

TRADE UNIONS APPEAL TO ALL WHO VALUE DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS RELEASE CLARRIE O'SHEA

Tram Union case

In common with other Unions, the Tramways Union has been fined on a number of occasions, but the fines inflicted over the one-man bus dispute of 1966 made the Union say—"We refuse to pay".

The Union was supporting an Award made by Commissioner Horan that no man be required to operate a bus on certain routes without the assistance of a conductor.

The Tramways Board refused to accept this until finally the High Court upheld the Union's point of view.

Even though the Union was proved right, the fines still stood. All representation to the Minister of Labour and the Attorney General to have the fines squashed were unsuccessful.

The total amount of fines imposed on the Union was some \$11,000 and when the Union refused to pay, the Court issued a garnishee order on the Commonwealth Bank. \$3,700 of workers' funds was grabbed in this way.

The Court has been unable to take further garnishee proceedings, and has now sought to examine officials as to the Union's capacity to pay.

Mr O'Shea has been hounded by Commonwealth Police for failing to appear in these proceedings.

On the morning of Thursday 15th May, Mr O'Shea was arrested and taken before the Industrial Court where he was jailed indefinitely for carrying out his Union's decisions.

O'SHEA MUST BE RELEASED NOW!



Mr C. O'Shea is Victorian Secretary of the Tramways Union. Now aged 63, Mr O'Shea joined the Tramways' service 40 years ago as a conductor. He was first elected Secretary of the Union in 1947. Since then he has been re-elected to that position every 3 years. Throughout this time he has worked tirelessly on behalf of tramway workers. This is the "crime" for which he has been gaoled!

\$750,000 taken from unions

The Penal Powers of the Arbitration Act are being used in an attempt to bankrupt Australian Trade Unions. Over the past 12 years, more than \$750,000 has been plundered from Union funds by fines and costs imposed by the Commonwealth Industrial Court.

Now a Union official has been gaoled for protecting his Union's funds and the interests of his members.

The gaoled sentence imposed by the Industrial Court is for an unspecified time.

The Penal Powers of Australia's Arbitration Act are amongst the most repressive laws in the world.

We demand the right to act in support of our demands for improved working conditions, adequate Social Services and higher living standards.

Amalgamated Engineering Union; Aust. Railways Union; Boilermakers & Blacksmiths Society; Builders Labourers; Fed. Clothing Trades Union; Electrical Trades Union; Furnishing Trades Union; Fed. Engine Drivers & Firemen's Assoc; Meat Industry Union; Miscellaneous Workers Union; Moulders Union; Painters Union; Plumbers Union; Shipwrights Assoc; Ship Painters & Dockers Union; Seamen's Union; Sheetmetal Workers Union; Tramways Union; Transport Workers Union; Vehicle Builders Federation; Waterside Workers Fed.

Unions must defend their funds - abolish the penal powers