Tax cut con-trick boosts Accord

Keating’s cutback Budget

Oppose U.S. bases
Owen Wilkes interviewed

El Salvador
U.S. prepares invasion

British Labour
The fight for democracy

60c
A good way to spend your 'tax cut'

Paul Keating's budget is supposed to have given the average wage earner a $5.00 a week tax cut. Well, here's an ideal way to spend more than one week's worth. Before inflation and 'fuel' tax:

☐ I enclose $5.00 for ten issues
☐ I would like to distribute Labor Militant.

Please send me ........ copies and find $ ........ enclosed.

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Signed articles do not necessarily represent editorial opinion

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M. J. of artetical
Defend NZ nuclear-free proposal

[Text discussing the significance of a nuclear-free zone in New Zealand and the implications for the country's sovereignty and security.]

Protest resignation

[Note on the resignation of an individual in the Australian Labor Party in response to a particular issue or decision.]

Support NZ PM and his Labour Party

[Comment on the support for the Prime Minister of New Zealand and the Labour Party, highlighting the importance of the party's policies and leadership.]

Left must fight on all fronts
A war in the Party

[Discussion on the need for the Labor Party to fight on multiple fronts, including an internal party conflict.]

[Editorial note discussing the challenges facing the Labor Party and the need for strategic planning and action.]
The much heralded tax cut package in the Hawke Government's Second Budget, announced on August 22, is essentially a con-trick. It will hardly cover the effects of the average wage-earner being pushed into a higher tax bracket over the course of the past year—a process which will worsen over the next year.

The headline on the August 22 Sydney Morning Herald hit the nail on the head: "Tax trick election Budget." It proclaimed.

Martin Tuck
Member Livingstone (NSW) Branch

Fundamentally, the 1984 Labor Budget continues the strategy of cutbacks in public spending and redistribution of wealth from the poor to the rich established by the Fraser National Party coalition since 1975. Under this new framework, this Budget is designed to provide enough camouflage to bolster the wage-cutting policies and "tax accord"—which has been the cornerstone of the Government's strategy during the election period and of the strategy of the Fraser National Party coalition since 1975.

In this context, the aims of the 1984 Labor Budget are to: 1) Reduce the budget deficit; 2) Reduce the growth of government spending; 3) Reduce the growth of public sector employment; 4) Reduce the growth of public sector wages; 5) Reduce the growth of public sector salaries; and 6) Reduce the growth of public sector benefits.

The Budget is designed to achieve these aims through a combination of measures, including: 1) A freeze on public sector wages; 2) A freeze on public sector salaries; 3) A freeze on public sector benefits; 4) A freeze on public sector employment; 5) A freeze on public sector spending; and 6) A freeze on public sector borrowing.

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living standards

Sydney Social Rights seminar hits Accord

The Sydney Social Rights Campaign held a pre-budget seminar on Sunday, August 12 at the Ambassador's Neighbourhood Centre. About 50 people attended during the course of the day.

The morning session was addressed by Graham Roberts, President of the Port Kembla Branch of the Federated Ironworkers Association; Anne Pia, an executive member of the Victorian Trades Hall Council; and Tony Forward of the Social Rights Campaign National Coordinating Committee.

Leen Parnell
Member Campion Day (NSW) Branch and Municipal Employees Union.

In the afternoon, workshops were held on the topics of women, migrants, unions, and the ALP — all in the context of the examination of the ALP's Accord. Both Roberts and Pia brought up the case of the original Social Rights Manifesto — published by a group of progressive unionists, ALP members and others, about a year ago.

In essence, the Accord Summit strategy calls for workers to take a stand on the issues of the "electoral" package.

"We should never accept the package, but need to put forward a program that responds to our pressing needs." Graham Roberts estimated that under the Accord, which is expected to be bought out by the Commonwealth from taxpayers, the ACC is faced with real terms of their pay raises of 13.4%. At a time when BHP has achieved a record 20% profit increase, this is a 5% rise in profits for taxpayers, and yet workers still face the ACC's profit motive as a redaction of wealth to the ACC.

The ACC's high objectives of the Accord is that it will prevent the ACC from allocating its own gains of claims, which are a large part of the ACC's social wage component. The ACC is a landowner and is the only union to have been a landowner.

Anita Pia made the point that the much talked about economic recovery has not been seen in real terms, with the ACC's high wage increases of 5.2% in 1984. The ACC's high wage increases of 4% are only in real terms, and the ACC's high wage increases of 1% are only in real terms.

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Protest rally March to S. Consultate

Saturday, September 15, 10am, Sydney Town Hall Square.

Authorised by the Chilean Solidarity Committee and Federation of Democratic Turkish Associations of Australia.

'revolution with the struggle of the people of Asia, Africa, and Latin America

Poster exhibition

Saturday Sept 25 to Sunday Sept 30, 9am to 10pm each day.
Lower Auditorium, Sydney Town Hall. Entry free.
Sponsored by the Solidarity Committee; Sri Lanka Solidarity Committee; National Congress Support Group.

Cavalier vs. NSW teachers on migrant classes

The 39 intensive migrant language teachers have been at the centre of a bitter dispute between NSW Education Minister Rod Cavalier and the NSW Teachers Federation since early June.

The teachers were instructed that classes for students with no English were limited to 35 and for those with limited English to their own language to 10.

Teachers, including those in Sydney Town Hall, handed in a letter to the Sydney Town Hall on July 11 in opposition to the strike demands, and in support of the Labour Department. The letter was met by a political campaign by the campaign to publicly reveal the teacher's names.

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Early election wins rank-and-file preselection

There is strong speculation in NSW that the Right will want to avoid rank-and-file preselections for the coming election. This speculation is based on the precedent of the NSW National Executive Committee meeting of 3 August, a Left proposal in the NSW Labor Party's rank-and-file preselections was defeated by the NSW Executive.

John Barnsall
Member Rozelle (NSW) Branch and Municipal Employees Union

The excuse for the delay in organising preselections in the proposed redistribution of NSW's electoral boundaries, which may not be finalised until October 10, Richard Farmer, writing in The Bulletin.

Nurses... Continued from previous page

The election of the new NSW Government has put the boot in NSW nurses' union fights for 38 hours.

Since 1975 there has been an overall cut-back of $175 million in health funding in NSW. This has resulted in the closure of beds in hospitals across the state and in staff shortages in most hospitals. There has also been a significant cut-back in funding for psychiatric hospitals and community health services.

Nurses have stopped the work of these 'tactical unions'. It has become a standard joke that when they can't fill the roster, they simply name the nurse shortage.

Martha Turk
Member Livingstone (NSW) Branch

The nurses of St Vincent's Hospital in Sydney recently took strike action in support of NSW nurses. They got 15 and 20 per cent increases in their wages, and the hospital board that would not concede $200 extra. Meanwhile, the board at St Luke's hospital in Sydney, where the nurses' action took place, has agreed to give 20 per cent to its nurses.

There has been effective staff freezes in many hospitals since 1979, and the nurses are being forced to work long hours to keep the services running.

The pressure on nurses has caused a drop in the quality of care, and in turn, this has decreased the quality of care received by the patients.

In this context nurses in NSW are determined to win a 38-hour week. This would mean enough time off to care for their families and to pursue other interests. It is not unusual for nurses to work a 12-hour shift followed by an 8-hour break.

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Tasmanian State Council — a disappointing experience

The Tasmanian State Council ended with a whimper rather than a bang. You had the feeling that Council was a rubber stamp, and that decisions to the Party were taken at a small group of parliamentarians in smoke-filled backroom deals.

Louise Barker
Member Murchison (Tas) Branch

The Council was held primarily to present candidates for the Senate ticket and for the House of Representatives. The right-wing factions, Labor Unity and the Centre Left, would have been pleased with the Senate preferences. Top position went to Terry Austin, a one-time left-winger who is now a conservative, who has since moved rapidly to the right. Second position was taken by Ray Devlin from the Democratic Socialists. A Water Front Workers Federation member, second position was taken by the third of the left-wing Labour Council. Third position was taken by John Tindale, the First Secretary of the Rail, Tram and Township Labor Council. Fourth position was taken by the Federal Executive. Fourth position was taken by Robert Lawer, John Whyte.

Council went ahead without the Adjuncts' Executive, Fundraising and Shipbuilding Union delegation. The AMSPFU executive has been challenged by a group of union members for nationalist activities after the adjutants were members of the Committee, and made a plea for a national unity to stay in the Party and fight.

The Chairman, who was in hospital for a kidney operation, was aware of the shortcomings of many Party activities after the adjutants were members of the Committee, and made a plea for a national unity to stay in the Party and fight.

Way forward debated at WA Broad Left meeting

Over 300 members attended the inaugural meeting of the Broad Left in Perth on August 12, convoked by Left delegates to the National Conference. The meeting, chaired by the WA Left chairman, Jeff McGarry, the State Secretary of the United Services and Miscellaneous Workers Union, was a spokesperson for the faction.

Matthew Power
Member Murchison (WA) Branch and Administrative and Clerical Officers Assistant

Most of those attending the meeting were agitated and the mood of the Left was that of a final stand. Centre Left delegates to the conference had forced the Left to its knees, and their clear right-wing viewpoint at the conference had forced many Left members.

The conference was a means to an end — to stop the government from implementing new policies as cheaply as possible. The government had interpreted uranium policy so as to allow Richo Deen to go ahead. Then the government would lose credibility, possibly even go down, if the conference didn't endorse it.

The Accord has been in operation for over a year now, and many workers have a critical look at it. This branch has been left and the Centre Left is of the opinion that the government's promises under the Accord such as: a substantial reduction in unemployment, a reduction of indirect taxation, a tightening up of taxes on corporations, a substantial improvement in the welfare system, automatic full wage indexation, control of prices and wages, all anti-union laws, have not taken place. Instead workers have been forced to accept wage restraint, in effect a cut in real wages.

The 9.5% loss under the Fraser wage freeze has not been granted, and it is estimated that over a three year period workers have lost over 20%.

Employment has only dropped 0.4% from 1976, hardly a significant figure. Moreover most of the unemployed gained have been short-term jobs. Jobs continue to be lost in the manufacturing area.

We do not believe an increase in employer profits leads to the creation of new jobs as can be seen by the 800 million handout to BHP, who made a record profit and is now taking closing down in BHP, the average worker lost 10,000 jobs.

Nothing has been granted to workers on a plate. It has been only through the struggle by the union movement that wages and conditions have improved, and therefore there should be an end to all agreements which restrict industrial action.

The Government should immediately implement:

- the introduction of a capital gains tax;
- the reduction of indirect taxes;
- full employment and wage indexation in all cases of strike action;
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Central America

Eyewitness report on U.S. threat to E. Salvador

The eagle has landed

[The following article is reprinted from the British Labour Party monthly magazine New Socialist, of July-August 1984.]

US preparations for an invasion of Central America are almost complete and Reagan is looking in the presidential election for an invasion mandate. JENNY FEARCE charts the US military build-up and recounts her experiences on a recent visit to the guerrilla-controlled zones of El Salvador.

"The Pentagon is now in a position to assume a combat role in Central America should President Reagan give the order," a recent New York Times article began. The statement is significant because until now the Pentagon has been most unwilling to see US troops on Central American soil. Deeply affected by the "Vietnam syndrome," the Pentagon has remained sceptical about the military feasibility of such an operation and the fearful lack of public support for it. But now most of the infrastructure has been constructed in Honduras and since the Grenada invasion proved so successful in terms of US policy towards El Salvador, the defeat of the FMLN guerrilla movement, will remain the same.

A great increase in US military presence in Central America has long been one of the key barriers to the successful Soviet and Cuban military and ideological penetration..."
Grant Faris Glubb a visa!

The recent elections in Israel highlight the serious problems affecting that country. We feel that granting a visa to Faris Glubb, a member of the Zionist movement, would only further destabilize the situation.

We believe that the granting of visas to individuals who have been involved in acts of terrorism should be a matter for the authorities concerned, and not a matter for the electorate. We urge you to consider this issue carefully before granting Faris Glubb a visa.

The election results in Israel have shown that there is a growing demand for peace and security. We believe that granting visas to individuals who have been involved in acts of terrorism would only further destabilize the situation.

We urge you to consider this issue carefully before granting Faris Glubb a visa.
Interview with Owen Wilkes

U.S. bases in Australia and New Zealand

Labor Militant recently interviewed the New Zealander Owen Wilkes, a long-time researcher on U.S. bases around the world. Wilkes is a member of the U.S. military and was active in the campaign against the Omega transmitter which was originally planned for New Zealand.

In his book, "Military Bases in Australia and New Zealand," Wilkes provides a comprehensive overview of the bases and their impact on the region. He notes that the bases have played a significant role in the region's history and have been a source of tension and conflict.

Wilkes has been a vocal critic of the bases and has worked to raise awareness about their impact. He has also been involved in efforts to negotiate better conditions for the local communities affected by the bases.

In this interview, Wilkes discusses the bases and their impact on the region, as well as the broader implications of U.S. military presence in the Pacific.

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U.S. bases in Australia and New Zealand

In reference to the three major bases in Australia, Wilkes says it is "a mistake to think that the bases are simply about security. They are about much more than that. They are about the control of the region by the United States, and they are about the destruction of the environment by the bases." Wilkes also points out that the bases have a significant impact on the local economy, as they provide jobs and infrastructure.

Wilkes argues that the bases are a source of tension and conflict, and that they are not in the best interests of the local communities. He calls for a more equitable approach to base development, one that takes into account the needs and interests of the local communities.

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U.S. bases in Australia and New Zealand

In conclusion, Wilkes says that the bases are a major issue for the region and that they must be addressed. He calls for a more equitable and sustainable approach to base development, one that is based on consultation and agreement with the local communities affected by the bases.

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U.S. bases in Australia and New Zealand

The U.S. military has a long history of bases in Australia and New Zealand, dating back to the Second World War. The bases have been used for a variety of purposes, including military training, intelligence gathering, and strategic positioning.

In recent years, there has been growing concern about the impact of the bases on the local communities. This has led to a number of protests and demonstrations, as people call for a more equitable approach to base development.

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Britain

Call for General Strike
Miners’ strike enters crucial phase

The British miners’ strike is entering a crucial phase. On September 1, the Trades Union Congress (TUC) will meet and the miners strike will be prominent on the agenda. Already leading members of the Labour Party and unionists are calling on the TUC to step up the campaign against Thatcher’s Government.

Tony Brown
Member, Roselle East (NSW) Branch and NSW Public Service Association

Tony Brown, Eric Heffer, National Union of Miners President Arthur Scargill and TUC Executive member Alan Soper have called for physical support from miners, trade union and labour movement. Some are demanding that a General Strike be initiated.

The economic effects of the strike are beginning to seriously affect important sectors of British capital. Britain’s trade deficit is at all-time high in July as earlier demands are needed to be met for the lack of coal and steel production.

How you can help
At the beginning of August, the National Union of Miners had received $100,000 from Australia, and donations continue to flow from all around the world in solidarity. This is, of course, all that more important following the savage fine imposed on the Wales NUM. The union’s refusal to pay the $20,000 pounds fine levied against it for picketing has led to the seizure of 200,000 pounds of the union’s funds.

How the July dock strike ended

The dock strike reached a settlement early on Friday morning, July 20.

The dock workers had collapsed in Dover under threat of violence from strikers and strikers drivers. Les Sharp, chair of the dock stewards committee said: “The situation became so serious that threats were being made to our members and the port installations by drivers. We were threatening to stop work if the police would not smash the port.”

The dockers had dispatched the account. In fact, the port management joined with the ship owners and went into striking. Tell tension and eruptions of today have brought us to a point where we are tolerable.

The dock stewards committee has now concluded that the threat of serious injuries within the port complex means that it cannot go on any longer for the conclusion of the dispute.

The Tories and the press have been so furious about violence by picketing drivers that they would not stop sending the goods to the ports and that the police cannot get away with the threat of violence. The police were sent to the ports and that the police were making threats.

But such is the police violence by police and strike-breakers is all right, Self-defence by pickets and strikers is not.

For all that, the docks won a victory.
The fight for democratic control

Accountability and the British Labour Party

The 1974 British miners' strike led directly to the defeat of Ted Heath's Conservative Government. The miners were followed by a general strike of the Callaghan Government. At the time of writing, the Conservative Party of Britain, led by a parliamentary majority, sought to meet this crisis by developing a Social Contract with trade union leaders.

Leonard Fielder, Member Cambridge (NSW) Branch and Municipal Employees Union

This Contract saw Labour promise some measures to defend jobs, hold down prices, improve the health service, and defend the old age pension. In this way, the latter could be reduced on the basis of a negotiated productivity increase, but also to accept only nationally agreed minimum wage increases. The real strength of the Social Contract was that trade union leaders had to "police" their own members. They were led to make contracts on wages and productivity increases, and the conditions for a deindustrialised labour movement that would not threaten the chances of a rise in profitability.

The Social Contract was a success for the bosses. Callaghan, with Liberal support, maintained his Parliament majority. But the union rank and file were not fooled, and the Social Contract began to be cut by a Government trying to bring in monetarism.

Within the British Labour Party, many Constituency Labour Parties (equivalent to Australian PCOs or FJAs) fought back. It was clear from the start however that the control of Labour's National Executive was in the hands of trade union leaders who had no interest in accountability and democratic control.

The environment of economic decay made some left union leaders disillusioned with the Social Contract because the members were not getting anything in return. In October General Election, Callaghan tried to impose yet another wage cut and another national wage ceiling. Lowering the wages of skilled manual work, the Social Contract, and the right-wing wing of the Labour Party - the left.

Throughout the period of Callaghan's government, the Left of the Labour Party fought to bring the Parliamentary Labour Party under democratic control and to take the Left out of the right-wing wing of the Labour Party. They met with the most resistant of the Left and won. In the end, the Social Contract was abandoned.

In an effort to organise this growing movement for accountability within the Labour Party, the CPB, which had existed since 1974, initiated moves to establish the National Democratic Party. This of course was bitterly fought against by the PLP, but many of the PLP's members, who had been involved in the CPB, also accused the left of the Labour Party of breaking the Social Contract. For many of the union leaders, not only the left-leaning ones, the CPB was a threat. Unions like the National Union of Public Employees (NUPE), the National Union of Hospital and Health Workers, and the National Union of Railwaymen, as well as the trade union leaders, were angry at the CPB.

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The CPB was a threat to the leadership of the Labour Party. They tried to stop the CPB but were unsuccessful. The CPB was able to organise a National Conference of working-class unions and workers, and the Left was able to establish a new party, the CPB.

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For the Australian Labor Party, there are a number of relevant issues that have arisen from the dispute between the Left and the Right. The Left has been successful in gaining control of the party, and the Right has been forced to accept this.

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New CAPP pamphlet
‘Security Threat: The case for abolition of secret agencies’

During the debate at the 1984 National Conference on the Constitutional and Legal Planks in the CAPP pamphlet, an amendment calling for an open, public inquiry into the scope, purpose and functions of all known security and intelligence organizations in Australia was placed on the agenda by the Australian Labor Party. The amendment was carried, and the conference adopted a resolution to the effect that the conference had no confidence in the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (ASIO), and that a Royal Commission be appointed to investigate the operations of all such agencies. The amendment was introduced by Senator David Wieland, Labor, and was supported by a number of other delegates. The resolution was then referred to a special committee to draft a suitable amendment. The committee was chaired by Mr. John Gandel, a member of the Victorian Legislative Council, and included representatives from all parties of the conference. The committee’s report was presented to the conference on 21 July 1984.

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Setting up a Young Labor Association

Mitchell Young Labor in suburban Sydney is very recently established. Labor Militant spoke to Edward Mason, the Secretary of Mitchell YLA about the formation of the association. The interview was taken by Janet Butler, Rond- le East (NSW) Branch and member of the Municipal Employers Association.

In September 1980, 16 people (more than required by ALP rules) attended a meeting to request a charter for the new Young Labor from Head Office. The Charter was granted in December and the formation meeting was attended by about 30 people. Edward Mason explained why they had wanted to establish a YLA.

We set it up because the conditions in the local branches were so pathetic. The members were so old, and right-wing, the meetings were boring, and they only talked about local government. So we thought it would be a good way to get young people involved in the Party once. It had some sort of alternative to the branches, where we are young people, they be a bit more comfortable.

Q: How did you find young people to join and convince them that it was a worthwhile project?

Mitchell YLA has no force anyone to come along. Some had already been Branch members, so joined the ALP, and others came straight to the meeting and joined the ALP afterwards. We had press releases in the local papers, and contacted the local branches.

Since its inception, Mitchell YLA has organised a number of activities, including a camp and a barbecue which raised about $800, which enabled us to finance some other activities. Edward Mason described some of these.

We’ve had speakers and films. For example, we had a speaker from the Builders Workers Industrial Union, who told us about trade unions, and their connection with the Labor Party and its formation. And he explained how it happens that trade unions should be more involved in the Labor Party than at present, so that they can get a better voice for themselves.

We’re very keen on the Riverstone High School with a representative of Young Labor and Young Liberals, involving the whole of years 11 and 12. We’ve been along as a group to demonstrations against uranium mining, and on the 30th April, I was also involved in the community radio, the Western Sydney Peace Group and helping to set up an International Youth Year Committee at Parramatta.

Q. Would you like to achieve with Mitchell Young Labor?

A. We hope to be involved in more community political activity than we have so far. We’ve had marches through the CBD, and we’re going to be more active at conferences. But we’d like to organise some workshops, and we’re probably more active in our own name than we have been as a group.

We have a problem that the Federation redistribution will probably split Mitchell electorate into 4 other electorates. So we’ll probably into Mitchell YLA and have to start again setting up YLAs in other areas. This makes it hard to plan activities to build Mitchell YLA as the moment.

Q. How do you think Young Labor as a whole is going in NSW?

A. Not as well as it could be. It’s got a lot of potential but it doesn’t seem to be developing.

There’s been a lot of focus on the Radical Leaders Group (the YLAC faction associated with the Steering Committee) about how YLA should be run and who should be the leaders. However, it’s more important to get involved inside the ALP. If you’re achieving much in getting more involved in the ALP, you’ll be more successful outside the ALP.

It seems sometimes as though it’s used as an excuse to split from the ALP, to get into political careers. It’s not an activist organisation that we’re trying to do better or worse than Labour youth organisations throughout the world.

Sydney FEC debates the 60:40 rule

The proportion of union delegates to NSW Party nominating committees has become a topic of heated debate in the Johannesburg Branch of Sydney FEC. The issue was incorporated into the branch's agenda at the time by a right-wing union, Victorian Teachers Union for the ALP.

Janet Butler
Member Rundle East (NSW) Branch, and Municipal Employers' Union

An amendment to the following motion was debated.

The FEC also noted that, absent parties, union members have not become members of the ALP, but union membership is controlled by such people can be abolished. It is therefore necessary to ratify the ratio of votes at State Conference to increase the representation of members and decrease the representation of unions.

A further amendment to the following effect was accepted: “to increase the representation of members and decrease the representation of unions.”

For some time there had been differences among FEC Committee members on the proportion of union delegates to NSW Party nominating committees. Those who favour a reduction in the number of union delegates argue that this allows the members to be more representative of the rank and file of non-unionised workers, whereas those who oppose it believe it is necessary to include union delegates to ensure that the ALP remains committed to its traditional roots.

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Tasmania

Activist’s guide to ALP

Tasmania has been controlled by the so-called Left, and has a similar anti-social nature. However, the Left called the "Democratic Socialists," are not the most popular in the Socialist Left, perhaps more so than the highly controlled Steering Committee in NSW.

Lynne Haskell
Member Martin (Tas) Branch

You have only to look at the Tasmanian ALP in Government to see that it appeared little different to a liberal one. The right is well organised in the Labor Left faction, and there is a recent Cord Left Centre on the Labor Right faction— which has been the factor in uniting the left. There were some on the Left, disillusioned with the DLP, who joined the Centre Left.

However, hopefully any illusions in this faction have been dispelled by their actions at the National Conference. At the last State Council meeting all factions had called to support the ALP position of phasing out uranium mining, but it was a completely different situation for Branch positions after a year's membership.

Electoral Councils — At the moment, all the three Federal electoral are the same — although this may change after the Labor Left faction's election. The Electoral Councils have little power in the main, but our national, state and local councils are organised as the State Branches.

Presidencies — Endorser is done through a combined vote of State Council and relevant Electoral Council, except in the case of Senate candidates. Only members are elected by the State Council delegates only.

Race-Clark voting system — This is a system unique to Tasmania, based on proportional representation, used in all elections in the Tasmanian Branch and in State elections for the House of Assembly. Another unique situation is Tasmania, who is a member-elect, where there are 7 State Assembly.

The exception is elections to the upper and lower House of Parliament, which has 19 members, of which three are elected on a party basis, and 16 members, of which 12 are elected on a party basis.

For Branch positions, only one is at present from the ALP.

Tasmanian Labor, September 1984
Sri Lankan troops massacre Tamils

The second-thousand of a million Tamils in Sri Lanka are in great fear for their lives. Although they are still recovering from last year's violence in July, which caused the deaths of 20,000 Tamils and made about 100,000 refugees, the violence continues.

Renewed combined military operations in the northern and eastern provinces of Sri Lanka have increased the fear among the Tamils. The government forces have been sent to the northern province to police the area. The Prevention of Tamil Elkam Tamils from Nelligala (PRETEC) — an organization based in Madras, India — claim that there is evidence of large numbers of US forces to the Sri Lankan army and an increasing number of American personnel present in the north. Because of the continuing violation of human rights and the stepped up killings of civilians belonging to the Tamil ethnic community by the armed forces, the international community must protest to the Sri Lankan government.

Richmond's August meeting — the High Commission of Sri Lanka, 55 Empire Circuit, Forrest, Canberra, ACE 2601.

Hayden backs Sri Lankan Government

In June this year, the Livingstone Branch in Sydney passed a resolution condemning the attacks on Tamils in April 1984 and urging the Labor Government to put pressure on the Sri Lankan Government to respect its human rights legislation. The meeting was called to protest against the Sri Lankan army's attack on the Tamils in the north of the country.

The Australian government has stated that it will not recognize any government in Sri Lanka that is unacceptable to the Sri Lankan people. The government has also stated that it will not support any military action that is not in the best interests of the Sri Lankan people.

The Australian government has been criticized for its failure to respond to the crisis in Sri Lanka. Some leading figures in the Australian government, including Prime Minister Bob Hawke, have been criticized for their silence on the issue.

Since the July 1983 massacre, an increased number of army personnel have been sent to the northern province to police the area. The Prevention of Tamil Elkam Tamils from Nelligala (PRETEC) — an organization based in Madras, India — claim that there is evidence of large numbers of US forces to the Sri Lankan army and an increasing number of American personnel present in the north. Because of the continuing violation of human rights and the stepped up killings of civilians belonging to the Tamil ethnic community by the armed forces, the international community must protest to the Sri Lankan government.

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