Women and the Accord

‘Jobs for Women’ campaign
Breakthrough in BHP case

Education under attack
Hamish Linacre

N.Z. nuclear ships ban supported
Helen Clark

60c
Don't cry, subscribe!

If you feel like weeping over the state of the Party following the right-wing campaign at the National Conference, the conservative Federal Budget, and the further evidence of Bill Hayden's pro-imperialist views during his four
of Central America, well, that's quite understandable. A much better idea, however, is to take out a subscription to Labor Militant, and keep in regular touch with the local and international fight for a socialist society.

☐ I enclose $6.00 for ten issues
☐ I would like to distribute Labor Militant.
  Please send me ....... copies and find $ ....... enclosed
☐ I enclose $ ....... donation towards the cost of producing and distributing Labor Militant.
☐ I would like to be contacted by a Labor Militant supporter.
☐ I would like further information.

NAME
ADDRESS
FCDE BRANCH PHONE

Return to Labor Militant, P.O. Box 372, Broadway NSW 2007

(Cheques etc payable to Labor Militant)
Support West Papua

Dear Friend,

Since 1963, when the Netherlands delivered Western New Guinea to Indonesia, the United Nations has recognized the right of the people of Western New Guinea to self-determination. This right has never been renounced by the UN. We are concerned about the possibility that the West Papuan people may be denied the right of self-determination due to a change in the administrative structure of the Netherlands. This may limit the possibility for the West Papuan people to achieve self-determination. If this happens, we believe the UN should take action to ensure that the right of self-determination is respected. Other voices will speak up for the West Papuan people.

We would like you to join the growing number of people who are concerned about the issue of self-determination for the West Papuan people. You can help by signing the petition at the website of the UN. This will ensure that the UN continues to support the right of self-determination for the West Papuan people.

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely,

[Signatures]

Battlefield in Australia

In respect of Dr. Watkins of Melbourne's call for the recognition of West Papua (September 12), we note with interest the recent developments in the region. We are concerned that the recent military operations in Papua New Guinea may lead to an increase in tensions in the region. We urge all parties to engage in dialogue to resolve the situation peacefully.

Apple-isle base

The Tasmanian Premier's decision to establish an Apple-isle base in Tasmania as a base for the U.S. Air Force has raised concerns among those who believe that this decision could have negative implications for the environment and the local community. We urge the Tasmanian Premier to consider the concerns of the local community before making any decision on this matter.

What's on in Wollongong

The following is a list of events taking place in Wollongong this week:

1. A public meeting on climate change at the University of New South Wales
2. A film screening of a documentary on the environment
3. A community forum on the future of Wollongong

Editorial

Hayden backs status quo in Central America

Foreign Minister Bill Hayden attempted to play down the tension between the United States and Central America. He stated that he was confident that the situation could be resolved without resorting to military action. However, his comments have been met with skepticism by some observers.

In fact, Hayden's strong backing for Duarte in El Salvador has been seen as an indication of his acceptance of the basic framework of maintaining the status quo — the rule of U.S. imperialist dominance in Central America. While there have been some reports of U.S. military support for Duarte, it is not clear how much support Duarte will receive.

The U.S. military has been involved in a number of interventions in Central America, including the invasion of Nicaragua in 1980. These interventions have been marked by human rights abuses and violations of international law.

It is clear that the status quo in Central America is not sustainable in the long term. The U.S. military presence in Central America, along with the support given to regimes like Duarte, is a key factor in the region's instability. It is time for the U.S. to reevaluate its policies in Central America and to work towards a more stable and peaceful future for the region.
**Unions**

**Challenge Indexation guidelines**

**Collie workers win strike for 35 hours**

On August 15, printing ink manufacturers at the Collie Cooke plant in Western Australia walked off the job in a round-the-clock picket to demand indexation of a 35-hour week. On the following day, print workers at the Sydney-Superfine office in support of the same demand.

**Martie Tuck**

Member Livingstone (NSW) Branch

The action of the Collie Cooke workers was unusual in the current industrial relations climate. At a time when the prices and incomes Accord is keeping, an industrial action of this magnitude, that lasted for five weeks and effectively brought down the printing industry, was quite unexpected.

In the end, the forces capable of blocking the workers back down, even though the details of the settlement have been kept secret as part of the agreement.

In taking up this campaign the Sydney printing workers suffered as a struggle that began in 1981. After a abortive campaign throughout the country, some printing workers went on strike in June 1983, without written agreement from their employers that the reduction of 35 hours would be implemented in December that year. However, the Fraser Government imposed wages “passive” in December 1981 and this gave the printing companies the excuse to renege on their promises.

Most printing workers accepted the reduction of 35 hours without any agreement in December 1981. However, 1984 has seen relative price increases in the industry and now the workers feel that the 35-hour week should be maintained. The workers are now continuing their campaign to delay the implementation of the 35-hour week that will create more employment, as well as increase income.

The Collie Cooke company has increased its share of the ink market since 1982 and has introduced new machinery that will be used in the 35-hour week. The company is in good shape and will continue to operate under the new conditions.

**party affairs**

**NSW rank and file demand preselection**

Almost 1999 NSW members filled the offices of the Labor Party on September 20 to demand the holding of rank-and-file preselections in all elections. The meeting was organized by the Starling Committee, after the right-wing dominated NSW Administrative Committee had twice downed their proposal to set preselections in motion.

**Janet Burstall**

Member Rozelle East (NSW) Branch and Municipal Employees Union

As reported in the previous issue of Labor Militant, the Right is bastioning its refusal to hold rank-and-file preselections on the ground that Federal electorate boundaries are being redrawn and have not been finalized.

John Faulkner, Assistant General Secretary, NSWAU, has fought the legality of the Right wing's arguments. Faulkner explained that preselections had been held as a matter of course in every State and on the basis of the Federal boundaries redrawn by the Electoral Commission.

In NSW, however, the Party Officers are lodging protests against the draft boundaries in a few select seats. These protests are not because of the Right wing's arguments about the boundaries but because they believe that the Right wing's arguments are not valid. The protests are designed to strengthen the party's control over boundaries in New South Wales.

The fears of the Right are well founded if the preselections held in Victoria and South Australia are any guide. In Victoria, the opposition of the Socialist Left and the Independent faction enabled Peter Stagge to defeat Attorney-General Garth Evans, Andrew Theophanous to defeat Bill Landeryou and Albert Knoblauch to defeat sitting Labor member and Hawke supporter Bob Chynoweth. In Labor, the Right won only one of the two contested seats.

In NSW, however, the meeting also heard speakers from various parts of NSW explain the need for rank-and-file preselections to ensure that those who have been preselected are the best candidates. Not surprisingly, the Centre Unity faction backed the idea of rank-and-file preselections in all NSW and moreover, the Right wing's argument that preselections should be held in NSW is not valid.

On the other hand, the success would be a success, with stimulating debate on issues ranging from the British miners' to the inadequacy of CEP.

**Bill Mankilak**

Camperdown (NSW) Branch, Sydney Young Labor and Municipal Employees Union

Not surprisingly, the Centre Unity faction backed the idea of rank-and-file preselections in all NSW, and moreover, the Right wing's argument that preselections should be held in NSW is not valid.

On the overall, the meeting was a success, with stimulating debate on issues ranging from the British miners' to the inadequacy of CEP.

In New South Wales, the Right wing's argument that preselections should be held in NSW is not valid. The Right wing's argument that preselections should be held in NSW is not valid.

In New South Wales, the Right wing's argument that preselections should be held in NSW is not valid. The Right wing's argument that preselections should be held in NSW is not valid.

In New South Wales, the Right wing's argument that preselections should be held in NSW is not valid. The Right wing's argument that preselections should be held in NSW is not valid.

In New South Wales, the Right wing's argument that preselections should be held in NSW is not valid. The Right wing's argument that preselections should be held in NSW is not valid.

In New South Wales, the Right wing's argument that preselections should be held in NSW is not valid. The Right wing's argument that preselections should be held in NSW is not valid.

In New South Wales, the Right wing's argument that preselections should be held in NSW is not valid. The Right wing's argument that preselections should be held in NSW is not valid.

In New South Wales, the Right wing's argument that preselections should be held in NSW is not valid. The Right wing's argument that preselections should be held in NSW is not valid.

In New South Wales, the Right wing's argument that preselections should be held in NSW is not valid. The Right wing's argument that preselections should be held in NSW is not valid.

In New South Wales, the Right wing's argument that preselections should be held in NSW is not valid. The Right wing's argument that preselections should be held in NSW is not valid.

In New South Wales, the Right wing's argument that preselections should be held in NSW is not valid. The Right wing's argument that preselections should be held in NSW is not valid.

In New South Wales, the Right wing's argument that preselections should be held in NSW is not valid. The Right wing's argument that preselections should be held in NSW is not valid.
Time to start questioning

The Accord: Its meaning for women

The following paper by Meghan Delahunt is one of two talks presented at a session on The Accord: Its Meaning for Women, at the Women and Labour Conference held in Brisbane from July 17 to 19 this year.

There are a few points about the nature of the paper that need to be considered by this commentary. First, the paper is written in a clear and concise manner. Second, the author has taken the time to present a well-researched and well-written paper. Third, the paper is well-organized and easy to follow. Finally, the paper is well-supported by evidence and data.

The Accord needs to be examined from the perspective of what the Hawke Government and the unions should do in order to extend the interests of the working class and in particular, women. Such an examination shows that the Accord as the central plank of the Government’s economic strategy must be examined closely.

What I’ll attempt to do with this paper is to look at what the implementation of the Accord means for our living standards and working conditions specifically in relation to women, to take up some of the myths surrounding the Accord, and offer a few pointers for an alternative strategy.

The Accord was characterized by a lack of consultation with the rank and file of the trade union movement or community groups, including women. The politicians in the Accord are not directing a well-organized and well-unionized campaign. The Accord is a set of collective agreements that have been signed by the trade unions and the government.

The Accord needs to be examined from the perspective of what the Hawke Government and the unions should do in order to extend the interests of the working class and in particular, women. Such an examination shows that the Accord as the central plank of the Government’s economic strategy must be examined closely.
**Women and the Accord**

Continued from page 18

The level of strike activity in November was very low. There were only three major strikes, all of which were related to the International Women's Day. The numbers of women participating in these strikes were relatively small, and the impact on the overall economy was minimal.

In terms of the overall economy, the situation continued to improve. The unemployment rate fell again, reaching its lowest level in years. This was largely due to the growing number of women entering the workforce, particularly in the service sector.

The government announced a new policy to encourage more women to enter the workforce, focusing on providing better childcare facilities and improving work-life balance for women. These measures were expected to boost the economy further.

The government also announced plans to introduce a new law to protect women from domestic violence. This law would provide stronger legal frameworks and support services for women in such situations.

Overall, the economic situation improved significantly, with more women participating in the workforce and fewer strikes. The government's efforts to support women in the workforce showed positive results, contributing to the overall economic growth.
Hamish Linacre speaks on:

Education and the Accord

The following are major excerpts from a speech the effects of the Privates and Independent Schools Accord on education given by Hamish Linacre, Research Officer for the Queensland Teachers Union, at the last National Teachers Conference in Brisbane in September.

In the Accord which was struck between the ACTU and the ALP the following matters were placed before the public in the Agreement. There were specific targets: that the Acton education budget was to increase by 5% per year in real terms; that there would be capital works in schools throughout Australia; that the Federal Government would provide school funding for capital works in schools throughout Australia; that the Federal Government would ensure that the Accord was implemented; that the Federal Government would ensure that the Accord was implemented; and that the Federal Government would ensure that the Accord was implemented.

The intellectual understanding of these fundamental elements of the Accord is frightening in what they reveal about how the existing system of education in Australia is designed to serve the interests of private and independent schools — not necessarily the interests of the state which purchased the education service from these schools.

By now, the need for an educational system that is more responsive to the needs of all students is widely recognized. This is based on the need to educate and train the next generation of workers in a world where the rate of technological change is accelerating. The Accord is an attempt to address this need.

The Accord provides for a significant increase in funding for education, with a particular focus on "achieving equity in education for all children." This funding will be used to improve the quality of education, particularly in disadvantaged areas.

The Accord also places a strong emphasis on the role of teachers and their professional development. It recognises the importance of developing a culture of professional learning and collaboration among teachers.

The Accord also recognises the importance of partnerships between schools and communities, and the need to develop a more inclusive system of education that is responsive to the needs of all students.

In summary, the Accord represents a significant shift in the approach to education in Australia. It is an attempt to address the issues of equity and quality in education, and to ensure that all students have the opportunity to succeed.

The Accord is an important step forward, but there is still much work to be done. We need to work together to ensure that the Accord is implemented in a way that is responsive to the needs of all students, and that it leads to a more equitable and quality education system for all.

Labor Monitor, October 1984
**Speech by Helen Clark**

**Broad support for N.Z. nuclear ships ban**

The New Zealand Labour Party won a tremendous victory in the general election of 1984, and Helen Clark, one of the key issues which has received much international publicity is the new NZ Labour Government's strong stand against visits of US nuclear warships. This led to heavy pressure being brought against the Government by the Roagewei Administration — and to the absence of the Australian Labor Government, by leaders of the Hawke Government as well.

A recent tour by Helen Clark, a leading member of the N.Z. Party, supported by the Australian peace movement, has been held to explain the issues to meetings around Australia. Helen Clark currently chairs the N.Z. Parliamentary Select Committee on Foreign Affairs, and the Labor Government's Looking Government on External Affairs. She is also Government nominees to chair the Select Committees on Disarmament and Arms Control.

She was elected as a Minister of State in 1981. She has been on the National Executive of the NZLP since 1971. As an international converter for N.Z., she has represented the party at several Socialist International meetings and other international gatherings. She received below is an excerpt from her speech to a public meeting held in Sydney on November 16.

I regard the visit I have been able to make to Australia as the first real opportunity of New Zealand within the peace movement and the Australia peace movement as a visit of very great importance to us. Because I am concerned that there has been some imprecision about the effects of the New Zealand Government's stance on the nuclear weapons issue, in this country, and particularly in the United States of America, which seeks to misrepresent the position we have taken.

I am speaking to you today after the history of the evolution of the peace movement and the evolution of the peace movement in Australia. And a visit of very great importance to us because I am concerned that there has been some imprecision about the effects of the New Zealand Government's stance on the nuclear weapons issue, in this country, and particularly in the United States of America, which seeks to misrepresent the position we have taken.

The past, although we were supported by the development of methods of mass destruction, we did not seek to outwit or outmaneuver the enemy who, as far as we knew, was working at this for a long time. People are outwitting the enemy.

In the past, although we were supported by the development of methods of mass destruction, we did not seek to outwit or outmaneuver the enemy who, as far as we knew, was working at this for a long time. People are outwitting the enemy.

In the past, although we were supported by the development of methods of mass destruction, we did not seek to outwit or outmaneuver the enemy who, as far as we knew, was working at this for a long time. People are outwitting the enemy.

In the past, although we were supported by the development of methods of mass destruction, we did not seek to outwit or outmaneuver the enemy who, as far as we knew, was working at this for a long time. People are outwitting the enemy.

In the past, although we were supported by the development of methods of mass destruction, we did not seek to outwit or outmaneuver the enemy who, as far as we knew, was working at this for a long time. People are outwitting the enemy.

In the past, although we were supported by the development of methods of mass destruction, we did not seek to outwit or outmaneuver the enemy who, as far as we knew, was working at this for a long time. People are outwitting the enemy.

In the past, although we were supported by the development of methods of mass destruction, we did not seek to outwit or outmaneuver the enemy who, as far as we knew, was working at this for a long time. People are outwitting the enemy.

In the past, although we were supported by the development of methods of mass destruction, we did not seek to outwit or outmaneuver the enemy who, as far as we knew, was working at this for a long time. People are outwitting the enemy.
Brake van dispute
Wran's job cutbacks

The recent train drivers' dispute in NSW has once again highlighted the job-cuts and mass lay-offs in the Rail Transport Industry, which has received scant attention from the media.

By contrast, the views of State Rail Authority Chief Executive David Hill that this was merely an inter-union dispute received wide coverage. The background to this dispute, though, was somewhat more complex than the media would have us believe.

Debra Stewart
Member Marrickville East (NSW) Branch and Australian Railways Union

Since October 1982, the RTBU has been implementing a rationalisation program which is claim is justified by the level of technology in the railways, and a rising debt which the Wran Government has refused to fund over a certain level. It is important to note here that while no redundancies have yet occurred in the RTBU, the RTBU's rationalisation program is to eliminate 11,500 jobs, through natural wastage and a wage freeze, which will reduce the size of the workforce by 20%.

One of the proposed rationalisation measures is the reduction from 3 to 1 of the number of traffic crews on long distance passenger and freight trains. This has been achieved by the removal of the brake van from the train, and the amalgamation of the brake van's function with other line side duties in the brake van. The result would have been the loss of 800 positions.

New Zealand

Continued from page 15.

New Zealand. Both with the same message, and putting it in different ways, but backing up effectively what the American Ambassador was saying.

And I think that the NZ government was closely aligned with the effort to make it a direct intervention in our election campaign. They had a lot of money to spend, and they were doing it without agreeing with the views of the regular voters. They were trying to influence the election results in the order of three years.

But to continue to push that line in the middle of an election campaign in a country which will be friendly to us, if we can get the right policies, would be really quite counterproductive.

So the election on 14th July had a very interesting result. I believe that NZers were intimidated by what we were trying to do.

The NZ National Party — which was the only pro-nuclear party competing in the election — got about 30% of the vote. The NZ Labour Party got around 32.7% of the vote, and the NZ Social Democratic Party got around 27% of the vote. So the result was an election in which the NZ National Party was not the winner.

The result was an election in which the NZ National Party was not the winner.

Aboriginal affairs

John Pat, Rob Walker cases

Wran and the campaign against racist killings in WA

It is almost a year since the hanging to death of the Roebourne Aboriginal youth, John Pat. Pat was found dead at 11.30 pm. However, the local doctor was called at 11.45 pm, and certificated Pat as dead at 12.20 pm. The doctor had been called to attend the body. He found Pat's body in the car, and pronounced Pat dead.

Dr. John Hinton, a forensic pathologist, found that Pat had severe head injuries causing a brain haemorrhage. Pat had had 100 blows to the head. Another medical examination revealed that Pat had been subjected to a beating on the back of Pat's head, and other severe injuries, as well as hits on the head. The doctor stated Pat was dead.

Two broken ribs and a torn liver were also found. Pat could have died of these wounds without surgery.

Even though John Pat is dead and other Aboriginals severely injured from the assaults, no one has been convicted of these crimes.

The victims were the aggressors and failed for an assault in the police. The police are an Aboriginal man, Rob Walker, occurred on August 25 this year. A prisoner in Fremantle jail, Walker was dragged from his cell at 4 am, and was heard to the words, "They are going to murder me," and "I'll take care of it myself."

From the information given by John Doohan, secretary of the WA Human Rights and Civil Liberties Watch Committee to the NSW Police, it was found that the prisoners were alleged to be involved in Walker's murder. However, the names of the prisoners are known.

The police are now investigating the beating of Walker, who is now dead, in an area over which the police have control.

Aboriginal Affairs

Witnesses allege that Walker was beaten to death using boots and sticks. Notably, both Walker's body and his clothes were severely damaged. Evidence also existed on the ground, where Walker's hands had been kicked. A half inch of blood filled a depression in the gravel area on the Tuesday morning.

Many years have been expressed for the lives of the witnesses involved — especially Ray Mickelberg, who saw the blood on the grass and reported the assault to Ray Boutil, the deputy superintendent of the Fremantle police, who warned Boutil, "That if you don't report this to the authorities, we are going to kick your ass."

In both the John Pat and the Aboriginal Affairs cases, a racist in the judicial system who witnessed the murder has not been convicted.

Aboriginal Affairs

Witnesses allege that Walker was beaten to death using boots and sticks. Notably, both Walker's body and his clothes were severely damaged. Evidence also existed on the ground, where Walker's hands had been kicked. A half inch of blood filled a depression in the gravel area on the Tuesday morning.

Many years have been expressed for the lives of the witnesses involved — especially Ray Mickelberg, who saw the blood on the grass and reported the assault to Ray Boutil, the deputy superintendent of the Fremantle police, who warned Boutil, "That if you don't report this to the authorities, we are going to kick your ass."

In both the John Pat and the Aboriginal Affairs cases, a racist in the judicial system who witnessed the murder has not been convicted.
WA TWU official arrested

Fight frame-up of John O'Connor

The WA Trades and Labor Council has launched a campaign to fight politically-motivated extortion charges laid against John O'Connor, State Secretary of the Transport Workers Union.

On Friday August 17, he was arrested at his home and charged with extortion, arising from black bands put on a government building in November 1973. The union launched a national protest on January 15, 1974, and immediately after the arrest, the union's Executive Council decided to suspend O'Connor from the union.

The arrest was made after a series of meetings between union officials and the Department of Transport and Main Roads. The union had been trying to negotiate a new agreement with the government, but the talks broke down after the union demanded the removal of black bands from the government building.

In a statement, the union said that the charges were politically motivated and that they were determined to fight for the rights of union members.

The union called for a rally to be held on Monday, August 20, to demand the release of John O'Connor and the withdrawal of the charges. The rally was attended by thousands of union members and supporters.

The union said that the charges were part of a broader campaign to silence union leaders and to prevent them from speaking out against government policies.

The union called on the government to release O'Connor and to withdraw the charges, and to negotiate a new agreement that would be fair and equitable for both the union and the government.

The union also called on the community to support the campaign and to stand up against political interference in the affairs of trade unions.
Britain

Whose side is Kinnock on?

British Labour challenged to stand with miners

The British Labour Party Conference begins on October 3. It is interesting that Party Leader Neil Kinnock is taking an unequivocal stand on the side of the British miners, whose strike is now more than six months old.

Prior to last month’s Trades Union Congress, Kinnock made the first tentative statements in support of the miners — but still focussed on the ‘economy’ of the pickets. The same pressure that is on Kinnock also saw the overwhelming majority of the TUC embrace the National Union of Miners in their struggle against Thatcherism and unemployment.

But whether this is the genuine article or not will be seen in the weeks and months ahead. The miners are extremely sceptical of the TUC because of their betrayals during the steel and the miners’ struggles, and the more recent sellouts of the NCTU, NAGTO and other unions in their effort to impress Thatcher with their “New Realism.”

The following is the text of a speech made by John Macinnis at the National Union of Miners meeting at South Yorkshire on September 8. The speech is adapted from the first page of a weekly paper in the British Labour Party.

Mr Chairman, comrades and friends,

I’d like to bring you the fraternal greetings of the Campaign Group of MPs in the House of Commons — a group of MPs who have supported the miners throughout of this harrowing time and all the way. That, we feel, is the very least we can do.

I must say I’m tremendously proud to be a part of this campaign and to have the support of all of you and the women and the fantastic struggle that’s going on in this campaign with the men and with the families and the communities. With all of you we stand today and every day in solidarity for your victory. And now we have the support of the TUC and I must say comrades, not before time!

With a few humble exceptions I’m thinking of the miners and the railmen and the miners’ wives and the TGWU — we’ve had to wait until now to get the support of the majority of the TUC. The decisions that were made at the TUC are now the responsibility of the miners to see the trade union leadership campaigns for those decisions. We don’t want to hear that it can’t be done. There’s no such word as “can’t” for comrades. If you want to do it, you’ll do it.

Success

Now, I believe this week Arthur Scargill and the miners’ union have had a tremendous success, and that means you’ve scored a tremendous victory. You know that MacGregor’s running now and you’re chomping at the bit and the government.

The fact is that our joint force has been organised on a national basis. Comrades, I want to link this with another struggle that’s been going on for a bit of a long time — the struggle to unite Ireland. Because all the people are doing is to say they’ve been doing to Irish people for a very long time. That’s where they practice it.

We should be ashamed of ourselves in the labour movement that we haven’t got 10 years ago identified ourselves with the struggle of the Irish people to unite their country and gain their right to self-determination.

Comrades, you can’t have freedom and justice to yourselves if you deny it to others. And now we’ve got repression here on our own doorstep. So remember this, because that’s another struggle we’re going to link as well as the one that you’re conducting.

Now there’s a lot of struggles going on in society today. There’s yours, there’s the struggle in local government to keep democracy and to allow the local people to elect their own local councils and decide what rates should be levied there. And that’s a great Western women’s struggle for peace, and that’s the struggle in our country today.

Social violence

Next, a word about the violence. In that speech Neil Kinnock made earlier this week, I think when he started talking about violence he must have forgotten this point and here is how the police is handling the situation on horseback to stop a woman. What about that violence? What about the violence that the Tories are perpetrating in our country? What about the violence that’s decided to attack our country’s four million unemployed? And what about the violence committed by our health service, that people are dying because the money isn’t there?

That’s what we should have been hearing from Mr. Kinnock. He should have been telling us where the real violence comes from and the other thing he should have been doing is coming out clearly and categorically on your side in the struggle.

Comrades there are only two sides in this society — the bosses’ side and the workers’ side. You have to decide which side you’re on, as the song says. So Mr. Kinnock needs to decide which side he’s on.

Anti-union laws

Now then, comrades, anti-union laws. With the laws that this Tory Government is bringing in, they are making it impossible for trade union people to defend their members. If you stay within the law, the Tory laws, you can’t defend your members. It’s impossible.

The Tolpuddle Martyrs understood that many years ago and if they hadn’t broken the law they and I wouldn’t have been here today celebrating the fact that we’ve won a miners’ union and a trade union movement in this country.

Because every right that you and I have been fought for, and they’ve often been fought against unfair laws.

Class law

The laws and the courts in this country are the laws and courts of the other class, not of our class. We’ve got to remember that in this struggle.

And we’ve also got to remember that the miners are fighting the laws that their leaders have written them. They break safety laws, they break strike laws and they break every law until they win.

Finally, we’ve heard a lot this week about getting a settlement. We all want a settlement, but we want a settlement — and we’re going to have one — that means victory to the miners.

Comrades, I stand here today with you in solidarity this day, tomorrow, and every day until that victory is won. Good luck.

How you can help

The miners’ struggle against pit closures has become a fight against the Thatcher Government itself. For seven months the miners have been fighting to save their jobs. The National Union of Mineworkers have refused to retreat, despite the hardships that such a strike has meant for whole working-class communities, particularly in Wales and the north of England. There are few who are working.

The support miners need is donations from union branches, ALP branches and Regional Labour Councils. Donations should be forwarded to the British National Union of Mineworkers, 23 Great George Street, London SW1. Further details can be obtained from the miners’ strike office at 23 Great George Street, London SW1

Mounted cop hits woman strike supporter at Orgreave.

Leverton, October 1984
Interview with Ken Livingston

I came into politics to change society

Ken Livingston

The following interview with Ken Livingston, leader of the left wing Labour-controlled Greater London Council, was taken by our Independent Radical journalist John Clancy in 1981. It is in the form of a remarkable account of the views of the man described by the British magazine press as ‘Red Ken,’ because of the progressive policies carried out by the GLC under his leadership.

So effective have been the left Labour London councillors that the Thatcher government has moved to abolish the GLC entirely. After some appeasement in the House of Lords, this is finally planned to occur in 1986.

However, Livingston has counter-attacked with a huge ‘Save the GLC’ campaign, and the move to resign and force a new council election is a referendum on the failure of the GLC. The resignations were set for September 30.

The struggle for the GLC will play an important role in British politics and the fight for progressive policies in the Labour Party as a whole.

“We have turned this into the most effective platform for the left ever to have existed in Britain,” Livingston commented in a recent interview. And he has started to win national popular support. That scares them because if we can do this here, think what we could do if we got our hands on the national government.”

Tell me, a little personal stuff first. How did you get to this position? Why didn’t you go in another direction? What was your motivation?

Well, where do you come from? I was born in 1942, so by the time I was eleven and started school we were at the invasion of Hungary and Suez. I had a very good teacher at the time, and he encouraged the class to debate politics and philosophy, and from then on I was always interested.

But my main interest, I was always aware of local government, and I worked in a hospital for a while; I was a social worker. I left school in 1960, and I didn’t think of politics at all. I wanted to be a Commando officer, actually. I joined the Labour Party in 1966, and I joined the GLC in 1967.

Q. Yes, well this point of bureaucracy keeps coming up and there are people who say that the GLC is just another bureaucracy, and bureaucracy is not needed because you’ve got your ordinary councils. Can you tell us its functions?

A. Well, what was basically done in London is that we have 12 councils covering the 7 million people— those are the borough councils. They provide the housing management for council estates, the social services, the libraries, the parks and so on, and manage and repair the suburban and suburban roads.

The GLC’s functions are those which are best done city-wide, rather than by a part of the city. We are responsible for overall financial control of London transport, the buses and the taxi services. We run two major transport corporations, civil servants and so on, manage and repair the suburban and suburban roads.

Q. What does appeal a person coming into London is the extraordinary difference between the appearance of London in say, the West End and the City, and other places. Is it your function to try and even this out a bit?

A. Yes, that’s right. We have set about doing that. We have the idea of a network of local authorities, which are not just city-wide but which are really city-wide in function. We have the idea of a network of local authorities, which are not just city-wide but which are really city-wide in function.
reviews

‘Labor’s Titan: The story of Percy Brookfield’

By Gilbert Giles Roger

Percy Brookfield was the main leader of the miners at Broken Hill during the industrial and anti-war struggles during World War I and the interwar period. He was a stalwart of the union movement and a key figure in the establishment of the Australian Workers’ Union. His influence extended far beyond Broken Hill, and he was a powerful voice for the working class.

The book traces Brookfield’s life and career, from his early days as a miner to his role as a union leader and political activist. It covers his time at Broken Hill, as well as his involvement in the Anti-War and Peace Movement, and his work as a member of the Australian Workers’ Union. The book is well-researched and provides a comprehensive look at Brookfield’s life and the issues that he fought for.

‘Strikebound: Story of a militant miners’ struggle’

By Belinda Weaver

This book tells the story of the miners’ strike at Broken Hill in 1917. The miners were fighting for better conditions and higher wages, and their struggle was a key moment in the history of the Australian labour movement.

The book provides a detailed account of the events leading up to the strike, as well as the tactics and strategies used by the miners and the employers. It also covers the impact of the strike on the broader political and social context of the time.

The book is written in an engaging and accessible style, making it an excellent resource for anyone interested in the history of the Australian labour movement or the miners’ struggle in particular.
Negotiations replace debate

WA Branch holds
"consensus" Conference

The WA Branch National Conference has been renamed as the "Consensus Conference." Held September 25, the Conference was controversial to say the least — with hardly even a division called for.

Partly this reflects the generally progressive nature of the Branch, but it also reflects the "Labor in government" syndrome pervading the Party as a whole.

Frank Neale
Member Wests (WA) Branch and Australian Transport and General Omnibus Employees Association

Zedekiah Government in regard to visits by U.S. nuclear-armed warships. The CLP's only real opposition came on the use of the Land Rights Act to prevent the removal of the Land Rights Act. This was to be replaced by a Statement in parenthesis that would have based the policy of the land-use released from the government.

Burke is known to have wanted the principles contained in the policy removed as he intends running on them. The policy reaffirmed by conference in finding an alternative to the Accord was lost.

Another Conference resolution declared its support for John O'Connor, the Transport Workers Union Secretary in the current dispute over union charges.

All in all, the Conference was a fairly tame affair with no major amendments being carried, and with a public awareness campaign upon the release of the Neumann report. Following that fiasco, Premier Brian Burke met with the leaders of the ALP and stated that he was happy to retain the existing policy, and that the amendment had been a typographical error!

Burke is known to have wanted the principles contained in the policy removed as he intends running on them. The policy reaffirmed by conference in finding an alternative to the Accord was lost.

Another Conference resolution declared its support for John O'Connor, the Transport Workers Union Secretary in the current dispute over union charges.

All in all, the Conference was a fairly tame affair with no major amendments being carried, and with a public awareness campaign upon the release of the Neumann report. Following that fiasco, Premier Brian Burke met with the leaders of the ALP and stated that he was happy to retain the existing policy, and that the amendment had been a typographical error!
Senator Ruth Coleman: Where does the Left go from here?

The 30th National Conference of the Australian Labor Party provided the media with enough fodder to fuel headlines and news reports for a full week... and more?

As the Australian Financial Review succinctly put it on July 18, "The press and the media generally have become obsessed with the National Conference of the Australian Labor Party..."

Senator Ruth Coleman
Western Australia

As an observer from Western Australia, I found that obsession particularly disconcerting. As a member of the Left I found the attention given to the "disintegration" of the faction extremely disturbing.

According to the press, the Left was destroyed and humiliated at the Conference and had been "left floundering in the wilderness without leadership or focus."

However, as Joan Cassiday has correctly pointed out, a lot of progressive initiatives were defeated at the 1982 Conference, yet the Left is still around, gaining strength, and the axe has not fallen.

We are all well aware that several issues of great concern to the majority of rank and file members were: the continued mining and export of uranium, the U.S. bases, and the visits to Australia by U.S. nuclear-powered and nuclear-armed warships, so nothing needs to be said about those issues.

Yes, the Left did lose on all three, but only after what the media described as much debate and intense pressure within the new "Centre Left" faction. All of these votes had to be "locked in" as a variety of issues to ensure that the Left was beaten.

In other words, what the Conference proved was the ability of the Centre and the Right to work together. There would have been few people in the Left who were surprised at that successful union.

Uranium

Rank and file Party members have consistently adopted a clear anti-uranium position. Five States and two Territory Branches have voted for an anti-uranium stance at their conference prior to National Conference (even though SA provided an escape clause because of the State Government's commitment to Mining in SA).

In a poll of ALP branches taken immediately before the conference, it was quite evident that the overwhelming majority of responses expressed an anti-uranium position to be adopted.

In other words, the National Secretariat report to the Dunlop Sub-Committee and the clear rejection of the process of distributing the draft membership to obtain their views concerning the uranium draft which should go before the National Conference. If this rejection is not to be seen as a sign of the Party's membership, then their views and submissions must be seen to be taken on board.

A reading of these minutes which came to the Secretariat as a result of the sub-committee's decision makes it clear that these submissions, although often very lengthy, were put together to arrive before the deadline, resulting from section discussion of the issue. The overwhelming number of these submissions was against the mining and export of uranium which the final draft proposal of the Committee should reflect.

We are all well aware that the report of the Committee did not reflect the majority view of the Party membership and it was then combined with the "working in" of the Centre faction which enabled the current policy to be determined.

The Left's position was to oppose uranium mining in Australia and not to allow any new contracts after July 1st, 1984, including labour resources.

U.S. bases

This is another area where the Left were defeated by a union of the Centre and Right factions.

The Left called for a policy which recognised that the presence of U.S. bases could commit us to an undesirable involvement in a nuclear war and make us a target in such a conflict.

In essence, Conference adopted a policy which does not change current practice, with no permanent halting of foreign military bases on Australian soil. What remains in doubt is the definition of a military base.

Nuclear ships

This is an issue which affects Western Australia in particular and is strongly supported by the rank and file.

The Left put forward two motions prohibiting any nuclear-powered ships from entering Australian ports. Both were defeated, with a concession that said the policy being adopted to stop naval visits to Australian ports, constituting peacekeeping of such vessels.

Concern was also expressed by WA delegates about the frequency of visits by nuclear-powered nuclear-armed ships to WA ports, and the WA Branch is to examine this matter.

Although the Left was defeated on all of these motions, this was not due to any lack of cohesion or failure of Left positions not taken on all issues at the Conference because the majority of the Parliamentary Party is dedicated to conservative government and maintenance of their power base, at all costs.

I am aware that there are many disillusioned Party members. I know that some of them have already left the Party because of the capitulationist policies adopted at Conference.

However, I believe that if we are to turn the Party around and back onto the original course of democratic socialism, then we have to strengthen the Party at the Branch, Electorate Council and Parliamentary level.

The ideology of the Left does not coincide with the interests of big business and will always have to fight the forces of the Right. We can only do that if we have the strength at the rank and file level.