some members even accepted it, putting it down to their own faults.

Huriyet Babajan, Branch secretary, says: "I think it's time to be realistic and solve the problems that the Branch faces."

"Terry Hand (now MHR for Melbourne) was an organiser for the Party at the time and he advised us on the formation of the Branch. The Branch started to grow rapidly, and it was only a matter of time before the bulk of them and the ALP members wanted to get involved with the Branch. I think this is an important link between the Turkish community and the ALP, and what we are trying to do is to have a way of channeling the Party's interest."

Babajan also said that there had been attempts to get a Turkish Branch in Richmond, but there were some possibilities of setting up a Branch in Brimbank. The Greek community is the largest single group represented in the migrant community in Victoria, and there were some possibilities of setting up a Branch in Brimbank, which was formed less than a year ago at Yarra Yarra near Whittlesea. The Victorian Aboriginal Political Committee is looking at the possibilities for starting up other Aboriginal Branches, in particular in the urban areas, but also in country areas where there are close links to Aboriginal communities.

Migrants begin to organise through ethnic Branches

The Party is struggling because there is pressure coming from the Greek Communities to give this body more power, rather than it being a more co-ordinating committee, to be able to mobilise their own delegates to conferences and even choose their own MPs. The name itself suggests that the Greek members had in mind a body with more teeth that just a coordinating committee.

There are three Italian Branches in the Party, and the Spanish and Lebanese communities are being organised in Branches as well.

The migrant Branches are a positive development in the Party, allowing non-dominant voters to begin to organise politically in the Labour movement.

Nevertheless, migrants still have an uphill task ahead of them in attempting to get proper representation in the Party and in making the policies of the Party reflect their needs.

There is also an Aboriginal Branch in Victoria, the third in the country, which was formed less than a year ago at Yarra Yarra near Whittlesea.

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WA dispute on uranium

The Western Australian Branch has a strong opposition to uranium mining. There were Premier Brian Burke, Minister for Mines and Petroleum, Bill Thomas, and the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Western Australian Uranium Mining Company, Peter Walsh. The opposition came from a number of local councils and environmental groups.

Stephen Robson
Member from WA (WA) Branch and Administrative and Clerical Officers Association

At the April 12-14 meeting of the Pacific Area members of the Western Australian Branch of the ALP, a motion calling for a referendum on the referendum on the uranium mining issue was passed with overwhelming support. The motion was supported by the majority of the state's councils and local government bodies.

Ruth Coleman
President, WA Branch

Ruth Coleman reports on Conference

A meeting organised by the Western Australian Labor Party was held in Perth in May. The conference was attended by delegates from across the state and provided a forum for discussion on a range of issues. The conference was well attended and provided an opportunity to discuss the party's future direction.

Stephen Robson
Member from WA (WA) Branch and Administrative and Clerical Officers Association

Coleman pointed out the need for the WA Labor Party to be more active in the local government sector.

The conference was well attended and provided an opportunity to discuss the party's future direction.

Tas Labor: Successes and failures

By Richard Davis

University of Tasmania

Since its founding in June 1953, the Tasmanian Labor Party has been in power for over 50 years—making it the second most electorally successful state in Australia. Internationally, only the Social Democratic Party in Sweden can rival this record.

Louise Barker
Member, Labor Party (Tas) Branch

Bercow Davis's history of the party provides a useful narrative of the forces that have driven the party's successes and failures over the years. The party has faced numerous challenges, but has remained a strong force in Tasmanian politics and is proud of its achievements.

Electric Eric Bice Labor premier in the 1980s who championed hydrodilution.

The Labor National Council of the 1980s, a political party that was bombarded with the long-term effects of the state's!!

This period was marked by a number of significant events, including the 1985-1986 Tasmanian electricity crisis, which led to widespread power cuts and the shutdown of many businesses. The party was able to build on its success and secure re-election in 1989.

At the 1993 federal election, the party lost its majority in the House of Representatives, but was able to form a new government with the support of the Greens. The party then reached a peak of popularity and supported by a large majority in the state.

Richard Davis has given some evidence for alternative currents in the party during this period.

Undoubtedly, many of these events can be described as 'happy moments,' such as the popularity of Harry Gems during the 1984 election or Bob Hawke during the 1988 election. In these cases, the Green Party was divided and could not form a government, but the Premier was able to take the initiative to get into parliament.

The most radical period of the party's history was characterised by the Labor National Council and the Labor National Council of the 1980s. The Labor National Council was also the main force behind the formation of the Tasmania Labor Party, which was a significant development for the party in Tasmanian politics.

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This period was marked by a number of significant events, including the 1985-1986 Tasmanian electricity crisis, which led to widespread power cuts and the shutdown of many businesses.
solidarity

NSW Labor Women's Initiative

NSW Labor Women’s Initiative Successful tour by Cuban women

Two members of the Federation of Cuban Women (FMC) left Sydney on their return flight to Havana on Friday, July 30 after a successful 15-day tour. Isabel Jonarron, President of the FMC, and over one hundred members of the Cuban Communist Party Women’s Committee, travelled to Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane as part of a fourteen-day tour. The tour was organized by the NSW Labor Women’s Committee and is part of the solidarity campaign against the U.S. embargo on Cuba.

Val Edwards, a member of the International Department of the FMC in Havana, was in Australia at the invitation of NSW Labor Women.

This was a significant first for Labor Women — the first official ALP-sponsored tour by a high-level Cuban delegation. It marked an important new link between the Cuban and Australian labour movements.

Their trip to Australia was made difficult by the U.S. government’s efforts to prevent the Cuban delegation from receiving a warm welcome. However, when they arrived they were met with a warm welcome. In Sydney, Labor Women President Kaye Butler welcomed the delegation and spoke about the opportunities it represents for women in Australia. The delegation included the executive members of the Labor Women’s Association in Cuba, including the president of the Labor Women’s Association in Cuba.

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The tour was organized by the NSW Labor Women’s Committee and is part of the solidarity campaign against the U.S. embargo on Cuba.

In Wellington, the Cuban delegation met with women from the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) to discuss their experiences in Cuba. They also met with members of the Trade Union Congress and the New Zealand Council of Trade Unions. They also met with members of the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) to discuss their experiences in Cuba. They also met with members of the Trade Union Congress and the New Zealand Council of Trade Unions.

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