

THE PLOD



*Jim
Doyle*



**STRONGER
TOGETHER**

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US-LEAD WAR AGAINST ISLAMIC STATE

Australia under the leadership of the Abbott coalition government has joined the American attack on the Islamic State and has gained the support of Bill Shorten, leader of the Labor Party. This could be to Shorten's eternal shame and is a repudiation of the traditions of the Labor Party.

Human beings have occupied the area of the Middle East for millenniums and during that time there have been myriad wars and disputes among the people resulting from diverse interpretations of their various religions, languages and the areas of land they occupy..

Since the Second World War the control and access to energy resources became so important that the Middle East has attracted the attention of the Imperial Powers, U.S. Britain and France, which covet the unlimited resources of gas, oil and cheap labour in the area.

This has led America to launch two wars in the area and is now organising a third war and it is in this war that Australia has been allocated a leading role with the expectation of a share of the oil, gas and labour resources if successful.

To this end America has cobbled together a motley crew of supporters who hope to overcome local opposition and gain access to the "spoil".

The problems in the Middle East now surfacing are a direct result of the past policies pursued by the United States and the Imperialist powers.

America has initiated this campaign against the Islamic State and whilst the Islamic State is no "lily-white" its medieval practices are similar to those carried out by U.S. allies such as Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Bahrain and the Arab Emirates.

It should be noted that every where that America has been prominent in imposing policy those countries have ended up in total disarray, bankrupted and their social systems in tatters.

Its time Australia politicians acted in the interests of Australia and not as a "lackey" to the Americans.

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OBAMA DOES NOT SPEAK FOR GOD:

Who in the world gave US President Barack Obama the right to claim that "No God" would allow the Islamic State to exist and slaughter what it considers to be "infidels"?

This statement follows the same line of transgression committed by Bill Clinton and George W Bush in their baleful appeals to God and Christ, even as they approved and presided over operations leading to torture, rape, murder and wounding of large swaths of humanity.

This egoistical vanity - the claim to know "God's Will" is precisely the sin that the Islamic State's Caliph, the House of Saud, the Vatican, the Church of England and all stripes of religious sects worshipping Prophets/Gods from Yahweh to Zoroaster make each and every day in the name of "God" and "Good"..

Few people ever attempt to define "good". What is "good"? The same for all people, all tribes, all conditions of life?. Evil for some? Does yesterday's "good" become vice? Yesterday's evil today's good?.

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HOCKEY BUDGET-A DISMAL FAILURE

The Hockey Budget is a dismal failure and has been rejected by the Australian people.

The focus of a budget should be to increase the living standards of the people and improve the economic conditions of the country.

During the election campaign Abbott and Hockey claimed that the Liberal coalition would solve the "jobs" problem, put an end to closing manufacturing plants and create the environment for a prosperous and vibrant society.

Since then there has been a constant barrage of "blaming the previous government of Julia Gillard" for their failure to honour these promises.

The real problem arises from the nature of the "capitalist system", which is based on a "class" society system in which the "profit, welfare and needs" of the dominant capitalist class has priority.

This has led to the sale to private enterprise of public assets such as: "electricity and gas facilities, health services, public transport, education, banking and finance and now the sale of Medibank".

Things can only get worse for the "working class" and "people" while the "capitalist" system and Abbott government prevails and its no good looking to the present leadership of the Labor Party for a solution.

Labor leaders Bill Shorten and Tanya Plibersek are nice people, but, it's a pity that they haven't made themselves more familiar with the traditions, objective and aims of the Labor Party and working class.

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SUBMARINE "JOBS" IN MORTAL DANGER

One of the promises made by Abbott and Hockey during the election campaign was that the proposed construction of twelve (12) submarines would be carried out in Australia thereby ensuring the jobs of Australian ship builders.

Now we have the Abbott government prepared to sacrifice Australian worker's job claiming that the Japanese will build the submarines cheaper.

If the submarines are vital for Australia's defence, so are the workforce, skills and industrial facilities required for their building and maintenance.

It seems that the Abbott government is deliberately embarking on a policy to down grade Australian industrial development and deprive the Australian working class of the opportunities to acquire and develop the skills and knowledge which such a construction program would initiate.

Worker's in the shipbuilding industry in South Australia and in other states have every right to be concerned about their "jobs" and to demand that the Abbott government comes clean about its intentions.

If providing finance for Abbott is Hockey's problem then instead of making worker's pay, he should take note of what Janet Yellen of the American Reserve is doing and begin a campaign of "quantitative easing".

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ABBOTT & SHORTEN EAT HUMBLE PIE.

An attempt by Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott and Labor Leader Bill Shorten to discourage the Russian President Vladimir Putin attending the G20 Summit in Brisbane on 15 and 16 of November has been a dismal failure.

Putin has announced he will be attending, despite Abbott's threat to "shirtfront" him.

Abbott has been trying to make an impression by accusing Putin of being involved in the loss of the Malaysian plane over Ukraine.

Without any evidence, Abbott claims that the plane was shot down by 'separatist' forces using a weapon made in Russia.

This is at variance with a report from the German Intelligence which claims the weapon (s) used were of Ukrainian manufacture and from Ukraine.

It might have been wiser for Abbott and Shorten to support Putin by calling to hasten the inquiry and await results before jumping to conclusions.

**SUPER HORNETS BOMB ISLAM STATE**

Using American supplied Super Hornet planes and American supplied guided bombs Australian air-men have bombed a number of Islam State areas in Iraq and Syria.

The previous policy of training sections of the local people to carry out attacks on their fellow country men appears to be a failure and they can no longer be trusted to carry out the plans and orders of their budding masters.

Hence the present plans of 'bombing' them into submission by using planes.

What the American's and their Allies have learned is that the locals will accept their training and modern weapons and then have joined the IS and used the weapons against American and Allied forces.

This fits in with the reverse of American strategy of permanent and perpetual war, to which the Abbott government has now endorsed.

**AMERICAN SANCTIONS SPLITTING NATO**

Big chunks of the NATO alliance have quietly began to lean towards Moscow and President Putin.

Some of the governments for economic reasons, dependent on Russia for energy as well as export markets. President Obama and his Western allies may be over estimating the degree of support they can count on in applying sanctions on Russia with regard to the Ukrainian problem.

Some countries appear to be hedging their security and ideological bets. They figure its not worth testing Putin's ability to invade their countries or whether NATO led by Obama would really come to their defence.

Hungary, a NATO member whose Prime Minister named Putin's Russia as a political model to be emulated. NATO member Slovakia along with the Czech Republic rejected the deployment of NATO in their countries as similar to a foreign invasion.

Serbia a member of NATO invited Putin to visit Belgrade for a military parade to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the RED Army's liberation of the city.

Poland until recently was leading the NATO effort to support the pro Western government in Ukraine, the new Polish Prime Minister Ewa Kopacz has ordered her foreign minister to urgently revise its foreign policy and to avoid "an isolation of Poland" within Europe by setting "unrealistic goals" in Ukraine.

**WORLD ECONOMY GETTING WEAKER**

One of the tasks confronting the forth coming conference of the G20 nations to be held in Brisbane in the middle of November will be to develop confidence and new ideas to solve the economic crisis..

The world at the present time is in a perilous state with widespread poverty and escalating unemployment.

Among the G20 countries America and Britain are faring the best, both believed to be relying on the use of the "quantitative easing" theory for finance.

The European countries which are tied into the "euro" are endeavouring to solve their growing and intensifying problems by adopting orthodox financial methods of heavier taxes on the people particularly the "working class" while protecting and strengthening the position of the "capitalist" class.

This is also the present idea and method adopted by the Abbott and Hockey government in Australia.

The conditions in some European countries has been worsened by the enforcement of sanctions on trade with Russia because of the Ukraine dispute, without causing much concern to Russia.

It could be that Russia's Putin will bring new ideas to the conference and that this is the real reason why Tony Abbott and Bill Shorten were so anxious to discourage him from attending.

**"EBOLA" THREATENS THE HUMAN RACE**

Ban Ki-moon Secretary General of the United Nations made a special trip to Geneva to meet and thank the Cuban minister of Public Health Roberto Morales for sending a brigade of health workers to Sierra Leone.

The prompt action of the Cuban government in answering the World Health Organisation (WHO) call for help in coping with the Ebola epidemic in West Africa was appreciated by the Secretary General.

Cuba is a small caribbean country of eleven (11) million about half of Australia's population.

Cuba one of the first to send help initially sent 165 employees, of whom 62 were doctors and 103 nurses. Since then a further 300 doctors and nurses have been sent to West Africa.

Following the Cuban example in selflessly answering the WHO call some other countries have now sent help to Africa.

Unfortunately there are still some countries which can afford to send help that are holding back and trying to ignore the danger.

**AUSTRALIA MOURNS DEATH OF GOUGH**

The death of Gough Whitlam at the age of 98 years is mourned by people throughout Australia.

Whitlam was Prime Minister 1972 to 1975 and during that time was able to demonstrate to the people what is possible when the nation's resources are used for the benefit of the people.

Whitlam was not a socialist, but he understood and recognised the dangers that are inherent in a class society, where a dominant class sets out to deliberately deny the producers the benefits of their toil..

VALE, Gough Whitlam, the Australian working Class mourns your death and celebrates your life.



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HOCKEY BUDGET A NATIONAL DISGRACE

The Hockey budget is the most blatant example of a class budget in the history of Australia and is rejected by the Trade Unions, Labor Party and wide sections of the Australian public.

The budget has been framed in such a way as to increase and strengthen the position of the capitalist class by attacking and lowering the living standards of the Australian working people.

Picked out for special attention is that section of the population already in dire circumstances, such as the unemployed, homeless, women and children dependent on social welfare, pensioners and disabled people suffering from a multitude of causes inherent in a capitalist system of society.

When people vote for a government it is expected that the government will attend to and deal with the problems of vital concern to the people and act for the benefit of the nation as a whole.

The Abbott-Hockey government has rejected that proposition and has embarked on a campaign to drastically reduce the living standards of the working class and people and to provide the Australian capitalist class with the benefits of a low wage working class.

To achieve this aim is the core purpose of the Abbott-Hockey budget and it can be and will be defeated by the united action of the Trade Unions and people.

By taking resolute action on the streets, at rallies, including protests at parliament houses and with protest delegations to politicians urging them to act in the interests of the people and Australia.

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CRISIS ALERT FOR UNEMPLOYED YOUTH

Unemployment is the most depressing factor facing a large proportion of the Australian working class and is particularly high among the youth looking for a job, in many cases their first job.

The Abbott government hasn't a clue as to how to handle the position.

New figures reveal that the jobless rate for young people between 15-24 years has risen to 13.1%, this is fostering calls from employers for the Abbott government to support cuts in penalty rates and youth wages.

This fits in perfectly with the thinking of the Employment Minister Eric Abetz, who has came up with the brilliant idea that unemployed people should look for work when it is patently obvious that there are no jobs to be had..

In a capitalist society, in fact in any society it is the function of the government to initiate public works programs that provide the jobs.

There is plenty of scope in Australia for the Federal government to initiate such projects.

With recurring floods in the Eastern states and wide sections of the interior semi-barren through lack of water, now would be a good time for the government to set up a section of Scientists and Engineers with the specific aim of investigating and deciding if it is possible to alleviate and solve these problems.

A construction project of this magnitude would solve the employment problem for years.

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PROTO WAR AGAINST RUSSIA AND CHINA

America and some of its allies are waging a proto war against Russia and China, but there is now a danger that it could back-fire and harm the instigators.

The balance of world power has changed and whilst the United States is still powerful with 1000 bases around the world it no longer has a monopoly of the nuclear weapon and so has lost the power to "bully" countries that don't toe the American line.

Russia and China are nuclear powers and both possess the means of delivery, which has destroyed the American homeland isolation.

America's decision to support the present set-up in Ukraine has led to a reaction in Eastern Ukraine by the people who have the tactic support of Russia which is naturally concerned at the nearness of American supported forces close to its Western border.

France and Germany are lukewarm with regard to America's policy of sanctions against Russia and there are reasons to believe that such sanctions could backfire and leave America holding the "bag".

No matter what President Obama and his Foreign Secretary John Kerry think of Russia's President Vladimir Putin the fact remains that Putin is recognised as a force in World politics

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ABBOTT RETURNS TO A PARTY IN DECLINE

Fresh from his overseas tour in which the Prime Minister Tony Abbott was briefed by Rupert Murdoch, chief of News Limited in New York and President Obama in Washington, only to find on his return that the National/Liberal Coalition is split over the budget and its unfair treatment of the Australian people.

Now as the true nature of the budget is becoming apparent to workers, farmers and small business people, some Coalition members are threatening to cross the floor and vote with the Labor Party in opposing this most obnoxious piece of legislation.

It is apparent that this budget has unified all opposition to the Liberal/National Coalition and the best thing would be for the Abbott government to resign and call a fresh election.

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DISREGUARD FOR BASIC WORKERS RIGHTS

The International Labour Organisation has set out eight basic conventions designed to protect workers rights and working conditions.

Australian workers have every right to believe that unless they are vigilant on all jobs, employers will continually endeavour to erode workers rights as they endeavour to increase profits at the workers expense.

A recent heading in "The Australian" sounds the alarm bells and indicate that there is no depth to which employers will sink in their campaign to intimidate and reduce Australian workers to the level of slaves.

The call is for "workers homes to be seized" where workers take "strike action" in defence of their democratic rights and conditions.

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OBAMA AT THE CROSSROAD - OVER IRAQ

The war in Iraq is causing some fundamental problems for the American President and his advisers.

The war in Iraq is a hangover from the invasion of Iraq in 2003 by President George Bush and Prime Minister Tony Blair.

The outcome was the defeat of Iraq President Saddam Hussein and the beginning of what Hussein predicted would be "the mother of all wars", the world is now witnessing the outcome of this ill advised war.

The reason for the invasion by Bush and Blair was to take control of Iraq oil resources, but in the process they have created a situation in the Middle East which is leading to the unification of the Arab people and the exposure of the Anglo-American dream of seizing Middle East oil resources.

As violence in Iraq escalates, war hawks like US Senators John McCain and Lindsey Graham, along with Washington neoconservatives (**neocons**) and warmongers call on Obama to bomb Iraq and Syria.

A poll released in the US on June 17 shows that 74 per cent of American people are opposed to sending American troops to Iraq.

American organizations of military communities, including Iraq Veterans Against the War, - Veterans for Peace and Military Families speak out.

They get little support from the capitalist media, which prominently displayed the call for war and air strikes from McCain and Graham.

The Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki has lost the confidence of the Iraqi people and is seen as an American stooge, who has granted large areas of Iraq to American oil companies for exploitation.

The Iraqi working class comprising Shiite/Sunni workers are building unity and Secretary Falah Alwan of the **Federation of Workers Councils and Unions in Iraq** has made this statement:

"We reject US intervention and protest President Obama's inappropriate speech in which he expressed concern over oil and not over people".

Despite the splits and the aims of the various sects and factions in Iraq and Syria the Imperial powers should keep out and allow the Arab people to solve their problems.

**ANGLO-FRENCH PARTITION OF M.E. DEAD**

When the Ottoman Empire collapsed at the end of the first world war, Britain and France carved up the Middle East with what became known as the Sykes-Picot agreement.

The Middle East was carved up with no regard to the needs or areas occupied by the people, with the result areas were divided to suit the wishes of the victors.

Since then the entire Middle East has been haunted by the Sykes-Picot agreement, which also allowed Britain to implement Foreign Secretary Balfour's 1917 promise of Britain's support for the creation of a Jewish "homeland" in Palestine.

Perhaps now the Arabs and Israelis realise the profound changes taking place in the Middle East

America's entry into the Middle East has complicated matters and now President Obama finds himself in the hot seat.

The sensible thing for America and the European powers is to prevail on Israel to drop its apartheid ambitions and become citizens of a democratic Palestine.

The position of the Imperial powers in the Middle East is now perilous and to gain access to oil should trade according to normal commercial practice.

**UNITED NATIONS URGES WOMEN TO ACT**

The United Nations has appointed **Phumzile Miambo-Ngcuka**, as the United Nations Women Executive Director and who plans to lift the campaign for women's rights throughout the civilised world.

Twenty years ago women came together in Beijing for the Fourth World Conference on Women, delegates from 189 governments adopted a visionary roadmap for gender equality.

The delegates and activists pictured a world where women and girls had equal rights, freedom and opportunity in every sphere of life.

While much progress has been made in the past two decades, no country can claim to have achieved equality between men and women.

It is time for the world to come together again for women and girls to complete this journey.

The Beijing Declaration laid out critical areas of concern for women and girls, governments and the private sector were urged to act to reduce women and girls poverty, ensure their right to access education and training, safeguard their health, including their sexual and reproductive health, protect women and girls from violence and discrimination.

To also ensure that technological advances benefit all and to promote women to their full and equal participation in society, politics and the economy.

We see this inequality every day with pay inequality and unequal opportunities at work. In all regions of the world and in all countries, women continue to face discrimination because they are female.

Men and boys, who have been silent too long, are beginning to stand up and speak out for the human rights of women and girls through initiatives like the UN Women's campaign.

The call is for all men and boys to join the campaign for equal rights and opportunity for all.

**US VICE PRESIDENT TO STRANGLE RUSSIA**

Joe Biden was in a nasty mood when he visited the Ukraine President Petro Poroshenko and promised to toughen sanctions against Russia which Biden claims are justified because Russia does not use its

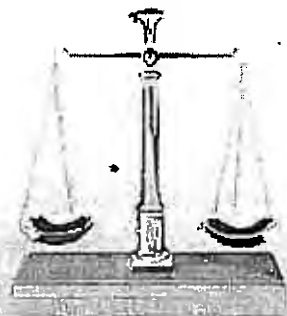
influence to stop the people of East Ukraine in Donetsk and Lugansk protesting against Poroshenko.

If Mr Biden had stayed a bit longer in Kiev he would have had more to whinge about.

The militias of the unrecognised People's Republic of Donetsk took control of the Ukrainian tank base in Artemovsk and now have 221 tanks, 288 armoured vehicles, 12 self-propelled guns, 18 Grad volley fire systems, 183 infantry fighting vehicles and 12 mortars.

Mr Biden is alleging that Russia was supplying the weapons used by the separatists, however, it now turns out that it is the Ukrainian army that is providing the separatists with their weapons.

Petro Poroshenko is a billionaire and is supported by the fascists who seized power in Ukraine.



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LABOR PARTY LOSES POPULAR SUPPORT

The second senate election held in Western Australia confirms the perilous position that Labor under the present leaders has now been reduced too.

Ever since the defeat of Labor in the 1949 elections there has been a steady erosion of support for the Labor Party.



The Labor Party leaders have continually trimmed policy so as to be acceptable to Menzies and Liberal governments and the Australian ruling class.

To-day it is quite common for Trade Unionists and working class people to comment that there is no difference be-

tween the policies and ultimate objective and aims of the Liberal Party and Labor Party.

Both are supportive of the Capitalist system, which is based on the exploitation of the working class for the benefit of the capitalist class.

The big problem confronting the Labor Party is that it is going to the electorate with a policy which is a reaction to policy put forward by the Liberal Party and with no actual Labor Party policy.

Its time the Labor Party modernised, democratised the rules of voting at Party conferences and done away with the card voting system.

Trade Unions could then urge their members to individually join the Party and participate in Branch meetings and formulating Labor Party policy.

Trade Unions could still assist during elections and make financial donations to the Labor Party but with no voting rights.

If there is to be a prosperous future for the Australian people it will only come about by the concerted action of the Australian people changing the structure of the social system.



ELECTORAL SYSTEM FAVOURS THE RICH

There is a widespread belief among sections of the working class that the present electoral system is rigged in favour of the wealthy and powerful.

While nothing about this belief is surprising except perhaps that it is not more widespread, it reveals the depth of cynicism characterising our perceptions of our political electoral system.

People believe that the electoral system is rigged for the benefit of the rich and the capitalist system.

This raises the question as to why workers should pay particular attention to the social history and working class back ground of the candidate or candidates they vote for in elections.

Too many Labor Party candidates are coming from a very narrow select group of either being the relation of a retiring member or have worked on the staff of the retiree or from the Labor Party Right.

Its time the Branches decide who they want to represent them, some one they know and can trust.



BOB CARR LIFTS LID ON JULIA'S CABINET

In a recently published book by Bob Carr, the former Foreign Minister lifts the lid on the manner in which Australia's attitude to important questions was made and what influenced them.

One of the issues that caused considerable discussion was the question of Palestine and the selfish, arrogant opposition adopted by Israel to the establishment of a independent Palestine country.

Israel is a Jewish apartheid state in an Arab country, where the Jews deny the Arab people any rights and frequently confiscate their land and property.

The Palestinians are endeavouring to obtain a non-voting position at the United Nations in order to explain their position.

It appears that Julia Gillard and Bill Shorten have close connections with the Jewish lobby in Australia and at a critical period insisted that Australia abstain on a vote in the United Nations, which could have given Palestine a forum.

Israel's behaviour towards the Arab people is a disgrace to every country and the United Nations.



HOCKEY PREPARES ANTIWORKER BUDGET

Fresh from his visit to the US the Treasurer Joe Hockey has began preparing the Australia working class and people for what will be a savage attack on the Australian people's living standards.

Advocating his social philosophy of "heavy lifting" Hockey intends to attack all sections of the working class and make them suffer, so as to alleviate any problems for the capitalist class.



One of the areas he is eying is the old age pensions received by men and women in the twilight of their lives. For a starter he is advocating that the pension age entitlement be extended to 70 years.

What is really required is a reduction in "hours

of work, a substantial lift in pay rates and an increase in the entitlement to workers pensions".

The basic problem confronting the working people in all capitalist countries is "overproduction", which simply means we are producing more goods than we have the purchasing power to buy commodities and consume.

Hockey's theory of "heavy lifting" does nothing to solve this fundamental and basic need to apply common sense.



US ADOPTS "QUANTITATIVE EASING"

One thing Joe Hockey learnt from his visit to the US is the use being made of "quantitative easing" in meeting the short fall in American Government income. The Americans make up the short fall in cash by issuing measured "new" money to meet expenses.

Its something Australia should adopt until the "good" times promised by Abbott and Hockey return.



LYING IS ENDEMIC OF CAPITALIST SYSTEM

The value of having an Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) has once again been justified by recent events in New South Wales.

Politicians have become so used to misleading and lying to the people, that they now make promises during election campaigns to attract voters and which they have no intention of honouring.

There is a need for every State to set up an ICAC as a safe guard against politicians and people in responsible positions acting illegally and using their positions to bribe people to secure a personal advantage.

The access to the ICAC must be made available to all citizens with "safeguards" for whistle blowers.

**UNEMPLOYED STRUGGLE TO FIND A JOB.**

Its easy for Tony Abbott, Joe Hockey, Bill Shorten and politicians to say when a factory closes and renders its employees jobless, they can get a job somewhere else.

The facts are there are no jobs going, here and there a worker might pick up a job in a service section, but these are also in short supply.

The time has come when politicians of all parties quit claiming that things are improving, and do something to bring it about a position of creating jobs.

It is the function of government to plan projects which utilise the industrial potential of the country, keep the basic industries working and the nations workforce employed in building a better future for the Australian people.

The task now confronting the Australian people cannot be undertaken or solved by "private enterprise" and can only be solved by the combined efforts and energy of political action and the Australian people.

**MYSTERY OF THE LOST MALAYSIAN PLANE**

After 8 weeks of searching it appears that nothing has been found to indicate the where about of the lost Malaysian airplane MH370.

Another mystery surrounds the failure of the United States to offer any assistance to the search.

While France and China have made their satellite records available to assist the search, the US has refused to make known anything it has in this area.

America has a fleet of the most sophisticated satellites called "keyhole" satellites covering the earth's surface and some of these, along with some of the most advanced radar are believed to be controlled from Diego Garcia its island base in the Indian Ocean.

While it is possible that the C.I.A. does not want others to understand their capabilities, but surely the lives of over 200 people are cause for some information, however indirectly to be supplied.

**PRIVATISATION A RAMP FOR CORRUPTION**

Liberal/National Party and Leaders of the Labor Party favour and practice privatisation of vital public assets and the results are different to what they claim.

Privatisation becomes a way for well connected private interests to loot both the public purse and the general welfare. Privatisations, such as those that have occurred in Australia are involved in looting the public assets for the benefit of politically connected private interests.

The privatisation of the "electricity and gas systems" have resulted in great hardship for the working class and have resulted in increased profits for the private companies that now control the sale and distribution of these essential items. And there are other items.

**LABOR RIGHT OUT TO EMBARRASS PARTY**

Ever since Don Farrell failed to secure a safe seat in the State elections, the Right has been looking for some way to embarrass the Labor Party.

They have now found Russell Wortley MLC who has been nominated against John Gazzola, Labor's President of the Legislative Council.

John Gazzola MLC is a stalwart of the Labor Party and is respected by all honest and decent members of the Labor Party and members of parliament.

Russell Wortley is a political chameleon and no one knows where he stands. Originally Wortley claimed to support the Left, then he changed to the Centre-Left, then the Centre-Right and then to the Hard-Left.

That is where the Right picked him up and bundled him into the Legislative Council. Where he expressed his admiration, deep friendship and support for Bernie Finigan, who was a Minister in the Rann Government and a rising star in the Right.

Soon after Finigan resigned as Minister and then dropped out of the Labor Party, now he sits as an independent, a lonely and forlorn figure on the back benches in the Legislative Council.

The time has come when Wortley should give serious consideration to how he is being used..

**UKRAINE A DANGER TO WORLD PEACE**

The illegitimate seizure of government by a gang of fascists in Ukraine in February and their subsequent behaviour constitutes a danger to World peace and the human race.

The danger arises from the actions of Americans like Joe Biden and John Kerry supporting and encouraging this fascist clique of usurpers and then claiming that Ukrainians opposing the usurpers are "terrorists".

The eastern part of Ukraine is the resource rich and industrialised area of Ukraine and is adjutant to Russia. This is the area where the population has taken control of government institutions and are supporting union with Russia.

The people are to all intents and purposes Russian and Russian speaking.

The Russian Government has indicated its support for these people and have mobilised troops and equipment along the border. America has now taken control of Ukraine and is calling the shots.

America is endeavouring to mobilise the countries of its NATO alliance to support its strategy, but is having considerable difficulty in convincing not only the European working class, but also large sections of the European Capitalist class which have lucrative trading relations with Russia.

To add to this delicate and dangerous situation America has moved a number of warships into the Black Sea as a provocation and where any move against Russia could trigger a World War.

Should relations between Russia and America deteriorate to this stage there is no doubt that the war would quickly develop into a nuclear war, which would set the human race back for centuries.

America has to make the decision, is it prepared to sacrifice not only the cities and people of Europe and Russia but also the cities and people of the United States of America, in pursuit of its crazy policy of dominating the world and its resources.



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JAY WEATHERILL LIFTS LABOR CAMPAIGN

The South Australia State elections will be held on Saturday 15 March.

Under the dynamic leadership of the premier Jay Weatherill there is a renewed spirit of activity within the Labor Party membership, the Trade Unions and the "Working Class", which will see Labor over the line with a handsome majority.



A clumsy attempt by the Shop Assistants Union and ill advised members to parachute right-wing senator Don Farrell into the Labor seat of "Napier" was promptly dealt with by Jay Weatherill which added to his prestige and confidence with which he is held throughout the working

class and the people of South Australia.

A member of the AMWU has now been selected to contest the seat of "Napier", he lives in the electorate and is aware of the problems confronting the employee's of Holden's and people of Elizabeth.

Now would be a good time for those Unions which have been influenced by the Shop Assistants Union to admit the error of their judgement and to play their proper role in helping to build a State in which all South Australians can be proud.

This is the stated objective and aim of Jay Weatherill the Premier and Leader of the Labor Party.

To keep building South Australia

To stand up to the Abbott Government

To modernise the economy

To make sure no South Australian is left behind

We can bring this about by putting our shoulders to the wheel and making it a reality.

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DAVOS CONFIRMS WORLD ELITE IS INSANE

A report by Oxfam informs us that "Almost half of the world's wealth is now owned by just one (1) per cent of the population".

At the recent DAVOS gathering in Switzerland and attended by the Prime Minister Tony Abbott no action was taken or recommended to ensure a more equitable distribution of wealth.

As everyone who pays even the slightest realistic attention to the global capitalist economy knows, the capitalists efforts are to maximise their profits, political and economic clout and hence their wealth. At the expense of everyone else on earth.

World capitalism is insane and incredibly violent.

Since returning from DAVOS, Abbott has been silent about its objectives and aims. So we must look to the actions of the Abbott Government for its aims..

In a statement in 2012, the world's richest woman Gina Rinehart called for and advocated that workers in Australia be paid low Asian wages in a national economy when the minimum wage was over \$120 a day.

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CORRUPTION INTEGRAL TO CAPITALISM

One of the features of the Capitalist system is the inbuilt temptation to rot society and act dishonestly by people who find themselves in a position to do so.

It was only a matter of time that some of these "nasties" would find their way into sections of the trade union movement and damage the good name and honest behaviour of the Trade Union movement, and its members.

The Abbott Government, turning a "blind eye" to cases of corruption and fraud concerning crooks among the upper class, has decided to use the trade unions as a means of attacking the "working class" so as to create a climate of misinformation and suspicion in the minds of the population at large.

If there are crooks in the Trade Union movement and Abbott knows who they are it is his duty to inform the Union which could have the Police take action to deal with them.

However, not all forms of "corruption" are opposed by capitalist governments and the circumstances surrounding Bruce Wilson is a case in point.

Wilson and his mentors were able to rely on the protection flowing from the anti Communist campaign which had its genesis from the Menzies period.

By adopting an anti Communist pose, not only Wilson, but generations of AWU officials were protected from the "rank & file" by craftily constructed rules.

Any AWU member who had R&F support would be named as a communist. An appeal to the Court was useless as the "learned judges" always found a way to uphold the anti democratic "union" rules.

Graft and corruption are part and parcel of the capitalist system. If we want to rid society of graft and corruption we have to **change the system.**

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TOYOTA JOINS FORD & HOLDEN IN EXIT

Toyota has decided to join Ford and Holden and cease car manufacturing in Australia by 2017.

Toyota like Ford and General Motors have plants operating in Thailand, China, and South-east Asia where the workers have lower living standards and consequently capitalist "profits" are greater.

The new plants are equipped with technology which ensures maximum profits for these global giants.

Both the Abbott Government and Bill Shorten leader of the Labor Party have been caught out and neither have any idea how to deal with the problem.

Hundreds of thousands of Australian workers will now face a bleak future, they have shown that they have the skills to produce first class cars, but foreign imported cars will now supply the domestic market.

Australia is capable of supporting a car manufacturing industry and has the skilled work force to do so.

If the Coalition and Labor Party are really concerned about "jobs" for Australian workers now is the time to consider "nationalisation" of the industry.

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ABBOTT & CO IN DESPERATE STRAIGHTS

The social and political climate in Australia has deteriorated further since the election of the Abbott coalition Government.

In fairness to both Tony Abbott and Bill Shorten it has to be said that they are dealing with a social system that has become redundant and incapable of handling the social problems of the times.

The capitalist system of society is in its "twilight" and it is impossible to solve humanities problems within this system.

There was a time when Australian working class leaders and Labor Party leaders openly and candidly were critical of the capitalist system and advocated a socialist system of society.

The Labor Party grew out of early discussions and debates within the working class and at one time embraced in its aims the objective of:

"the nationalisation of the means of production, distribution and exchange"

At the Terrigal conference of the Labor Party in 1975 this noble objective and aim was deleted from the Party "rules and constitution" and since then the Labor Party has floundered along upholding and supporting the capitalist system with the same vigour and purpose as do the "conservative coalition parties".

The working class has the right to work with a standard of living in keeping with the historical and industrial developments of the period.

It has been struggle at various times in the past by the working class that has been responsible for the improvements in our living standards and to participate in and enjoy future improvements the working class must be prepared to struggle.

The capitalist class is determined to maintain their privileged position in society by the exploitation of the working class. We must assert our rights.

♦♦♦♦♦

ABBOTT SETS UP A ROYAL COMMISSION

As part of the attack on the Australian Trade Unions and working class the Abbott government has set up a Royal Commission to create the environment from which he will seek to destroy the Australian Trade Union movement.

This Commission is aimed specifically at five (5) unions whose membership, Abbott believes, constitutes the main opposition to his grand plan to destroy the Australian Trade Union movement.

In particular he has singled out the CFMEU for special attention as he senses the leading role of this Union in the struggle to protect and improve the working conditions of Australian workers.

The appointment of former High Court Judge Dyson Heydon, known as a conservative, ensures that the Unions commence behind the eight ball.

Heydon, has been clothed with extraordinary powers and there are no limits as to what and how far back he can investigate in his search for "evidence".

It will be interesting to see if he enquires into the sale of AWU properties at 321 Pitt Street, Sydney and 238 Castlereagh Street Sydney some years ago at bargain prices and the sale of which were surrounded by beliefs of shonky deals and kickbacks.

When a Labor member at the time raised the matter and sought an enquiry, he was promptly told to mind his own business by the NSW Labor Party.

Shortly after he lost his endorsement, and retired from Parliament

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AWU NATIONAL SECRETARY SPEAKS

Australian Workers Union National Secretary Paul Howes addressed the Canberra Press Club on Wednesday 5 February.

Paul went on to express ideas and opinion that have come as a shock to the working class generally and to AWU members in particular.

The essence of the speech was a call for a "grand compact" with the capitalist bosses, which fits in with what Joe Hockey and Eric Abetz have been calling for and to which Paul Howes now adds his lonely voice.

The class structure of capitalist society is not an invention of the working class or trade unions, but arises from the nature of the capitalist system, which is based on "private enterprise" and the exploitation of the working class and society generally.

Paul is entitled to his own opinions, with support for a "grand compact" but there is no record that the AWU membership supports such a position or have endorsed such a position at AWU conferences.

Unionists are entitled to negotiate their pay rates with employers and at various times these rates will be above and sometimes lower than what could be regarded as an average.

Wage rates are unsustainable if you listen to employers, Joe Hockey and Eric Abetz, so there was no need for Paul to add his support to their campaign.

Paul's purpose in questioning the pay rates and their sustainability in some areas is probably cover for another scheme that he may have in mind.

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BAN KI-MOON VISITS COMMUNIST CUBA

Ban Ki-Moon, the Secretary General of the United Nations recently visited the Communist island of Cuba to attend a conference of delegates from South American countries.

During the visit he inspected the Latin American School of Medicine in Havana, after his visit he declared that: **"Cuba has the most advanced medical school in the world"**

Ban Ki-Moon was accompanied Dr Rafael Gonzalez Ponce de Leon the Rector of the Institution and was told.

"Training of medical science and consciousness is the function of the school". "At the time there were 1015 trainees studying in nine degrees and more than 20,000 graduates are at work around the world."

The Secretary General praised Cuba for what he called: **"genius for world health contributions and being at the forefront of South-South cooperation"**

♦♦♦♦♦

PUTIN NAMED No 1 POLITICIAN IN 2013

Russian President Vladimir Putin has become number one politician in the "World Ranking 2013". As many as 175 news agencies and news media took part in the work on ranking

Vladimir Putin received 133 votes out of 175.

The top of the ranking also includes Pope Francis and German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

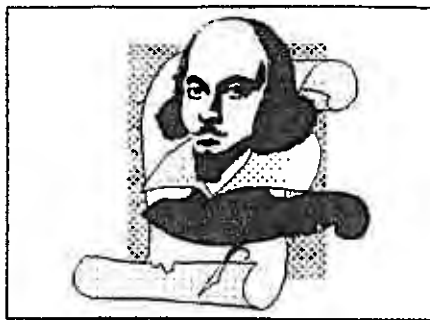
Among the other 53 candidates were U.S. President Barack Obama, Chinese Vice President Xi Jinping and South African Nelson Mandela.

The survey was conducted existing international and regional associations and news agencies.

♦♦♦♦♦

Prepared and issued by
Jim Doyle JP

Life member of The Australian Workers' Union



THE

PLOD

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 1 MARCH 1998

THERE ARE TWO AUSTRALIAS

There is no economic boom. At best its a burp. But as bad as conditions are for the working class, this is the very best that capitalism has to offer. The golden age of capitalism has bought in its wake two Australias.

One Australia lives in wealthy neighbourhoods, drives fancy cars, eat at the finest restaurants, enjoy media notoriety, send their children to private boarding schools and live in swanky mansions.

The other Australia lives from pay day to pay day, if they have a job and from dole pay to dole pay when unemployed. All workers live in constant fear of losing their job or social service payment. The gulf between rich and poor continues to widen and it is obvious that none of the political parties has the slightest idea as to how to create jobs and solve unemployment.

There is every reason for the working class to believe, that under present policies things can only get worse. Many workers have come to the conclusion that capitalism is not a people friendly system and that Howard and Reith are just nasty and vicious hit men for the big corporations and graziers.

Capitalism's frenzied drive for profits over the past fifteen years is not an aberration, it is not capitalism gone amuck or running wild. On the contrary, exploitation of workers and unbridled profit making is what capitalism is all about.

Unlike the beast in Disney's Beauty and the Beast whose beastly body conceals a gentle soul on the inside, capitalism is a beast through and through.

When corporate profits are at stake, this capitalist beast and its mouthpieces in Canberra are as mean spirited as any of the despots at ARCO, RIO TINTO, PATRICKS or NATIONAL FARMERS FEDERATION



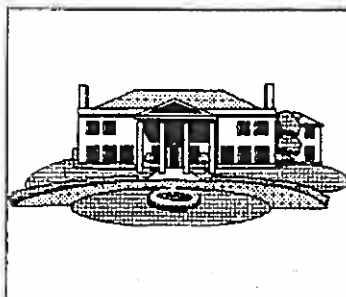
MISSING MONEY STILL NOT ACCOUNTED FOR.

In a 40 page affidavit prepared by Ian Cambridge, in his last days as AWU General Secretary, he makes the claim that the AWU has been ripped off for up to \$750,000. The funds have just vanished.

Since Cambridge left members have heard nothing further and apparently the present officials are not going to do anything to clear up the question as to where the money went and who got it.

This is a matter that should be referred to the Federal Police, with the present officials giving every assistance to the Police to track down the culprits.

Members are entitled to know and to expect that serving officials look after Union property and account for Union funds.



UNEMPLOYMENT - OUR MAJOR SOCIAL PROBLEM.

The Howard Government policy of non-stop privatisation is doing nothing to create jobs and reduce the pool of unemployed workers.

While some regions, cities and states are harder hit than others, the magnitude of the crisis is national in scope.

The latest action to privatise unemployment, by closing down the CES and awarding its function to private firms, will not and cannot create one extra job.

What is required is a massive 'public works program'. Such a public works program will do more towards solving unemployment, than the present hare-brained schemes hatched up by Howard and his cohorts.

The unemployment crisis calls for immediate action by the Trade Unions and working class to get such a program under way. We need to become enraged at this treatment of our class. We must become as mad as hell and demand action.

Working class politicians need to be encouraged to support in both Federal and State Parliaments 'public works programs' with a 30 hour week on Union award rates. Such a policy, put into operation, will provide jobs and give a boost to the ailing economy.

Failure to support and vigorously campaign for such a policy is unlikely to win them votes in future parliamentary elections.



BHP TALL POPPY PULLS THE PIN.

Under intense pressure from the big investors in BHP and unable to satisfy their greed for more and bigger profits, CEO John Prescott has pulled the pin and resigned.

Prescott is an avid supporter of the capitalist system, but is powerless to do anything about the inbuilt instability of the system.

In the quest for maximum profits, BHP has sacked thousands of workers here in Australia. To add to Prescott's woes was a number of questionable investments overseas.

Workers still in the employ of BHP should gird their limbs and prepare for further down-sizing of the work force as the BHP seeks to satisfy the insatiable appetite for profit of their masters.



HOWARD STARVES HOSPITALS FOR FUNDS

The walk out by the State Premiers from the Premiers Conference, over funds for hospitals high lights the anti people policies of the Howard Government.

No matter how a worker or any person usually votes, in the coming Howard initiated election, there must be one guiding principle and that is put the:

LIBERAL-NATIONAL PARTY CANDIDATES LAST



REITH PROVOKES STRIFE ON THE WATERFRONT

Peter Reith, Minister for Workplace Relations in the Howard Government is hell bent to cause a major dispute on the Waterfront. No matter what the Maritime Union members do Reith jumps up and down and raves on.

One of his pet criticisms of the waterside workers is that they are earning too much. MUA members are paid according to their award rates of pay. Because they are frequently required to work extended hours their earnings reflect the extra time.

At present the MUA is involved in negotiation with Patricks for a workplace agreement. Because Patricks refuse to enter into meaningful discussions, the MUA members decided to work no overtime at Patricks Botany Bay container terminal.

Peter Reith advised Chris Corrigan, the Patrick Supremo, not to pay the workers for the normal time worked. Naturally this has upset the wharfies, who have now stopped work to reassess their position as they are legally entitled to do and to try and get the negotiations for the new agreement back on track.

Corrigan is now squealing like a stuck pig and says the MUA is out to bankrupt his company. If Corrigan continues to look to Peter Reith for advice as to how to run his company, it is Peter Reith he can blame for his bankruptcy.

Reith is using Corrigan and Patricks as part of his plan to provoke the wharfies into taking some illegal action, which would enable Reith and Corrigan to seek to de-register the Union and flood the waterfront with "scabs".

The MUA members are not falling for this provocation and it is for this reason that Reith continues to jump up and down and make all sorts of wild and irresponsible claims about the MUA.

Reith knows that for his grand strategy of destroying the organised Trade Union movement to succeed he must destroy the Maritime Union of Australia.

SUPPORT THE MARITIME UNION DEFEND WORKERS RIGHT TO ORGANISE



WORKERS ROBBED OF THEIR ENTITLEMENTS

Over the past three months more than 800 workers have lost \$20 million in entitlements through the insolvency of their employers. Banks and other creditors rates ahead of workers in the carve up of what's available for pay out.

Here's a list of jobs, workers involved and lost entitlements.

Cobar Mines million	270 workers	\$9.5
Grafton Abattoirs million	250 "	\$3.0
Rockhampton & Yeppoon		
Nursing Homes million	157 "	\$1.4
Woodlawn Mine million	153 "	\$6.0

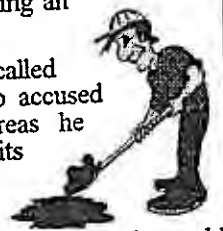


COUNCIL WORKERS GET AGREEMENT

After 13 months of frustrating negotiating employees of the Adelaide City Council have succeeded in gaining an agreement with the Council.

These Council workers came in for some uncalled for criticism from an "Advertiser" scribe who accused the workers as being "irresponsible", whereas he claimed the Council had been "tardy" in its negotiations.

Instead of seeking to denigrate the workers because they took action to bring negotiations to a head, it would have been fairer if the scribe had put the blame for the problem of the week end, where it belonged, with the **ADELAIDE CITY COUNCIL**.



UN SURVEY TEAM FINDS NO WEAPONS

A United Nations survey team sent to the Persian Gulf following the deal brokered by Kofi Annan has so far found no sign of weapons in the palaces which provoked the recent crisis.

These palaces were claimed by the Americans to cover 110 square miles. The UN inspectors have reported that they actually cover about 30 square miles.

The palaces have been searched "from basement to attic". All that has been found are guard towers, official reception buildings, service sections and VIP accommodation.

As Iraq's Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz said after announcing the deal with Kofi Annan, "There is no crisis between Iraq and the UN...the crisis was with America, which is trying to impose its will on the the United Nations".



HOWARD RENEGES ON TELSTRA UNDERTAKING

The Howard Government decision to privatise the remaining two thirds of Telstra is indicative of the contempt with which the Howard Government now treats the Australian people.

Thousands of Telstra workers will lose their jobs and join the dole queues. Paid local calls will become a reality and the cost of telephone services in the country will be prohibitive as cross subsidisation is abandoned. Private interests are concerned with profit not with providing a service to the Australian people.

Only a small proportion of the Australian people will become shareholders, if Telstra is privatised. Those who do not take out shares will be robbed of Telstra, which is a public asset.

No faith can be put in Howard's claim that foreign ownership will be restricted to 35 per cent. The Howard Government is negotiating the Mutual Agreement on Investment with OECD members. This agreement will eliminate all restrictions on foreign investment in Australia.

Howard's undertaking of a 35 percent restriction on foreign investment would be over ridden by the MAI agreement.

Howard's undertaking in this regard is a sham and his promise is a lie.

Telstra provides \$2.4 billion per year in taxes and dividends to the Government, which helps to fund the public spending on hospitals, education, transport etc.

Privatisation means that these profits will go to banks, financial institutions and private individuals who hold shares.

SAY NO TO PRIVATISING TELSTRA PUT LIBERAL-NATIONAL PARTY CANDIDATES LAST

Prepared by: Jim Doyle, AWU Life Member

THE PLOD

Volume 3 Issue 4 July 2000

RADICALISATION OF THE WORKING CLASS

The social reality of capitalism in Australia, as is the case in other countries, is that the working class is becoming increasingly more radical and politically aware.

This is other side of the drive for greater profits and is the the reaction of the workers and people who are victimised by it.

The class struggle is intensifying. Workers are winning battles in every arena of struggle.

Globalisation, as administered by the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the Transnational Corporations has led to a tremendous leap forward in the class consciousness and radicalisation of the working class in all countries.

These changes have opened up a whole new realm of possibility for advanced political and social ideas to be considered by the working class and people. Ideas such as a shorter working week, nationalisation of basic industries, universal health and hospital facilities and a fully funded public educational system.

To this list of ideas must be added the idea of class conscious members of the working class taking on the reigns of political power as a class.

In this context, there must also be the beginnings of demands for fundamental changes of the social system itself. Both the objective crisis in capitalism and the new radicalisation process of the working class and people in Australia opens the debate for a socialist Australia.

There is nothing conspiratorial or unpatriotic about challenging the capitalist economic system. In fact, in the light of the conditions prevailing in Australia to-day, with unacceptably high unemployment, health service and hospitals in crisis and an educational system starved for funds it is the duty of every honest decent minded Australian to do so.



FOR A SHORTER WORKING WEEK NOW!

During the past decade of global restructuring the rich have got richer, middle incomes have generally stagnated and the poor got poorer, very much poorer.

Trade Union's won the 40 hour week over 50 years ago and the 38 hour week in 1981. Over that period, as a result of new technology, productivity has increased by 40 to 50 per cent. But it has not led to a corresponding increase in the living standards of the working class.

It is the strategy of the global capitalist economies to intimidate and crush any semblence of organised bargaining rights by workers for a greater share of the wealth that workers are creating.

Here in Australia this campaign against the working class is being orchestrated and led by the Howard Government and Peter Reith, the Minister for Workplace Relations.

Reduced working hours will create more jobs for the unemployed and create more leisure time for full time workers.

Shorter hours cut into the profits of the capitalist class by limiting their exploitation of the working class.

French workers now have a 35 hour week and an inspectorate has been set up to enforce a maximum overtime to 4 hours.

Italian workers have had a shorter working week legislated, to take effect from beginning of 2001.

Greek construction workers have a 35 hour week. Victorian construction workers have won a 36 hour week.

Only by organised struggle will we win a universal shorter working week in Australia.



HAVE YOU BEEN IMMUNISED AGAINST GST?



FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE NATIONAL IMMUNISATION CAMPAIGN, CONTACT PETER REITH....

POLITICIANS COMPENSATED FOR GST IMPACT

Peter Reith, the Minister for Industrial Relations and the rest of the Federal politicians have been immunised against the GST virus by giving themselves a 30% pay increase as from 1st July.

Unfortunately the same cannot be said for workers, who will be required to make up the short fall in revenue, as a result of the huge tax concessions for the wealthy and corporations.

From 1st July workers are to be hit with the the "whole box and dice" and will find that their disposal income will be "disposed of" much quicker than previously.

Both Kym Beazley and Simon Crean have been scathing in their condemnation of the GST and the effect it will have on the living standards of ordinary Australian workers.

One of the first tasks confronting the Labor Government when elected must be the repeal of the GST (Goods and Services Tax) and its replacement with an equitable and fair tax system.

What the Howard - Reith - Costello, Liberal Government can legislate for, "LABOR CAN LEGISLATE TO REPEAL"



UNEMPLOYED WORKERS OF THE WORLD

Thirty per cent of the world's labour force is either out of work or underemployed and a global crisis is gripping both rich and poor nations, according to the United Nation's agency, the International Labour Organisation.

"It's a crisis that in some countries could really explode and undermine the social fabric very badly", said the ILO chief of staff Ali Taqi in 1994.

At the time the Geneva based ILO estimated that more than 820 million people worldwide were either unemployed or working at a job that did not pay a subsistence wage.

The world wide crisis of capitalism has worsened since then and the number of unemployed has risen. For instance 116,000 workers lost their jobs in America in May this year.

The important lesson for workers is to unite and led by the most progressive sectors of the working class to change these conditions for the better by challenging the oppressive and exploitative capitalist system.

The fight for jobs and a greater share of the wealth which workers create will be won just as soon as workers realise that capitalism is not as invincible as its ideologues try to tell us.



WORKING CLASS IDEOLOGY

Working class ideology, is a system of thought which gives workers a unique way of looking at everything in life. The role of the working class and the class struggle is the very foundation stone of working class ideology.

Working class ideology is a long term unifier. It is a unifier of the class struggle of workers and the nationally oppressed. It brings together the different arenas of struggle.

Ideology is one of the three main forms of the class struggle. The other two are politics and economics. In general, ideology serves as a framework, an overall backdrop. In a sense, it becomes a political and ideological reflex that is often expressed unconsciously.

A mastery of working class ideology gives workers a unique way of looking at all phenomena in life. It molds our attitudes about everything. It even becomes part of our personal character. It determines our morality, our ethics and our culture.

Culture is a country's literature, music, song and dance, art, humour, poetry, drama, film, mass media, sports and so on. The culture of Australia is a blending of many cultures. Ideology is inherent in every area of culture.

In our Australian class society there are two distinct cultures. Working-class culture and the dominant, ruling class culture. Capitalist ideology monopolises most cultural outlets.

It works to stifle working-class song, dance, literature, poetry and so on. Capitalist class culture in all its forms works to advocate and perpetuate the bourgeois way of life.

However, working-class culture, with its rich history, creativity and diversity is breaking through, despite the efforts of the Liberal-National Coalition Government and the mass media of Kerry Packer and Rupert Murdoch to block out or consistently misreport any achievements of the working class.

Marxist working-class ideology is a rounded-out single harmonious whole, a system of thought that permeates all aspects of life. It is a science for social change.

**HIGH COURT RULES AGAINST TRADE UNION**

In a split decision of four to three (4 to 3) the full bench of the High Court has decided it is OK for the government of the day to legislate to restrict and or remove Award working conditions and provisions.

This decision was made as a result of an appeal to the High Court by the Construction Forestry Mining and Energy Union (CFMEU) challenging the constitutional legality of the Howard Government's award stripping provisions of the Workplace Relations Act.

What this decision means is that the government of the day can now decide which working conditions and provisions can prevail and the Australian Industrial Relations Commission will be obliged to strip these non-allowable provisions from an award.

The aim of the Howard Government is to bring about a situation for the Trade Union movement and workers similar to that which prevailed in Nazi Germany from 1933 to 1945.

It is not only the CFMEU that is threatened by this decision, but every Trade Union must now consider where it stands in relation to the Workplace Relations Act and the working conditions of its members.

Trade Union leaders and class conscious workers should take note of the reported comment of Justice Kirby, one of the justices who found the award stripping laws in breach of the Constitution.

"This decision involves a radical enlargement of the Federal legislative power under the Constitution. That enlargement will not go unnoticed", said Justice Kirby.

Whilst Unions will take whatever action is at present possible to preserve working conditions and provisions for their members the spin off from this decision for a future Labor Government could be interesting.

With Australia racked by unemployment, it is now perfectly in order for a government to legislate for a thirty (30) hour week and instruct the Australian Industrial Relations Commission to adjust all awards accordingly.

**AUSTRALIAN PEOPLE SUPPORT ABORIGINAL TREATY**

Massive marches by Australians in support of a "Treaty" with the aboriginal people has exposed how far out of touch with the ordinary Australian thinking is John Howard and his government.

If Howard and his cohorts haven't a conscious about the way the aboriginal people have been treated, then they must live in a vacuum. But ordinary Australians have and believe now is the time to firmly tread the road of "reconciliation".

A "treaty" will eventually be made with the aboriginal people and the injustices of the past 200 years recognised with an honest and sincere effort to make amends.

No one, least of all the aboriginal people, believe that the present generation of Australians are responsible for the past injustices.

As Prime Minister, John Howard should throw off his fear of saying we are "sorry" and commence the necessary steps to bring about the "reconciliation" and "treaty" with the aboriginal people.

**OIL COMPANIES HAVING A BONANZA**

Oil companies world wide are increasing their profits, without any regard as to what damage they do to the economies of any country.

John Howard and his government is now being made to eat their claim that the Goods and Services Tax (GST) would not increase the price of petrol.

Oil companies are a law unto themselves and they manipulate the price of their products according to maintaining their rate of profit.

It costs \$3.00 a barrel to produce the crude, but the market price set by the oil companies is based on Mexican Gulf ports.

If the Howard government was sincere about the oil companies flouting his GST, he would be leading a campaign for the cessation of the Anglo-American bombing of Iraqi oil installations, and the lifting of sanctions against Iraq.

Until Iraqi oil is freely allowed back on the world market, the oil companies will continue to manipulate the price of crude and Australia along with other countries will pay the oil companies price.

**MACHINE FACTION DESTROYING LABOR UNITY**

The Machine faction is destroying the unity of the South Australian Branch of the Labor Party. If it is allowed to continue unchecked it could lead to the defeat of the Party in the next state elections.

A few months ago the Labor Party, under the leadership of Mike Rann looked certain to win the next state election, but, now as a result of the mischievous behaviour of the Machine faction that is by no means certain.

No Party member objects to a non-performer being dumped and replaced in the best interests of the Party. But that was not the motivation of the Machine in dumping Ralph Clarke for the electorate of Enfield and Murray De Laine for Cheltenham.

Clarke and De Laine are two of the hardest working members in the present Parliament and their expertise and experience will be required in a future Rann Labor government.

In dumping Clarke and De Laine the Machine has been motivated by the very meanest of instincts and a desire to place their "mates" in seats made safe by the dedication of Ralph Clarke and Murray De Laine to the Party.

It will be a test of the concern for the Party, by the Machine candidates if they continue to offer for these seats in view of the wide spread controversy within the Party they are causing.



Prepared and issued by

Jim Doyle JP

Life member of The Australian Workers' Union

THE PLOD

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STEALTHY KILLER THAT IS CAPITALISM

The process is gradual, insidious, lethal. It starts with unemployment and financial stress in various forms, and then, according to growing evidence, leads to health problems and shorter lives.

Financial stress is brought upon us by the "profit motive of capitalism", which offers little motive to feed hungry children, to treat the sick, to secure us in retirement, to provide job opportunities for each and every able bodied man and woman.

Some of the steps in the process are becoming more and more familiar to us all.

Although we are fast approaching ecological collapse, the means to derail this collapse are in the making in the world around us, where we are also witnessing a global democratic awakening.

The mass demonstrations in Tahir Square to Zuccotti Park, from Athens to Istanbul to Rome, Paris, Berlin and London.

To be sure, like the "Occupy Wall Street" demonstrations in America these movements are still inchoate, are still mainly protesting what's wrong, rather than fighting for an "alternate social system".

Like the "Occupy Wall Street" demonstrations they all have to robustly answer the crucial question. "Don't like capitalism"? "what's your alternative"?

The working class, Trade Unions and people generally are working on it, they are for the most part instinctively and radically democratic and in this lies our hope for the future.



ABBOTT AND CO OFF TO A BAD START

The Abbott Government has got off to a murky start in its campaign to boost friendship and good relations with Indonesia.

Intelligence wonks of the Defence Signals Directorate in the Australian Embassy in Jakarta have been intercepting and reporting on various aspects of Indonesian activities, including intimate conversations between the Indonesian President and his wife.

These activities have upset the Indonesians, who now question Abbott's sincerity of friendship and have requested an apology and an assurance that such activity will cease. Prime Minister Abbott refuses to apologise and claims he does not comment on matters concerning the Intelligence Wonks.

On a trip to China, Julia Bishop, the Australian Foreign Affairs Minister, was bluntly told to "mind her own business", when she attempted to raise the matter of China declaring an area of the South China Sea, adjacent to China as an "Air Defence Identification Zone".

Now, closer to home we find that these "wonks" have been busy making things hard and difficult for the people of Timor.

The people of this former Portuguese colony situated on an Indonesian island has looked to Australia for political assistance and material help, but now it seems that Australia capitalism has been playing a double game of sacrificing Timor sovereign rights for Australia's capitalist gain.



GOVERNMENT BY BIG BUSINESS

A new treaty being negotiated in secret between the US and the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPPA) is a free trade agreement being negotiated by Australia, the US, New Zealand, Canada, Mexico, Peru, Chile, Singapore, Brunei, Malaysia and Vietnam.

It has been specifically engineered to give the global corporations and companies what they want by dismantling of social, consumer and environmental protection and to compensate companies for any infringement of their assumed rights.

If approved foreign companies could sue governments directly for cash compensation over earnings lost because of strict labour, environmental or even in attempting to control or restrict the dangers to health arising from the tobacco or any other industries.

The negotiations are still in progress and the provisions favouring the big global corporations are being fiercely promoted by the United States.

For instance the US tobacco giant Phillip Morris has launched a case against Australia over its anti-smoking legislation and the American pharmaceutical companies are anxious to increase the prices of medical products provided under the Australian pharmaceutical benefit scheme.

The time has come for the Australian people to demand a "FAIR DEAL" or "No Deal in the TPPA!"



CONFUSION IN THE RANKS OF THE UNIONS

There is confusion with some Leaders of the Trade Union movement and Labor Party as to how to explain to their membership the cause and problems arising within the capitalist society in which we live.

The decision by General Motors in Detroit to close down its Holden manufacturing facilities in Australia is in accord with capitalist economics, its no longer profitable and workers welfare doesn't count.

Joe Hockey and Bill Shorten can put on their political theatricals in parliament and jump up and down as much as they like but it will have no effect on the General Motors bosses in America whose interest is in maximum profit.

Australia needs to have a functioning motor industry and it should be owned and controlled by the Australian people. Private enterprise is no longer able to meet the requirements of the Australian people.

The steel and aluminium industries are heading in the same direction and if they are to survive need to be nationalized and function in the peoples interest.

What Joe Hockey and Bill Shorten should occupy themselves doing is devising "projects" of national importance to employ men and women in useful employment.

Private enterprise can not handle the problems now confronting the people of the world and Australia will need to change, if it is to meet the challenge.

Union officials who seek to gain "brownie" points by supporting "privatisation" and talk about slaying "sacred cows" are letting the Trade Unions and the working class down. The time has come to recognise that "capitalism is in its twilight and will be replaced by a superior system.



ITALIAN WORKERS, FARMERS IN ACTION

Something that Australia journalists and media have missed reporting on is the mass demonstrations by workers and working farmers taking place in Italy.

Led by the "pitchfork" movement there have been huge demonstrations in Rome, Turin and Venice, which is shaking the Italian establishment and is causing alarm through out European ruling circles.

"There are millions of us and we are growing by the hour," said Danilo Calvani, a farmer and a leader of the protest. "This government has to go".

"These protests show Italy's massive crisis of political representation" said Duncan McDonnell a political scientist at the European University Institute in Florence.

The protests have gained the support of other Italian opposition groups, including the anti establishment 5-Star Movement whose leader Beppe Grillo in an open letter to leaders of the security forces to "no longer give protection to this political class that has brought Italy to its knees" and instead join their Italian brethren.

In Turin protesters and police clashed in the central square, than after the clash protesters called on the police to remove their helmets, which some did.

Thereby adding fuel to Grillo's and others call for national solidarity with the demonstrations.

Italy's public resources, social services, health services, education and law and order, is in a mess. The economy is collapsing.

"Where have we heard that criticism before?"

**CAMBRIDGE GETS HIS ROYAL COMMISSION**

Ever since the introduction of the Arbitration System in 1907, The Australian Workers Union has been beset by internal disputes and malfeasance which has resulted in a hiatus between its militant class conscious members and the officials.

The rules of the AWU were originally, fair and democratic, however, by a system of craftily added riders the cliques of officials were able to gain control and ensure that they were not challenged by members who have support among the "rank and file" members.

When a "rule" opposing "communists" was inserted any opposition to the "official clique" was doomed. Any and every well known militant in the Union who was considered a threat to the officials was branded a "communist".

It was of no use appealing to the Court where the Judges would interpret the "rules" to uphold the official position preventing the members appearing on the ballot. This is when the slick opportunistic elements within the Union came into their own. By being opposed to the "militants" and supporting anti communists they curried favour with the officials.

This is how people like Bruce Wilson and others of his ilk where able to wheedle their way into the Union and set up schemes for their personal advantage.

Other people came into the Union whose only qualification for a paid position was that they were anti communist.

It was a situation that was exploited to the limit and officials who were able to get into parliament were then by manipulation also able to get their relations, friends and best mates into parliament.

It will be interesting to see how the "rules" for the conduct of the Royal Commission will be framed and AWU members will be interested to learn what caused Mr Cambridge to change his original position calling for a Royal Commission in 1996 and then accepting a position as an Industrial Commissioner.

**SUPPORT FOR LABOR PARTY COLLAPSING**

There once was a time when the Labor Party could rely on the working class and the Trade Union members for active and militant support in State and Federal elections.

The collapse of the Labor vote in Queensland and the recent rejection of Labor in the Federal arena is a cause of deep concern to the "working class, small business and working farmers".

The basic problem facing the Australian people is the nature of the capitalist system in which we live.

Capitalism has solved the matter of "production", and has now saturated the market with "commodities" but the people are unable to purchase and use the "goods" they have produced.

The position is made worse by industry laying off workers and governments (both Labor and Coalition) following suite.

If Labor is to regain the confidence of the working class it has to develop policies that are of benefit for and improve the position of the working class.

Labor should be advocating and preparing to take control of the "banking system", and the establishment of a "Bank" to provide finance to "working families" at 1% or 2% interest especially for new home construction.

Labor needs to develop and promote schemes and projects to make use of the "steel, aluminium" and other industrial products, instead of meekly gulling the Australian people into accepting the rule of the dominant capitalist class which is bankrupt and a failure.

**LOUISIANA'S PROFITABLE PRISONS**

Long jail sentences for trivial offences enrich local sheriffs' and police departments in the state of Louisiana—and keep the local economy going.

In Louisiana writing a cheque that bounces carries a sentence of up to 10 years in prison and the minimum sentence for a repeat burglary offender is 24 years without parole.

There are 44,000 people behind bars in Louisiana—one in 86 adults. This is double the American average and 13 times more than in China.

Incarceration creates jobs, sheriffs in rural areas build and run their own prisons. The state pays the sheriffs \$24.39 per inmate per day to cover detention costs.

Rural areas are suffering because of the cotton crisis and long prison terms and private prisons are seen as one way of easing unemployment.

**ISRAEL-SAUDI ARABIA CALL FOR WAR**

The Israeli Netanyahu and Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister have been working on President Obama to bomb Iran. Netanyahu is obsessed with wanting a war with Iran and has found a soul mate in Sauda Arabia.

The Geneva accord represents a triumph for US, Russian, Britain, France, China and Germany along with Iran and is a defeat for the war plans of Israel and Saudi Arabia.

Netanyahu is the most dangerous person in the world and as Prime Minister of Israel is determined to set off a world war in the Middle East. It is time the people of Israel put a stop to his warmongering.



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LABOR PARTY IN IDEOLOGICAL CRISIS

The Labor Party is in danger of becoming irrelevant to the struggles and problems confronting the working class, unless there is a change in attitude and attention paid to the living standards and social needs of the people by the party leadership at all levels.

As a result of a voting method derived by a former leader of the Party, Bill Shorten has been elected to lead the Federal Labor Party in opposition.

If the Labor Party is to regain its previous pre-eminent position with its support and thinking in the psyche of the Australian people, then the Labor opposition has to develop a policy that takes into consideration the "class" nature of Australian capitalist society.

By its nature "capitalism" creates a society of classes in which production for "profit" is the prime motive. This leads to a position where sections of the working class and community are denied the "right" to work and provide for the sustainability of themselves and their families.

If the "capitalist" class and private enterprise are not able to provide the working class with a "standard of living" and "care" commensurate with the industrial development of the time, then there is an onus on Bill Shorten and his assistants to explain why it is so.



It was once the objective and aim of the Labor Party to advocate and support a policy of "nationalization" of national undertakings that are essential for the well being of the community.

The Labor Party must return to advocating and

supporting the "nationalization" of the banking system, the "steel industry" and the production of "electricity and gas" if it is to regain its previous position as leader of the 'working class'.

We are now living in the twilight of the capitalist system and just as the slave-owners in ancient times fought to retain their system, so too does the capitalist class and their agents fight to retain "capitalism".

This is why the politicising of the Trade Unions is so important and why the Abbott Government is so savagely opposed to Trade Union organization.



LABOR PARTY MUST CLEAN-UP RULES.

The Labor Party must clean-up its rules and revert to the policy of "one vote" per member whether a "member of parliament" or a "rank and file" member.

The present set up is a schnozzle where we have the position where one candidate secured the majority vote and the candidate with the lesser vote is now the Labor Party Parliamentary Leader in Canberra..

The Parliamentary Leader ought to be elected by the parliamentary members and matters of policy decided by the democratic vote of Party members on the basis of one vote per member whether a politician or rank and file member.. No wonder there are already signs of division among the politicians.



WEALTH DISTRIBUTION FAVOURS RICH

Australian history is full of examples where we have elected political parties with the objective of redistributing wealth and end up redistributing poverty.

Ironically since the end of the Second World War the share of wealth of the working class has decreased in proportion to the wealth created and the wealth of the rich has increased exponentially.



One of the features of Australian capitalist society is to differentiate between sections of the working class, the section that qualifies for and have the higher waged jobs, is now referred to as the middle class, while the great mass of workers that do the essential menial jobs and provide the tangible goods and services are the workers.

In the on going campaign by the capitalists to increase profits the middle class section is now coming under pressure by loss of jobs and down grading.

This puts added pressure on the lower paid workers, whose living standards are being further eroded and who form the vast army of the unemployed.

The Australian working class has no future under the capitalist system and need to reactivate and work for the original "objective and aims" of the working class which is to change the present system and institute a system for the benefit of the whole of society.



IS AMERICA'S PACIFIC POLICY DOOMED?

The failure of Barack Obama to front at the recent Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation conference in Bali was a lost opportunity for Tony Abbott to make his appearance on the world stage.

Under the circumstances Abbott took a back seat and barely got a mention in the making of any decisions.

The American President was held up in Washington by the Tea Party faction in the Republican Party, and in these circumstances the Chinese President Xi Jinping was the unchallenged heavyweight among the Asian leaders.

After the conference Xi Jinping addressed the Indonesia Parliament, the world's largest Muslim majority nation and then announced a slew of trade deals worth more than \$30 billion.

There seems to be a lot of anxiety in Asia that because of America's involvement in the turmoil in the Middle East, its Pacific Pivot policy is becoming an impediment and is losing its importance.

Countries in Asia and the Middle East have become concerned about American policy in recent times and have noticed that anywhere America gains influence its not long before the country is in turmoil.

Maybe the American President should pay attention to American affairs, before advising others.



ABBOTT WILL PUT BIG BUSINESS FIRST.

The election of the Abbott coalition government of the Liberal/National Party is bad news for the working class.

Under the previous Labor Government "rotting" of working conditions was wide spread and bad enough, but now under Abbott & Co workers can expect to be screwed even more so, as the employers seek increased profits..

Employers will make greater use of 457 provisions, which is a two-edged sword, under which employers import and exploit workers at all levels and stages of their engagement. and employment.

Only the organised Trade Union movement can alleviate and stop this unscrupulous behaviour by employers.

The 457 provisions and the Australian Building Construction Commission (ABCC) is a threat and danger to each and every unionist and Union in Australia and can be defeated by a united Trade Union campaign..

Now is not the time for individual unions or officials to raise the "white flag" and talk about slaying "sacred cows" which have been part of "working class" policy and struggle since 1854.

**TERRORISTS TAKE A POUNDING IN SYRIA**

The western-backed "terrorists groups" in Syria are being soundly defeated and eliminated by the Syrian Army, which is loyal to the sovereign government of President Bashar al-Assad.

Encouraged by the United Kingdom, France and the United States of America the terrorists have caused immense damage and suffering to the Syrian people.

The terrorists who are being clandestinely supplied and supported by the Western Imperialist powers and financed by the Gulf Emirates and Saudi Arabia.

The apartheid state of Israel under the leadership of Benjamin Netanyahu, is pressuring the US President Barack Obama to carry out the bombing of Syria and to approve and support Israel in bombing Iran.

Netanyahu is the most dangerous individual in the Middle East and is hell-bent on setting the area at war.

Now due to the statesmanship and proposals of the Russian President Vladimir Putin the danger of a war in the Middle East has been eased, much to the chagrin of Netanyahu and the American war-monger Senator John McCain, the Gulf Emirates and Saudi Arabia.

The people of Europe involved in NATO along with the people of America, Asia and Australia have welcomed the initiative of Vladimir Putin in holding the "dogs of war" at bay for the present..

The world is watching and hopeful of a successful outcome of the conference involving Syria scheduled to be held in Geneva sometime in November..

**POLITICIANS ABUSE ENTITLEMENTS**

Politicians of both major parties in Federal Parliament seem to think that they have an open slather at claiming for anything that they care to indulge.

One of the favourites is to claim for attending a wedding or funeral and when found out claiming it was an office workers error and then return the "benefit".

Probably one of the most original was the claim by the Liberal member for the West Australian seat of Canning. He took off for Cairns in Queensland to buy a property and claimed it was electoral business, when found out he repaid the \$5000.

The wonder is "how many have got away with these "bodgie" claims.

**GOVERNMENTS MUST CREATE WORK**

One of the features of the present world social situation is the widespread and growing problem of "creating jobs" and employing people..

This is resulting in large sections of the population in countries where "capitalism" is supreme as the social system, of people living in poverty, homelessness and dying through lack of proper medical aid and attention.

There is a moral obligation on the government of each and every country to provide useful, necessary and responsible employment for each and every able bodied man and woman in the community, along with a complete and comprehensive system of education for the children.

Despite the fact that in all countries there are a multitude of "projects" that should be proceeded with, the hold-up in "capitalist" society is the belief that no "work creating" project can be proceeded with unless a small group of rich non-workers gain a profit.



Karl Marx

The time has come when "working class" leaders at all levels should study and explore the social proposals put forward in the political writings of Karl Marx, who dealt with the problems of "capitalism" and its failure to meet the requirements of a developing civilization.

Because the "capitalist class" and their agents are carrying on a consistent and violent campaign opposed to Marxism does not mean that working class leaders and spokesmen should be influenced by them..

The "working class" and Leaders should avail themselves to new ideas and political knowledge from any and every quarter including Marxism and then act along with those ideas that are in the best interests of the "working class"

**HOCKEY ENDORSES SWAN'S POLICY**

Fresh from his trip to Washington, where he was briefed on the latest economic expectations and developments by G20, IMF and American experts, Joe Hockey, returned to Australia with the same advice and instructions that Wayne Swan had before him.

One of the coalition Treasurer's first acts was to declare a lift in Australia's debt ceiling to \$500 billion dollars and to advance \$9 billion dollars to the Reserve Bank as a precaution against any further appreciation in the value of the American dollar.

Hockey's next act was to set-up what has been termed a "Commonwealth Audit" chaired by Tony Sheppard, the boss of the Business Council of Australia.

For some time now Tony Sheppard has been calling for action to increase the "profits" of business, which means that he is determined to increase the "profits" of business by cutting back on "public health and hospital services, public schools, public transport systems and public housing" which will result in a lessening of the "working class" share of the "Gross Domestic Product" (GDP)

This is in complete accord with the Coalition policies of Tony Abbott and Joe Hockey.



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THE ECONOMY MAIN ISSUE IN ELECTION

The state of the economy has emerged as the issue of prime concern confronting the working class, Trade Unions and members of the Labor Party in the elections on Saturday 7th September.

People who have no political consciousness or affiliation will most likely choose one or other of the two dominant parties, one of which will probably form the government.

Members of the working class and Trade Unions will most likely support the Labor Party candidates, not that the present leadership has any real firm progressive ideas about initiating national public projects to provide stimulus to the economy and jobs for the working class.



Australia is a class society by the very nature of the social system under which we live and which both the dominant political parties, Labor and Coalition are determined to maintain. And to

strengthen and stabilise the capitalist nature of the system with the right of private enterprise to exploit the working class and people generally.

By choosing the Labor Party which is helped by the Trade Unions and class conscious Labor Party members they may be able to influence the Labor Party of the need to change course and place the needs of the working people ahead of the capitalist class.

With the present state of the economy and the problems confronting the rest of the capitalist world the working class will be in for a torrid time should the Liberal National Party coalition gain government.

Both main parties are now at their wits end to devise devious methods by which they can reduce the living standards and working conditions of the working class and Australian people and so increase the profits of the banks and the big capitalist enterprises.

The Working Class is at the cross roads and the Capitalist system is in its "twilight".



CORPORATE RIGHTS vs PEOPLE'S RIGHTS

The removal of trade barriers and government regulation under the TPPA would constitute a threat and danger to the living standards and working conditions of the working class and Australian people.

Of particular danger and concern is the determination of the American and International Pharmaceutical companies to continue to charge high monopoly prices for medicines and deny people access to cheaper medicines even after patent rights have expired.

American Pharmaceutical companies are opposed to the Australian system of the government subsidising essential medicines for people under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS). Under no circumstances can this scheme be allowed to lapse.



PRIVATISATION HAS FAILED AUSTRALIA

There is a growing realization among sections of the organised working class and Trade Unions that privatisation has failed the Australian people.

We are privatising ourselves from one disaster after another and in places essential to the people's well-being it is causing huge distortions in conditions which are vital to the workers life and living standards.

For instance the privatisation of the electricity and gas systems has resulted in many working class families suffering a catastrophic collapse in their living standard as they struggle to meet the high cost of electricity and gas.

There was a time when it was the objective and aim of the political working class and the labour movement generally to support and encourage the public building and ownership of utilities that are vital to the well being of the working class and the community.

Now we have the spectacle of working class governments actively engaging in selling off to "private enterprise" each and every asset of the people.

Anywhere that "private enterprise" takes over the people suffer a deterioration in both quality and service, along with higher prices as the new owners increase their pursuit of maximum profits.



TRANS-PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

The Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement at present being negotiated by the Australian government and involving the United States, New Zealand, Canada, Mexico, Peru, Chile, Singapore, Brunei, Malaysia and Vietnam is an attempt by America to gain political and financial advantages for American corporations.

It is being billed as a "trade agreement for the 21st century" but the details of the negotiations are secret and the agenda is being driven by the global US corporations at the expense of peoples' rights.

Its time for the Australian government to say: **"Fair Deal or No Deal in the TPPA"**.

The agenda which is being dictated by US corporations and international business groups, threatens local jobs and workers democratic rights. They want.

Less Australian content in government purchasing

Less Australian content in film and television

Higher prices for medicines, which will hit workers and their families hard.

Special rights so foreign investors can sue governments over health and environment laws.

So far there is no attempt to include enforceable labour rights as part of the agreement.

Without basic rights at work, free trade agreements can lead to a race to the bottom on workers rights. Governments in the TPPA should commit to implement basic labour rights, including freedom to join unions, the right to collective bargaining, no forced labour, no child labour and no discrimination in the workplace.



HOW TO CONTACT AUSTRALIA FAIR TRADE

People concerned about the dangers flowing from the TPPA and should raise this matter with their senate members and members of parliament.

Further information regarding the campaign and information material can be obtained by contacting the; "Australian Fair Trade and Investment Network"

128 Chambers Street, Surry Hills NSW 2010

Web: aftinet.org.au

Mail: campaign@aftinet.org.au

Tel: 02 9699 3686

**AMERICA'S MIDDLE EAST POLICY DOOMED**

American policy in the Middle East is a monumental failure and has resulted in setting the whole area ablaze.

After twelve years (12) of war it is time that the American ruling class realised that the attempt to impose American imperialism on the sovereign countries of the Middle East is doomed.

America started out with high hopes of taking over the oil and labour resources of the Middle East and exploiting them for the benefit and enrichment of American capitalism.

The end result has been the devastation of whole countries along with the senseless killing of millions of people including innocent women and children.

And now, in America, as a result of this reckless policy of permanent war of destruction, the American people are being made to suffer.

There are now 15 to 20 million unemployed workers in America, with an estimated 50 million living below the "poverty" line.

America is the "drug" centre of the world and has over two (2) million people in American jails.

Despite claims that America is a country that respects people's freedom the opposite is the truth.

The disclosure of the treatment of Private Bradley Manning confirms that "torture" is part of the American system. And the disclosures of Edward Snowden shows that spying on ordinary citizens is part and parcel of the American way.

The decent honest people in America are in daily struggle against these abuses of their rights and deserve the sympathy and assistance of all people in overcoming the attacks on their basic "rights".

**POLITICANS FAIL TO CREATE JOBS.**

Most people will agree that if you are able bodied and healthy you are entitled to have a useful job.

Some politicians seem to think that there are plenty of jobs around and that it is just a matter of looking.

These politicians are either ignorant of the state of the economy or are victims of the free market delusion.

In either case politicians of both parties with their shameful response to the people who elected them, have in many cases made the provision of jobs more difficult and have impeded any attempt by any government to plan and commence national works to stimulate the economy and create jobs.

It's no use looking to "private enterprise" to initiate national works for the benefit of the country and to provide jobs for the people.

It is the intention by electing people to Parliament is for them to use their knowledge to solve the social problems of the time and provide useful "jobs".

**MURDOCH USING HIS AWESOME POWER**

The Australian public is currently witnessing the awesome power of the Murdoch Press as Rupert mobilises his Australian editors and papers to bring about a change of government in the current election..

Murdoch is no longer an Australian, having dumped his Australian nationality in 1983 to become an American.

Today from his palatial mansion on 5th Avenue New York, Rupert is busy directing the editors and sub-editors of his newspapers in Australia to present the change of government in this election as an accomplished reality.

No one will question his papers right to an opinion, but the "news" should be presented fairly and as "news" and not to create the false impression that the outcome of the current election is a foregone collusion and a victory for the Murdoch press.

Murdoch's editors and writers are mere puppets to do as Rupert demands. Readers of the Murdoch papers should be under no illusion that he has put Tony Abbott and Joe Hockey whether they like it or not, under the same pressure as his editors and writers, obey him or be replaced.

Rupert missed out in having his "man" win the American presidency and he's determined to have a win in Australia's elections. We must deny him that..

**VOTE TO BOOST YOUR RIGHTS ON SEPT 7**

The Working Class should give careful attention to 'how they vote' and for who on September 7.

In the final analysis, no matter what name candidates campaign under they support either the capitalist class and their system, or the working class which produces the 'values', both 'material' and 'service' which decide our 'standard of living'.

Workers should make sure they give their choice careful consideration before they 'vote'.

**ENGLAND-FRANCE-GERMANY URGING US.**

The war in Syria is being seen by the European Imperialist powers as an opportunity to start a war, and are anxious to involve the United States.

The claim that the Syrian Government has used "chemicals" in the war is being bandied around by the three European powers, all of whom have a reputation for inciting a war when the 'economic' systems begin to falter.

These countries welcome any excuse to provoke a war.

The first world war commenced following the assassination of an Austrian Archduke, ten (10) million people lost their lives in that world war..

The second world war was provoked with a spurious attack on a German radio station by Germans dressed in Polish Army uniforms at Gleiwitz in August 1939.

The German attack on Poland led to the second world war in which 50 million people lost their lives.

In each of these world wars the capitalist class on each side prospered during the war, and then again when they set about repairing the devastation.

Now, with the destruction resulting from the second world war, well and truly replaced, the capitalists need new areas to lay waste too.



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FEDERAL BUDGET DISAPPOINTS WORKERS

The Federal Budget framed and bought down by Wayne Swan on May 14 has cast a feeling of gloom and dispirit over large sections of the working class, in particular the single parent families, the unemployed, the homeless, pensioners and the disadvantaged.

As Wayne Swan knows from his attendance at overseas meetings of treasurers and finance ministers the world economy is teetering on the brink of another crisis.

Now would be the time for the Federal Labor Government to initiate and commence some large scale construction works, to absorb the unemployed, and provide useful employment for the thousands of asylum seekers who are arriving in this country.

Australia has the resources, manpower, and scientific knowledge to carry out works of national importance along with the need.

Unfortunately there is no one in the Federal Labor Party prepared to question the path we are going down, which appears to be in lock-step with the negative approach of the Liberal National coalition, led by Abbott and Hockey.

We are now living in the twilight of the "capitalist" system and the problems intrinsic to capitalism will remain whether there is a Labor Party or Liberal/National Party in government.

No longer can the people of any country look to "private" enterprise to solve the mammoth problems confronting the peoples of capitalist countries, but the people have to ensure that those elected to govern can do the job and understand the nature of the problems confronting the people, which are inherent in "capitalism".



MURDOCH PRESS UP TO OLD CAPERS

One of the features of the Murdoch Press, Fairfax Press and the Television Media is to influence whatever particular political party that happens to be in office at any particular time to make changes..

The tactic is to create the impression that by changing the party and or its "leaders" in office that it will improve the position of the working class and people.

For instance the present campaign to "dump" Julia Gillard and replace her with Kevin Rudd is to give the impression that this is in the best interests of the Labor Party, the working class and the people to do so..

It is of no great concern to Murdoch, Fairfax or the Media generally which party is in office, so long as it does not interfere with the "capitalist" system and the private enterprise motive of maximum profits".

Replacing Julia Gillard with Kevin Rudd will in no way improve the standing of the Labor Party in the thinking of the Australian people.

The basic problem of the Labor Party at the present time is that it has deserted its fundamental principles and is under of the leadership of people who have adopted the ideology of the "capitalist" class which they are endeavouring to impose on the Australian working class and people.

Ever growing sections of the working class are seeing through the tactics of the Media and the mischievous and treacherous tactics of the Labor "leaders".



WORKING CLASS NEED A NEW SYSTEM

The present economic system with its endemic unemployment, ever rising prices, frozen wages, homelessness, worsening public services and increasing taxation, has failed the Australian workers and people miserably. The latest report on employment and manufacturing reflects the results of capitalism.

Australia is blindly following the policies of the United Kingdom, France and America, the same group at the centre of the warmongers lobby.

Blind Freddie can see where the policies of these three imperialist powers have got them and is now leading Australia.

The latest report from the International

Labour Organization, "Global Employment Trends for Youth 2013" is a summary of the aftermath of social terrorist policies implemented on a world scale.

So dire is the situation, that its subtitle is "A generation at risk". It claims that over 70 million young people will be unemployed in 2013.

It claims that temporary or precarious employment is rife among 90% of the world's youth and that the prospects of getting a job is so low that many have given up searching.

These figures of course depend upon how unemployment statistics are calculated and how the "books are cooked". The real figure could be much higher.



CONSERVATIVES ATTACK GONSKI SYSTEM

Education has always been a class issue. So it is no surprise that the Gonski system should cause considerable confusion among influential sections of the "ruling class" and the Liberal/National coalition.

The view held in conservative circles is that the working class only need to be educated to the extent of being able to read and understand basic directions and to accept without question directions and orders from the "educated" managers and bosses.

This decision of the Gillard Government to install the Gonski System is one of its "positive" areas of legislation and deserves support by the working class and the community.

Experience will show if there is need for improvements in some areas and additions in others, but at present the important thing is for the children of the working class to have access to education of the highest possible standards.

The Liberal Party leader Tony Abbott is pledged to "repeal" the Gonski legislation, if by some freak mishap and confusion by the voters he is installed as the Prime Minister.



AUSTRALIAN ECONOMY IN DISARRAY

One of the features of the Australian economy is the continual loss of manufacturing capacity in Australia as the Corporations and capitalists instead of replacing and reequipping aging and obsolete plants in Australia, close the plant and shift to a low wage country.

In this way Australia is being relegated to a country that no longer is able to produce the basic manufactures which it produced in the past.

The "oil" companies which had refineries here have or are closing and opening new refineries in low wage countries from where they export the finished products to Australia at higher prices to gain maximum profit.

The car industry is a recent example of the further down grading of a vital strategic industry to Australia.

There was a time when Australia was proud of its manufacturing industry and was able to supply to the Australia people a range of top quality goods and material of all kinds.

Those days are gone and today Australian workers are being reduced to workers requiring low skills and in many cases "limited working weeks". that provide them with a bare existence.

The time has come when the "working class" must take action to ensure that manufacturing remain and grow in Australia.

Its time that Trade Union officials and Union Organisers began to inform and educate their members that there is a better "social system" than "capitalism and private enterprise" in which workers can achieve their full potential.

**THE EVIL EMPIRE UNVIELED AND EXPOSED**

Recent events in the Middle East and Syria have exposed America, France and Britain as the proponents of the "evil" empire that has brought suffering and death to the people of Iraq, Afghanistan and Libya and are now planning to increase their presence in Syria.

Taking a cue from George Bush and Tony Blair, who to justify the attack on Iraq claimed Saddam Hussein, had "weapons of mass destruction" After 10 years no sign of WMD have been found.

Now the US President Obama and Donald Cameron of the UK with the French President Francois Hollande are endeavouring to "pull" the same ploy on the world by asserting that the Syrian government forces are using "chemical" arms against the "rebels" in Syria.

Once bitten twice "shy" the result is that no one will give any credit to their claim that Assad forces have used "sarin" gas. No one believes Obama and the whole world has dismissed his claim as a crude attempt to justify increased American involvement in the Syrian war.

The Assad forces are winning the war against the "rebels" and has no reason to resort to using weapons that are banned.

Obama is finding himself in an invidious position, he condemned Bush's adventure in Iraq, but approved the war in Afghanistan, he now finds himself after 12 years of the war in Afghanistan fighting "terrorists" and with "war weary" nation.

Now he is trying to inveigle the American people into supporting an extension of the war in Syria, but, here he will be fighting with the "terrorists".

This raises the question just who is responsible for developing American foreign policy.

**FORD MOTORS INVESTS IN INDIA & CHINA**

Chief Executive Officer Alan Mulally of the Ford Motor Co. has announced in Dearborn, Mich. that the auto maker exports its Figo subcompact hatchback to 38 countries from its factory in the Indian port city of Chennai.

Mr Mulally went on to say the factory has the capacity to produce 200,000 vehicles and 340,000 engines a year.

We are going to be continuing to export more and more vehicles from India because India is so competitive and the vehicles are so representative of the vehicles that people want around the world.

The CEO went on to say that Ford is gearing up to introduce its EcoSport compact sport-utility, India along with Brazil and China and will also be producing and be available with gasoline and diesel engines.

Mr Mulally went on to say that Ford will next year open a factory in Sanand in the Indian state of Gujarat, with a capacity of 240,000 vehicles and 270,000 engines a year.

India and China are pivotal to Ford's strategy for sustained growth, sales and profit, said Mr Mulally, and disclosed that Ford Motors was at present building 5 factories in China.

In the meantime Ford is closing its factory in Geelong, Australia and depriving 1500 Australian workers of a job.

**BOSS CLASS WANTS SHORTEN TO SWITCH**

The Press Barons are waging an on going campaign to have the Catholic faction in the Labor Party change sides and reinstate Kevin Rudd as Labor Party leader.

This faction which is led by Bill Shorten, Senator Don Farrell and Senator David Feeney were instrumental in removing Kevin Rudd and installing Julia Gillard as Labor leader and Prime Minister.



Since then the Press Barons have gone to considerable lengths to "butter" up Bill Shorten in preparing him for Labor Party leadership.

Now they want the Catholic faction to dump Julia Gillard and re-install Kevin Rudd as Labor leader for the coming elections.

Whilst there are signs that some in the Catholic faction are prepared to go along with this manoeuvre, others have expressed doubts about such action and warn that such action could face rejection from the voting community at the elections.

There is also the position of the Leadership of The Australian Workers' Union to be considered, whilst Paul Howes the National Secretary was an enthusiastic supporter in the original change over, he has been more reticent in supporting this proposed change and "knifing" of Julia Gillard.

At the recent AWU Convention Julia Gillard was rapturously welcomed by the Union delegates and after delivering a long speech to the delegates was photographed with Paul Howes.



THE PLOD

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MAY DAY - INTERNATIONAL WORKERS' DAY

May Day - International Labour Day - is celebrated in every country of the world where workers are organised.

Workers in the old Socialist Soviet Union used to enjoy a May Day holiday of two days.

It is 123 years since the striking shearers and country workers at Barcaldine in Central Queensland in 1890 held what was the first procession and celebrations of May Day in Australia.

It was a time when the shearers were under intense attack by the graziers, who were aided and supported by sections of the "armed" forces, which were encouraged by their commanders to "fire low and lay them out".

The concept of May Day for the expression of the ideals of the organised working class arose in America, following the massacre by police of six (6) workers at a protest rally in Chicago and then at a protest demonstration which followed by a further eleven (11) workers which were killed.

At an International Workers' Congress held in Paris on July 14, 1889 it was decided and endorsed that 1st May 1890 should be adopted as the date for International demonstrations.

Since that time May Day processions and demonstrations have been a regular feature of organised working class activity in Australia and around the world.

May Day is a day in which workers review their past achievements and plan for the future, a future free from exploitation and unemployment and where their "industrial activity and labour" will be for the benefit of society as a whole and not for the enrichment of a small and elite few.



DEFEAT THE "RIGHT" - SUPPORT WORKERS

Exercising her prerogative the Prime Minister, Julia Gillard has declared a Federal election for Saturday, 14 September 2013, in seven months time.

This gives the organizations of the working class, the Trade Unions, Labor Party, Communist Party and all and sundry working class organizations plenty of time to discuss, consider and make known to the voting community where they stand on the vital questions and political strategy of concern to the "working class".

It is becoming abundantly clear that the "capitalist" system has reached the end of the road and has become an impediment to the advancement of society.

The fundamental flaw of the "capitalist" system is the "profit" motive, based on "private enterprise" which in this modern age is a proved social failure.

The "capitalist class" and their political agents have to be made to understand and accept that the way forward is by a change in the "mode of production" which must be for "use" not profit.

The resources of Australia are inexhaustible and the problems confronting the Australian working class and people can only be solved by recognizing the problems and involving the whole community to fix them.



THE LAME EXCUSES MONEY SEEKS TO BUY

One of the most perplexing contradictions with which the working class and Trade Unions are faced is trying to understand why programs such as Hospital and Health Services, Primary Education, Public Transport, Housing and any program that is of benefit to the working class is curtailed or eliminated.

At the same time programs are maintained and instituted that are of benefit to that one (1%) per cent of the community where wealth has so deadened their brains that there is no place for empathy and honesty.

Here's how Brian Griffiths a spokesman for Goldman Sachs the Wall Street Bankers justifies the inequalities and which also apply to the corporate and richest section of the Australian community, he says:

"We have to tolerate the inequality as a way to achieve greater prosperity and opportunity for all".

Wealth distribution in Australia has become so extreme that half of the population has on the average **ZERO WEALTH.**

As for income of the richest one (1%) per cent seemed to perform the impossible in recent years, capturing more than 100% of new income gains while actual income (purchasing power) decreased for the 99% of the population.

Despite the logic and fairness of sharing record profits, workers increases in pay rates, allowances and pensions are rejected, the bosses claiming that such increases would **"increase unemployment"**.

The facts are that if workers receive increased wages, they consequently have more money to spend, this will have an invigorating influence on the economy resulting in **"an increase of jobs"**.



GENERATIONAL CHANGE IN PROGRESS

Labor Party members still recall the traumatic occasion when the then Labor Premier Mike Rann and his Treasurer Kevin Foley had police protection to enter the Labor Party conference and to escape the wrath of the thousands of ALP members who had had enough of their capitalist class serving policies.

It was Wayne Hanson, Secretary of The Australian Workers Union who opened up the debate for a **"need for generational change in the Labor Party"**. And which has now gripped the Party resulting in the beginning of the much needed changes.

Some changes have now taken place, Rann and Foley are gone and the new Premier Jay Weatherall has been handed the **"poisoned"** chalice and is courageously endeavouring to right the years of bad government and incompetence left by Rann and Foley.

The Premier Jay Weatherall has a huge problem now in convincing the community that Labor has progressive ideas and policies for the future.

One thing in his favour is the utter bankruptcy of the Liberal Party opposition which has no policies which can help to overcome the States' problems.



WAGE INCREASES FOR A DECENT SOCIETY

A substantial increase in wages, penalty allowances and pensions, according to the Liberal Nationals coalition politicians, Abbott and Hockey, will cause employers to shed jobs, but that is absolute **"boloney"**..

There are now too many families, even if employed who are in dire circumstances and living a sub-normal existence. To say nothing of the problems confronting the unemployed and pensioners.

Increases in pay rates to families, pensioners and unemployed would put more money into the hands of people who desperately need it, allowing them to buy a bit more and thereby keep others working.

Don't fall for the mindless assertion that "markets" know best. Markets are human creations, requiring human beings to decide how they are structured and maintained.

A decent society would have no less. Some anti-working class politicians claim "decency" has nothing to do with it. And that the "market" decides.

Society must determine the standards of morality and decency under which society functions and exists..

That is the very essence of a democratic society.

**UNIONS' FIRST LOYALTY TO MEMBERS**

Now would be a good time for the Trade Unions to draw up and endorse their own ideas as to what will be union objectives and aims for the future.

Now that the Labor Party has lost its way and is acting more like a conservative party, Trade Union members should develop their own list of claims.

To create more jobs must take a prominent place and the six (6) hour day must be restored as an objective for early consideration.

It is now 69 years since AWU shearers in Queensland spearheaded the campaign for the 40 hour week and set the stage for its Australian wide introduction.

And it didn't hurt the pastoral or other industrial activities a bit.

**WAYNE SWAN TO DEAL WITH MAY BUDGET**

Fresh from his trip to Moscow where he attended the meeting of the G20 members, the Treasurer has the task of drawing up a budget in the light of a deteriorating world economic situation..

Now is the time for Wayne Swan to show courage and ignore any advice that calls for slashing the allocation of finance for social programs and curtailing of benefits for the disadvantaged, pensioners, unemployed and poor sections of the community.

He should test the moral honesty and integrity of the capitalist class by advocating and calling for increased taxes from this wealthy non-working section of the community.

With interest rates at the lowest for years, now is the right time to stimulate the economy and urge his colleagues to proceed with the projects of National importance.

There are a number of problems confronting Australia of which the disastrous recurring floods along the east coast are an example, whilst large areas of inland Australia are next to barren for lack of water.

Maybe scientists and engineers should be engaged to see if a solution can be devised ?.

**ECONOMIC CRISIS SPREADS TO UNIONS**

The developing economic crisis is having a traumatic effect on Australian Trade Unions and resulting in a mixture of attitudes and criticisms to the action and general behaviour of politicians claiming to represent the **"working class"**.

All sections of the working class and unions realise that there is something radically wrong with a social system, that is failing the majority of the community, whilst looking after the **"elite"** one (1%) percent very nicely.

The various attitudes to this question is now splitting the Trade Unions, some unions are forthright in exposing the inner dynamics of the **"capitalist system"**, which requires continual expansion to function.

On the other hand we have some unions that use their influence to justify support for **"class collaboration"** in the hope that they may succeed in gaining some help from the **"capitalists"**, which along with favourable reporting in the capitalist class media, will eventually land them in Parliament.

Union Journals can and do play a significant role in developing the **"class and political consciousness"** of their membership.

This is where The Australian Workers' Union was pre-eminent in the early days of its formation when through discussion and debate, reported in the various editions of **"The Worker"** improved working conditions and assisted in setting up of the **"Australian Labor Party"**.

One of the early objects and aims of the Labor Party was a change in the social structure of society, with **"public ownership and control"** of finance, hospitals and health services and all instrumentalities that are vital to the welfare of the community.

**CAPITALISM FAILS TO DELIVER**

In the years of the "cold war" it was customary for the Western Powers, led by America to blame the Soviet Union for "capitalism's" failure and short comings to deliver the **"good life"**.

With the disintegration of the Soviet Union, there was widespread hope and belief that "capitalism" would now deliver on its promises.

That the people of all countries could now look forward to a life of democratic freedom and where the object of life was to make the world a safe and better place in which to live.

Those dreams have been shattered and it wasn't long before America, Britain and France as the leading capitalist nations had invented another enemy and embarked on a series of "wars" leading to the destruction of countries and the pauperisation of their own people.

Capitalism can't function without an "enemy" around which to mobilise their own people and prepare them for "war".

The real purpose of these campaigns is first by propaganda and then war, is to create a world safe for "capitalism".

To confirm this, take the time to investigate who it is that have strengthen their positions in Iraq and Afghanistan and are now looking towards Iran.



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THE IDEOLOGICAL COLLAPSE OF LABOR

The ideological collapse of the Labor Party has been of concern to the class conscious members of the Labor Party for some time as the "leadership" in the Federal and State Branches have moved further to the "right".

This has led Senator John Faulkner to raise the matter and to begin a push for some fundamental changes in the general outlook and policy of the Labor Party.

At the present time the Federal and State leadership of the Labor Party is bankrupt and fearful of taking any action that would materially improve the structure of society for the benefit of the working class for fear of upsetting the capitalist class.

Senator Faulkner believes that the present "factional" make-up in the Party and Branches are the major cause of the problems and there can be no doubt that the dominant "factions" are acting in a manner that is not in the best interests of the Labor Party.

Too many "factional" hacks are being pitch-forked into safe parliamentary seats, where, after they qualify for a parliamentary pension they are then rotated to make way for another factional "hack".

There was once within the Labor Party a clear understanding that the aims and objectives of the Labor Party were different to the aims of the "capitalist class" and their lackeys, but the Labor "factional bosses" reject that line of thinking as being Communist inspired.

The "capitalist" system of society and its "mode of production" for profit is now in its twilight.

The Labor Party must revert to the aims and objectives of its founders that society and its mode of production must be for the benefit of society as a whole and not for the personal enrichment of the capitalist class.

♦♦♦♦♦

THE COALITION'S BIG MUMBLE

In the on going debate in Federal Parliament Joe Hockey the liberal spokesman on financial matters is persistent in his attack on Wayne Swan the Labor Treasurer, but when asked how he would deal with the problems, Hockey is mute.

While there has been a lot of bluster from the Coalition about reducing spending and reducing taxes, when challenged they are unable to specify where and what they will cut.

And there is a reason for this reticence, the facts are that the coalition is posturing on the spending cuts and tax reduction in a con game and playing on the innumeracy of voters and news reporters.

The time has come for Wayne Swan and the Labor Party to demand that Joe Hockey and the coalition "put up or shut up".

♦♦♦♦♦

UNEMPLOYMENT FALLS - SORT OF

A fall in the jobless from 5.4 to 5.2 has been hailed by Bill Shorten as good Christmas news. Most of these new jobs are part time. The time component of Australian wages is based on a wage rate of working 38/40 hours a week to provide an average standard of living. As most of the "new" jobs that Bill Shorten is hailing are part time, it means that these workers will be suffering a standard of living below the average standard of the average for Australia.

♦♦♦♦♦

NO LET-UP IN WORLD CAPITALIST CRISIS

The capitalist economic crisis shows no sign of easing and continues to condemn millions of the working class throughout the world to a sub-standard of living.

All in the interests of protecting the "profits" of the free enterprise system of capitalist society.

There was a time when the "free enterprise" concept played an important role in the advancement of human society and the activity was centred around the benefit of the individual and their family.

Private enterprise has now grown to such an extent that it is an impediment to the welfare of large sections of the working class.

Private enterprise can no longer meet the requirements of a modern society and for that reason it is essential that the working class take action to ensure that society functions in the interest of the majority of the community.

As a first step more attention must be paid to the quality of the candidates that are selected and voted into parliament.

The working class should reject the ongoing campaign fostered by some of the spokesmen for the factional bosses in the Labor Party and the Coalition parties, along with the capitalist press and television, advising workers to steer clear of "marxism" and anything emanating from the Communist Party.

The working class should read, listen too and consider any and all political theories and then decide which concept or section of which they support in their own and the country's best interest.

♦♦♦♦♦

ROYAL COMMISSION TO GET THE TRUTH

The widespread corruption and fraudulent practices, which have been exposed in some Trade Unions need to be investigated, and the culprits dealt with.

Its no good relying on politicians to clean up this sort of problem, as many politicians owe their position in parliament to support from these "crooks" and will do whatever they can to protect them.

Some of these "crooks" were able to get into positions of trust in the unions by taking advantage of the anti communist campaign which was carried out by some union officials as a way of protecting their own positions from their "rank and file" members.

A Royal Commission is needed to investigate and get the "truth" surrounding the abuse and blatant robbery of which the members of both of The Australian Workers' Union and the Hospital Services Union have been victims.

♦♦♦♦♦

TIME TO "CAP" CORPORATION PROFITS

Now would be a good time for Australian governments to place a "cap" on the profits of the banks, mining companies and corporations.

Trade Unions are restricted and discouraged from making claims on behalf of their members, whilst employers ruthlessly sack workers to increase and maintain profits.

Workers are entitled to be employed and its the function of responsible government to see they are.

♦♦♦♦♦

STOP ISSUING TEMPORARY 457 VISAS

If the Federal Labour Minister is "fair dinkum" about jobs for Australian workers he should call a halt to the issuing of temporary 457 work "visas" and "Enterprise Migration Agreements" and insist that mining, construction and all employers of workers produce proof that they are genuinely unable to secure workers.

Figures reveal that something like 30,000 Australian workers are at present registered with the Government's Resources Sector Jobs Board and should have first claim on any jobs that are available.

There are widespread beliefs in the community that some of the "resource companies" are deliberately abusing the "temporary 457 visas" application process to keep Australian workers and unions out, so as they can exploit "foreign" workers with working conditions and pay rates that Australian workers would not "cop".

The mining boom should be for the benefit and good of the whole Australian society and not for the super profits and benefit of a few powerful corporations and individuals.

**ANOTHER SCHOOL MASSACRE IN AMERICA**

Another school massacre has occurred in America, this time resulting in the deaths of twenty (20) children aged five to ten years of age along with six (6) adults.

President Obama was quick to condemn the killings and to call for a thorough investigation as to how such an horrific crime could be perpetrated at a primary elementary school.

President Obama expressed his deepest sympathy to the children's parents and the aggrieved and was seen to wipe away a tear during his message of condolences.

However, despite the President's display of grief there is an element of hypocrisy about his conduct..

An American newspaper recently reported that as a result of air-strikes from American "drone" aircraft in Pakistan authorised by President Obama twenty-seven (27) Pakistani children had been killed.

No doubt the Pakistani parents involved have experienced the same traumatic grief as the American parents are feeling now, but Obama continues to authorise the blasting of Pakistani targets and children by American "drones".

**ISRAEL SHOWS ITS CONTEMPT FOR U.N.**

The Nazi/Zionist clique running Israel under the leadership of Benjamin Netanyahu has decided to further torment the Palestinians for obtaining a non voting "observers" position at the United Nations..

"Let's send Gaza back to the Middle Ages" was a statement by one of the Zionist ministers in Tel Aviv.

Israel's attacks on Gaza are crimes of genocide and it has the support and backing of the United States, some of the European Union, Britain and sadly some Australian politicians.

The terrorist Government of Israel has appropriated Palestinian land and water. A Zionist company operates the well on Palestinian land and charges Palestinians double for water.

The Zionists are habitual thieves throughout history and interestingly, the Qumran forbids charging interest.

There is a vast difference between "hate and business" and the simplicity of shepherds and farmers forced off their land, surrounded by a wall and terrorised by battalions of brutal soldiers and Israeli's armed to the teeth are without the slightest sheen of decency.

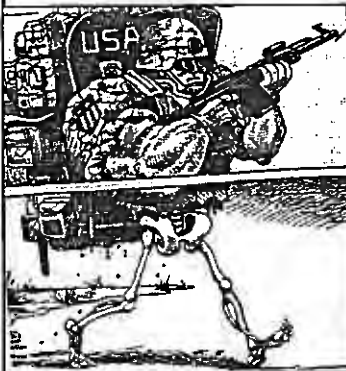
How much longer are the people of the world going to tolerate the brutal behaviour of the Israeli Zionists?.

**IMPERIALIST POWERS SEEK WAR EXCUSE**

Fresh with his return to office for a second term Barack Obama is confronted with an worsening economic situation in the United States and is desperate to come up with a solution.

Aided and abetted by Britain, France and Israel who are also in deep economic trouble they have focused their attention on Syria and Iran.

Syria along with Iran has long been the centre of the plans of these three imperialist powers and Israel to take control of the "oil and gas" resources of the Middle East and the area around the Caspian Sea.



This is the region believed to contain the major reserves of the world's energy resources.

Syria is under attack from "terrorist" forces financed by Saudi Arabia and some of the Gulf Emirates, who are finding the going tough as the Syrian Government fights back.

The imperialist powers would like to get involved

as they did in Libya, but have been prevented by the action of Russia and China who whilst not particularly impressed with the Syrian government, say any change in Syria must be by the Syrians themselves and not outside terrorist or imperialist forces.

The Imperialist forces are using any and all means of propaganda to undermine world support for the Syrians and seek to justify imperialist involvement in the internal affairs of Syria and Iran.

For instant claiming Syria is planning to use "chemical weapons" (remember the Bush claims about Iraq) and that Iran is building a "nuclear bomb".

Both claims are patently false and not an iota of proof can be produced to verify their claims. The people of the world have seen through their schemes and plots and refuse to believe their lies.

**WE ARE NOT HAVING A DEBT CRISIS**

Its important to make the point in view of the perpetual claims by Joe Hockey, the Coalition and the media - sometimes as a headline - that Australia faces a debt crisis.

The Australian government has no trouble borrowing money to cover on going costs. In fact borrowing money costs are at an all time low.

What we are really having is a "political" crisis. born of the fact that the two (2) major political parties have both reached the end of the road and neither has any ideas as to how to get the country out of the present malaise.

It is a peculiar situation, in effect the political parties despite their claims to have some magic formula to solve the developing social crisis are not telling anyone. Why won't they get specific? Because they don't have a clue.

The ideas that both parties have centred around involve cutting back on hospital and health services, public education, housing, social security in fact any program that is of benefit to the working class.



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UNEMPLOYMENT RULES THE WORLD

It has been estimated that up to 200 million workers throughout the world are now being denied the "right to work" under the capitalist system of private enterprise.

Under the "capitalist" mode of production workers are deprived of the "right to a job" unless there is a profit for the capitalist.

This results in a growing section of the working class being condemned to a sub-standard of living while the dominant capitalist section of society enjoy the fruits of the labour of those workers in jobs.

By being denied the "right to a job" a worker is denied the right to provide for his own sustenance and that of his family all of whom suffer the deprivation and degradation that goes with lack of a job and no income.

There was once a period in Australian society when the Australian Labor Party supported policies aimed at exposing the nature of the "capitalist" system and its exploitation of the working class.

Those days are now a distant memory as politicians of all persuasions jockey with each other to win positions in parliament where they are able to enjoy the "fruits of office" and retire on substantial pensions.

The Trade Unions are the most important organizations that workers have in defence of their rights and it is the responsibility of governments to undertake programs of construction to provide "jobs" and stimulate the economy.

Such undertakings should be supervised and managed by authorities answerable to the government..



POVERTY HAS A WOMAN'S FACE

The combat against the shocking inequality and outrage against human rights is one of the "flagship policies" of United Nations Women, fighting for gender equality and against gender violence.

Here is the declaration of UN Women on the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty.

"Poverty has a woman's face. Extreme poverty perpetuates a cycle of violence and discrimination against women and girls and gender based inequality keeps millions of women and girls in poverty and social exclusion.

In many parts of the world, women and girls are denied equal opportunity in every aspect of life. Conversely, women are strong contributors to the economy, and can do much more if given equal resources.

For instance, if women farmers have the same access as men to agricultural resources, we could potentially reduce the number of hungry people in the world by 100 to 150 million people".



ACTU TO LAUNCH SECURE JOBS CAMPAIGN

The ACTU is to launch a secure "jobs" campaign which should be the beginning of an on going campaign by all Unions to ensure that workers enjoy a working life that is still possible within the present economy.



AUSTRALIAN TAXPAYERS ALLIANCE

The policies, objectives and aims advocated by the Australian Taxpayers Alliance are similar in many respects to those supported by the Liberal-National Party Coalition.

The Executive Director of the APA is Timothy Andrews has a long history of membership and support of conservative and anti-working class activities.

Andrews is on the Board of Management of the **HR Nicholls Society**, a think tank of the most rabid anti working class organisations in Australia.

Andrews has spent a lot of time in Washington where he was in close contact with the Charles Koch Institute which trains activists in anti working class programs and support for "capitalism" and the exploitation of the working class.

The Koch Brothers have been accused of threatening their 45,000 employees with "consequences" if they do not support Mitt Romney for President..

Timothy Andrews created the "Stop Gillard Carbon Tax" Website and also opposed the "Flood Levy".

Whilst claiming to be a member of no political party, Timothy Andrews and his ultra conservative views have a ready reception within the Coalition.



CAPITALIST ECONOMIC POLICY FAILURE.

Capitalist economic policy which is based on the concept of "private enterprise" has failed the people of all countries, including the home of capitalist enterprise the **United States of America**.

America now has 12 million unemployed workers, 50 million on "food stamps" and millions of homeless people sleeping in the streets or under bridges.

America also has some of the richest people on the planet living in palaces and enjoying life provided by those workers in employment.

In a desperate attempt to solve these domestic problems with which it is confronted the American capitalist class embarked on a campaign of invasion of other countries with the aim of seizing their resources and enslaving their people.

The result is that America is now bogged down in the Middle East and Afghanistan and seeking a way out of the dilemma it has created for itself.

The danger now confronting the people of the world is that America in its desperation to defend its policies could set off a world war.



US & ISRAEL THREATEN WORLD PEACE

Noam Chomsky claims the danger to world peace is posed by America and Israel and not Iran. Hardly a day goes by with Israel calling for the OK from America to bomb Iranian nuclear facilities.

Israel armed with nuclear weapons is denying the Palestinian people any democratic rights as it continues to steal their land and defy the United Nations.



WHY UNIONS MATTER MORE THAN EVER

It is common to read and to hear comments that Unions don't matter any more.

They claim there was a time and place for Unions - but that time has passed. Some cite the fall off of Union membership as a reason for moral decay.

If we want to lift the Australian working class, we need active and strong Unions. It is no coincidence that the decline in Union membership has enabled the employers to foster the growth in inequality and the continuing degrading of the "standard of living" of the Australian working class.

We see the result of this decline everyday, with more Australians working in low-wage jobs and without adequate health care or safety and with no means of being able to save for their retirement.

Unions give workers the chance to win decent wages, pensions, safe working conditions and health care. With economic security workers can send their children to college and trade schools, play a part in their communities and to have a secure retirement.

This is the dream of Australian workers and only Unions can give workers a chance of its attainment.

**WORLD IN GRIP OF ECONOMIC CRISIS**

The economic crisis of capitalism has now extended to embrace just about every country in the world. The USA has long been a basket case, with 12 million unemployed and millions below the poverty level, and the toughest restrictions on personal freedom.

For sometime American workers have been under attack at their protest marches and protests at job losses in all branches of industry, including the retail industry.

Now the crisis has reached Europe with the Greek workers in the street just about everyday in an attempt to prevent the worsening of their conditions.

Protest marches and strikes are now daily occurrences across Europe, with the latest march of 100,000 thousand workers in London against the "tory" government austerity measures. Similar marches and protests have been held in all the major centres in the United Kingdom.

The big problem facing the workers in all countries is that whilst they know they are being ripped off by the capitalist class at this stage they have not been able to develop that **"unity in action"** which is necessary to bring about political change.

**TRADE UNIONS MUST EMBRACE POLITICS**

There seems to be a belief that Trade Unionists should concern themselves only with economic matters such as, wages, hours and working conditions and leave matters of a political nature to the politicians.

What this means in reality is to leave the fate of the working class in the hands of the **"capitalist class"** and at the mercy of capitalist class propaganda and ideology.

Whilst unions are compelled by the nature of capitalist society to continually strive for improvements in economic conditions, they know from experience that such gains are of a temporary duration and are whittled away by the capitalist system.

Politics must be introduced and linked to the union's problems. Union journals and all avenues must be utilised to educate Union membership in the need for a fundamental change in society.

**AUSTRALIA ELECTED TO UN SEC COUNCIL**

Australia has been elected to the United Nations Security Council at an estimated cost of 25 million dollars and much canvassing.

Bob Carr, the Foreign Minister was there and has declared that one of the problems confronting the Council will be the war in Syria.

The turmoil in Syria is a direct result of the American policy in the Middle East, where America along with Britain and France are endeavouring to re-install regimes of military dictatorships and absolute monarchies which are willing to toe the line on Israel, oil and military bases.

Bob Carr hasn't spelt out what contribution he can make to the Middle East and Syrian dilemma, but in view of Julia Gillard's unquestioning support for American policy it is expected Bob Carr will submit to her demands and become an avid supporter of anything the Americans put forward.

The problem now in the Middle East and Syria in particular is that as a result of American, British and French conduct in Libya, they are encouraging Saudi Arabia to supply arms and cash to the "rebels" fighting the legitimate government of Syria.

Another problem that has to be overcome is the opposition of Russia and China to outside interference in the internal affairs of a sovereign country

**GROUNDS FOR A ROYAL COMMISSION.**

The search of the home of Federal politician Craig Thompson by NSW police is the latest drama in the on going problem concerning the Hospital Services Union and claims of abuse of office by officials.

Whilst most politicians avoid being too close to the HSU there is evidence that many present Labor politicians owe their position through support from that union.

There appears to be no question that the Union has been used to provide funds for some officials to indulge in various dubious activities.

The HSU is not the only union to be used for questionable practices. The Australian Workers' Union has also been the target of unscrupulous characters

During the period of the Menzies Governments, which was seen to support any group that was anti union and anti communist.

This led to the AWU leadership becoming anti communist which was used by the officials to protect their positions by changing the union rules to deny rank and file members who had membership support the right to nominate for official positions.

In these circumstances some low types gained favour with these officials and were then appointed to jobs within the union from where they were able to exploit the anti communism of the Menzies Government and the union officials.

One such character was Bruce Wilson who with legal help from a surprising source was able to snip the union membership for up to \$500,000 dollars.

During the period of the leadership of John Durney, Secretary and Kevin Tinson, Organiser of the South Australia Branch The Australian Workers' Union, something in the amount of \$400,000 to \$600,000 from the sale of union property has never been accounted for.



THE PLOD

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THE LABOR PARTY LEADERSHIP DILEMMA

The present leadership of the Federal Labor Party find themselves in a position of facing almost total wipe-out, unless they revamp the policy and revert to traditional objectives and aims of the Labor Party.

Labor began its downward slide in 1975 when at the Terrigal Conference it decided to "dump" the nationalization plank from the Party constitution and rules.

Since that time the Labor Party has been in conflict with the Coalition parties in a contest as to which party can best serve the interests of the capitalist class.

In this contest the Coalition has an advantage in that at this stage they represent that section of the community that benefits from the exploitation of the Working class in the pursuit of maximum profit.

The problem for the Labor leadership is that whilst it now seeks the same objectives as the Coalition in stabilising the capitalist system and ensuring maximum profits for the capitalist class, it has to convince the "working class" that this is the way to go

The indications are that the "working class" are not falling for that line of spin and are deserting the Labor Party in droves.

The social position and condition of the "working class" continues to deteriorate with rising unemployment, increasing costs of essential energy services, health services and homelessness. Resulting in increased profits for the dominant sections of the capitalist class.

There needs to be a restructuring of society and "public ownership" of at least the basic "means of production" and services.

There is no benefit for the "working class" to support any of the Coalition parties. The Coalition will inherit the present state of affairs and will satisfy and enrich their supporters by more intense and draconian exploitation of the "working class".

These are the basic reasons why increasing numbers of the "working class" are turning to the "Greens" the "Communist Party" and other parties as they seek relief from their torment and degradation.



ONE OBSCENE DAY IN THE LIFE OF BIG OIL

Every hour this year the five biggest oil companies have made \$14,400,000 million in profits or more in one minute than what the households of America and Australia earn in a year.

Each hour in America they also receive \$270,000 in Federal tax breaks or \$2.4 billion a year.

Oil companies receive special treatment here in Australia and Australian motorists pay for their privileges with higher prices for petroleum products.



ISRAEL'S POLICY OF DISPLACEMENT

Since 1967, the Israeli government has destroyed over 25,000 Palestinian homes in Gaza and the West Bank.

In this time, Israeli policies such as home demolitions have internally displaced at least 160,000 Palestinians. Sections of the Israeli people have vigorously protested against this inhuman conduct by the Israeli fascists.



BHP BILLITON DUMPS SA DEVELOPMENT

BHP Billiton will not proceed with the development of the massive ore deposit discovered next to the Roxby Downs mine..

This is a major set back to the economic development of South Australia and confronts the government and people with a problem at a time when the State economy is showing signs of contraction.

Companies such as BHP Billiton have no concern for the welfare of the people and are concerned only with exploiting the people and the natural resources in the interest of maximum profit.

BHP Billiton has made this decision in the light of opportunities in other countries with similar ore deposits and where the workers have lower standards of living.

BHP Billiton accepts no obligation or moral consciousness to any country or people and its sole objective in any activity is the provision of maximum profit for the private capitalist class.

In the final analysis the capitalist class do nothing in the production of the values created, but live a life of luxury enjoying the values created by the working class.



CAPITALIST ECONOMY IS NOT WORKING

The capitalist world economy is not working and is causing global crisis with catastrophic results, no jobs and millions of home and property owners bankrupt and lacking social security.

Here in Australia we have the two main political parties determined to operate for the benefit of the capitalist class and falling over each other to grant the capitalists favours and advantages.

Whilst at times the Labor Party shows understanding of the position of the working class in areas that really count and matter there is a definite leaning to benefit the capitalist class.



No where is this more evident than in the allocation of finance in the framing of "budgets".

First preference is given in the allocation of finance to areas that are of maximum benefit and profit to the capitalist class.

Public services such as health and hospital services, public transport, water provision, public education are then trimmed to meet the remaining finance..

In these circumstances the electricity and gas companies, along with companies that are involved in the provision of vital and necessary services now have an open slather in the prices they charge.

Along the way it has now become fashionable for governments of either persuasions to indulge in widespread dismissal of public service workers, which with the loss of purchasing power leads to a further deterioration in the welfare of the community.



ACCUMULATION OF MONEY AS CAPITAL

There are three forms in which money becomes capital. All are involved in the ownership and control of the "means of production".

Privately owned industry which can consist of stocks and enterprises with employment of limited numbers of workers.

There are then multi national corporations employing thousands of workers, financed and controlled by the banks and insurance companies, which pursue at all times a definite anti-working class policy in the pursuit of maximum profit.

It is the social security form of capital that belongs to the people and operates for the benefit and security of society as a whole that is of vital interest to the Trade Unions and the working class.

The social ownership of the essential and vital areas of industrial activity was part and parcel of the early objective and aim of the Australia Labor Party but was dumped at the Terrigal Labor Conference in 1975.

Since that time the Labor Party has functioned in the interest of the Capitalist class by selling government owned assets to the Capitalists at bargain prices and which has led to a deterioration in the general living standards of the Australian people.

Not since the days of the landing at Botany Bay has the class nature of Australian society been so stark and brutal as it is to day.



Essential services are cut and starved for finance, workers are deliberately sacked after years of service and condemned to unemployment in order to stabilise the profits of the Capitalist class.

These are the circumstances in which the Trade Unions and the working class now find them-

selves as they seek a political solution to their problems.

The time has come when the working class has to seek the basic causes of the crisis confronting society and to examine the scientific study of "capitalism" as discovered and explained by Karl Marx.

**GROCON PLANS TO DESTROY THE CFMEU**

Grocon is one of those firms that can hand it out to workers but like a mongrel dog squeals when the workers fight back.

CFMEU workers in Melbourne have come up with the perfectly logical request that they have a representative on the jobs to check on "safety and health" areas that could be a danger to the workers.

The Trade Unions are an integral section of the Australian social community and have a right to be concerned about the working conditions of their members.

As a result of the "pig headedness" of the Grocon Company, CFMEU members have been involved in a struggle to uphold their simple and sensible rights.

Now Grocon is trying to blame the CFMEU for the loss of money in the struggle with its employees and say it is suing the CFMEU for \$9 million dollars.

The great disappointment for the workers in this confrontation has been the attitude of the Federal Labour Minister Bill Shorten.

This was an occasion when Bill should have used his authority and told Grocon that the workers request was a common sense one and should be agreed to. Bill appears to have tried to be on both sides and satisfied neither.

**SDA SECRETARY HAS STRANGE IDEA.**

Peter Malinauskas is the Secretary, Shop Distributive and Allied Employees' Association (SDA) and is also President South Australia Branch Australia Labor Party.

Peter Malinauskas has now come up with a plan to curb individual donations to political parties and for the State and Federal Governments to finance political parties political campaigns.

At the last SA ALP conference the SDA Secretary launched a scathing attack against the "Greens", which has failed to attract any support.

Peter Malinauskas is concerned about the poor showing of the Labor Party in recent "polls", but fails to recognise that it is failure to advocate and campaign for working class policies that is the fundamental cause of Labor's poor showing.

If the SDA Secretary is really sincere and wants to lift Labor policy and restore it to its traditional past as an inspiration to the working class he should advocate policies such as a thirty (30) hour week of five (5) six (6) hour working days.

He could also advocate State government investment in and control of energy supplies, along with a government sponsored bank to provide low interest loans to families wishing to purchase their own homes.

These are not new ideas within the ALP or the working class but have been neglected by Leaders of the Labor Party who have been too anxious to solve their own economic and social problems by serving the interests of the dominant capitalist class.

**TROOPS MUST LEAVE AFGHANISTAN**

The death of five (5) Australian soldiers in the past week in Afghanistan, raises the question as to why our troops are in Afghanistan in the first place.

Both Julia Gillard and Tony Abbott say they are there in the "national interest", but are unable to explain what is the "national interest".

The American's went into Afghanistan in pursuit of a dream of establishing a "pipeline" through Afghanistan to carry "gas" from Central Asia.

That dream is now shattered and America is now planning to withdraw its troops from Afghanistan, President Obama has announced that 30,000 American troops are now on their way home.

NATO troops are also in the process of withdrawing.

There is now no logical reason or justification for Australian troops to remain in Afghanistan a day longer and in the "national interest" they should be brought home immediately.

**RETIRED UNION MEMBERS TAKE ACTION**

The SA Unions, Retired Union membership group have planned a campaign in support of a "better deal" for retired Union members and other sections of the community who are finding things tough.

The Retired Members are seeking to mobilise the Trade Union movement, Labor Party, community organisations and church bodies that are concerned about the "hopeless position of the "poor" and "powerless".

The Retired Unions can be contacted at :
46 Greenhill Road, Wayville SA 5035



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GLOBAL ECONOMY ON BRINK OF COLLAPSE

The capitalist world economy centred around Europe and the United States is in eminent danger of collapse and this poses a multitude of problems for the Trade Union movement and working class political parties in all countries including Australia.

Capitalism being by its nature a "class society" seeks to protect the interests of the capitalist class by intensifying the exploitation of the "working class".

This is attained by reducing the employed work force, extending hours and intensity of work and also by manipulating the purchasing value of workers wages.

By a system of continually increasing the cost of basic essentials such as food, electricity, gas, water, public transport, education, hospital and health services the aim of the "dominant capitalist class" is to reduce the "living standard" of the "working class" so that they can compete with other "capitalist" countries from a lower "standard of living".

Trade Unions are workers first line of defence in the struggle for a "standard" of living in line with a country's potential. In a capitalist society the impediment to the working class attaining this potential is the "profits" skimmed off the workers by the "dominant capitalist class".

The "capitalist" class do nothing to add value to the commodities produced by the working class, but they are the "class" that enjoy the products of the workers toil.

The time has come when the working class must have a greater input into the "objects and aims" of political parties that seek their vote and support.



FALSE REPORTING OF POSITION IN SYRIA

The ruling circles in the leading imperialist countries are conducting a mass campaign of disinformation with regard to the situation in Syria.

In a frantic endeavour to regain control of the "oil, mineral and labour" resources of the Middle East, England, France and the United States are supporting armed intervention in Syria in an "under the lap" way.

For instance the claim that the Syrian Army is attacking its own citizens is an invention and is used to cover up the "atrocities" being carried out by "terrorist" gangs in the pay and supported by England, France, US, with Saudi Arabia and Bahrain picking up the "tab".

The Swiss investigative journalist Silvia Cattori recently wrote exposing the "non-existence" of the alleged bombing, which the hegemonic press described as "a deluge of fire in an incommunicado city". Witnesses she consulted were precise "We did not hear any noise" There was no bombing today.

Silvia Cattoti interviewed a Syrian man 75 who lives in a village in the province of Homs. "What happens here is all opposite to what they say in their country" I beg your pardon ma'am "Our soldiers are not mercenaries" "They are the sons of the people and of mixed religions".



AMERICAN DRONES SLAUGHTER AFGHANS

America's precision weaponry is getting more accurate by the day.

Eleven years after the Afghan campaign was launched to get Osama bin Laden, they are having spectacular "bugsplat" attacks by drones against wedding parties, schools, hospitals and social gatherings of Afghan people.

Controlling the "drones" from thousands of miles away they call each successful strike a "bugsplat" as if the victims were no more than an insect..

Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Barack Obama has increased such strikes exponentially, to save the lives of the boys back home in the US of A.

Logar Province, Afghanistan is the latest American drone attack. Eighteen people murdered, five women, seven children, six men in a pre-dawn strike.

Who is a militant or a terrorist? Is it an activist that buys and uses American weapons, or a terrorist that uses American weapons.



AMERICAN DIKTAT TO PAKISTAN FAILS

The US is having more problems with its "ally" Pakistan., who after the Americans bombed and killed 24 Pakistani soldiers with a "drone" and then refused to apologise, the Pakistanis closed the main supply route for US supplies for the war in Afghanistan.

The US wants this route opened and thinks the best way to do that is not to address the concerns of the Pakistani President, but to browbeat him and demand that he shape up to US expectations.

After inviting the Pakistani President to the Chicago conference on the war in Afghanistan, the US President refused to meet him.

It was left to the Imperial Princess (Mrs Clinton) the Secretary of State to deal with him and she was "nothing if not blunt" with him.

What we want "is leadership from you and others" to "solve our problems and win the war in Afghanistan".

Here we have a sovereign country wanting the US to stop bombing its people, which America completely ignores and continues bombing.

The US is shooting itself in the foot and blaming others for its self inflicted wounds.



ISRAEL ANXIOUS TO START WAR IN SYRIA

Ayoob Kara, a senior member of the Israeli regime, led by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, is saying that "chemical weapons" could be used by the Syrian forces.

This is similar to the Bush-Blair claim of "weapons of mass destruction" to justify the war in Iraq. The Zionist Jewish state is anxious to start a war in the Middle East and to involve American, England, France and NATO forces.



THE AMERICAN AFGHANISTAN CAMPAIGN

The geostrategic environment of Afghanistan and the whole South-Central Asian Region will undergo a massive paradigm shift with the withdrawal of American, Australian and NATO forces in 2013/14:

Apart from a geopolitical and geostrategic mess of gargantuan proportions, the American/Australian/Nato combine will leave behind a country destroyed and devastated beyond redemption, a country ripped and torn apart, traumatized and brutalized beyond healing and reconciliation.

The remnants of the US/Aust/Nato forces left behind will have little impact in the regions.



What a pathetic, pitiful and pitiable result for eleven years of war which has been marked by such arrogance and savagery.

The Victorian painter Elizabeth Butler captured in

oil the triumphs and tragedies of the British Empire.

Her haunting painting "The Retreat from Kabul" shows the sole survivor of a British army of 16,500, Dr William Brydon, struggling out of Afghanistan in January, 1842.

This gripping painting should have hung over the Nato conference in Chicago to remind America and its allies that Afghanistan is and remains the "graveyard of empires".

**ALLEGED CORRUPTION MADE PUBLIC**

In an affidavit signed by Kathy Jackson, which has fallen into the hands of the media, startling claims are made about activities within the Health Services Union and which involve some "strange practices" for Union officials.

It appears that Jackson's concern arose after being elected Secretary and she queried the payment of \$283,250 to Mah-Chat Architects, a Sydney firm. The union hadn't needed an architect around that time and wasn't planning any building work.

From that observation and queries that she raised, she has uncovered a whole series of "payment of union money" for purposes of no benefit to the Union or its members.

Kathy Jackson, who appears to be a member of the "right wing faction" of the Labor Party in Victoria, has lifted the "lid" on the behaviour and friendship of some of its most ambitious and notorious members.

Jackson claims that she was "abused and threatened by Bill Shorten" when as a delegate to a Labor meeting she refused to support Shorten's candidate for Corangamite, Peter McMullin, the son of Ian McMullin the founder of the Spotless catering group..

Bill Shorten is now the Minister for Workplace Relations and Peter McMullin was subsequently elected President of the Victorian Employers' Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

As Employment Relations Minister Shorten seeks the court permission to appoint an administrator to the HSU. Jackson describes Shorten as a "dracula" figure. Maybe the best way to clear up the "corruption" and "intrigue" involving the HSU would be to have a "Royal Commission" of inquiry.

**BHP BILLITON BOSS TIPS GLOOMY FUTURE**

Speaking at the Bank of America - Merrill Lynch global mining conference in Florida, BHP boss Marius Kloppers painted a gloomy picture of the future investments of the mining giant.

Kloppers said that BHP had abandoned \$80 billion on growth projects over the next 5 years due to the expected effect of global economic uncertainty on cash flow projections.

Kloppers believed that there is a "window of opportunity" for new iron ore production which should remain open for a number of years.

It is evident he thinks China will continue to expand and provide a market for Australian iron ore.

BHP is assessing expansion of the Olympic Dam copper-gold-uranium mine development, with developments to the harbour at Port Hedland and a Canadian potash project.

World commodity prices will determine which if any of these projects goes ahead.

The Olympic Dam project is vital to South Australia. There are "deadlines" attached to Olympic Dam development and BHP must decide by December 8 what it will be doing.

If BHP misses the "deadline" a new agreement will need to be negotiated with a review of "royalties".

**WORKERS AWAIT INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS**

The working class is awaiting the final recommendations contained in the Fair Work Act which is to be released in the next week or so.

Treasurer Wayne Swan recently hosted a dinner which was attended by Westpac Bank Gail Kelly, Alan Joyce from Qantas, Westfarmers Richard Goyder, National Bank Cameron Clyne, in all about 70 captains of industry attended.

So far as we know no union or workers representatives were present.

We know that the "capitalist class" and their representatives have been calling for a review of the Industrial Relations so as to give employers more control and power over workers and their working conditions.

As Minister for Workplace Relations Bill Shorten is in a powerful position to listen to the workers and ensure that the Act reflects their suggestions.

**JULIAN ASSANGE SEEKS PROTECTION**

Julian Assange is an Australian citizen, who exposed the dual nature of America's diplomatic activities, through WikiLeaks a program that gathers and reports some of the events that are occurring around the world. One such report has 'riled' the Americans, who while they don't deny the report they don't like having their devious ways exposed.

So it seems they have set out to get Assange and with the assistance of some Swedish agents have had Assange charged in Sweden.

The tactic is that Assange could then be extradited from Sweden to America. And everyone knows what happen to anyone who offends and falls into the "hands" of the American ruling class.

Julian Assange has now sought asylum in the Ecuador Embassy in London where he awaits the next moves in this saga.



THE PLOD

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LABOR PARTY WIPE OUT IN QUEENSLAND

The virtual wipe out of the Labor Party in the Queensland state elections poses some immediate and vital questions for the Australian working class and Trade Unions.

The requirement of a political party to initiate the needs and aims of the working class arose out of the Maritime and Pastoral strikes of the 1890/92 period

This was a time of intense exploitation of the working class, with widespread unemployment and use of the State coercive forces to harass and impose the "will" of the bosses on the workers.

It was in these conditions that a working class political party was conceived and came into existence.

There was and still is a deep seated belief that the "working class" can never achieve social justice under a capitalistic system of production, distribution and exchange.

For this reason those early supporters of a "working class" political party believed that "capitalism", and "wage slavery" must go and be replaced by "co-operation and production" for use.

Originally the Labor Party was a party of a new type and under its influence when in government it was able to bring about improvements in the life and living conditions of the working class.

However, Australia remained a "class" society with the "capitalist class" the dominant class.

The Labor Party has now been penetrated by the "ideology" of the "capitalist class" and the Labor Party is now in competition with the traditional conservative parties as to which can best serve the interests of the "capitalist" class.

In the meantime what few improvements that were achieved by the "working class" in Labor's "glory" days have been whittled away, so that the "working class" is to-day in much the same position it was in 1890/92.

This is the position now confronting the "working class" and Trade Unions and only by organization and unity in action will the position be resolved.



EDUCATION AND INTELLECTUALITY

The working class has always placed great emphasis on "education" and "intellectual" abilities, but there is a serious question whether the qualities which pass under our unequal and antagonistic conditions as intellect are the best or most desirable for the "working class".

What is considered "education" by some Labor people does not necessarily include a knowledge of "modern political economy" - in fact it is a question of which our "educated" Labor politicians are profoundly ignorant.

We must insist on and elect men and women from the working class who have made a study of modern political economy and possess intelligence along with a predominance of "honesty of purpose", who really feel the terrible and unbearable cruelty of unemployment, homeliness and injustice in "capitalist society".

Its time Labor politicians recognise, speak out against and take action against these conditions of injustice and deprivation.



AWU LEADER OPENS FINANCIAL DEBATE

The National Secretary of The Australian Workers' Union, Paul Howes, has opened up the debate concerning the question of the National Financial System and its use.

Paul Howes considers that greater use should be made of the Reserve Bank to control "interest rates".

Whither or not this is the way to go, it should open up the debate and cause other Union leaders, the community at large and maybe even some politicians to enter the debate and express opinions and ideas.

There is no doubt that the present "capitalist" system of society, based on "private enterprise" is in dire trouble and is the cause of the widespread unemployment and poverty throughout the world.

One of the prime causes of the present state of uncertainty gripping "capitalist" countries is the pursuit of "maximum" profit.

This gives rise to the concept of having a "cap" on workers wages. But there is no "cap" on profit.

A "cap" on profit was discussed in sections of the "working class" during the "great depression" in the 1930's and ceased with the outbreak of war in 1939.

For a start there is an anomaly that in this modern age that a country's financial system should be in the hands of "private enterprise" and "private banks", whose sole contribution is to hold the community to ransom for maximum profits.

If Paul Howes comments lead to a healthy debate of the state and causes of Australia's dilemma, he will have earned the gratitude of the "working class" the Trade Unions and community generally.



WORKERS CELEBRATE MAY DAY

May Day has a long history in the celebrations of the oppressed people of all countries of the world.

One of the earliest May Day procession and celebrations in Australia took place at Barcaldine in Central Queensland on May 2, 1891, during the period of the "Shearers Strikes".

It was a great demonstration by Unionists and 1340 men took part. Of this number 618 were mounted.

Then came the banner of "The Australian Labour Federation" and men carrying samples of the Trades in which they were employed.

A waggon drawn by six horses, exhibited a group of shearers and shed hands, the shearers shearing three sheep; the shedhands with brooms and tarpot.

Then came the banner of the "Shearers Union" and shearers, followed by the "Carriers Union" some of whom were mounted.

The marchers were followed by the "Union" band and last of all a waggon with a shearers driving with a women waving flag with "Young Australia" inscribed.

There was loud cheering when the procession reached the "Union" office. After an address by the "Chairman of the Shearers Strike Committee" the shearers returned to the Strike Camp.



RACISM RAMPANT IN LAND OF THE FREE

Treyvon Martin was a young black lad of 17 years in Florida, who went to the local shop to purchase some "lollies" and on his way home was "shot" by George Zimmerman a "vigilante", who claimed he acted in "self-defence". And was exonerated by the local police.

When the details became known there were massive protests and marches across America. The police chief resigned and George Zimmerman is now in goal, charged with second degree "murder".

THE DEATH OF ANNA BROWN

Anna Brown was a black homeless 29 year old St Louis woman the mother of two children. After refusing to leave a hospital because her "legs hurt" so much, she was arrested for trespassing, handcuffed and dragged into a jail cell and left moaning on the floor, where she died of "blood" clots minutes later. Police thought she was on "drugs". She wasn't.

Can anyone possibly argue there is not under way in America a gender, colour and class war?

REASON TO BE KILLED - SEEKING HELP

Kenneth Chamberlain a black 68 year old former American Marine with a heart condition was shot and "killed" in his home by White Plains N.Y. police who responded to a false alarm from his "medical alert pendant".

Though he repeatedly told them he was Okay, they broke down his door, "tasered" him and shot him dead.

The medical device "recorded" the event.

**HOMELESS AMERICANS ON THE RISE**

Millions of Americans are at risk of losing their homes due to mortgage debt. The finding is by a group of experts from the International Monetary Fund, who prepared an analytical report on prospects of the global economy.

About 2.5 million owners of apartments and homes in the U.S. have lost their homes. 1,500,000 have systematically got behind on payments. So they too are in danger of losing their homes.

These problems originated with the 2008 financial crisis, affecting one of the biggest financial bubbles created by "capitalism" in the U.S. in recent years. Homelessness has become a constant presence in America.

Thousands of Americans, four years after the start of the financial meltdown still live in cars along the roads or in parking lots or even on the streets.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau more than 50 million Americans live in absolute poverty and the number continues to increase.

**THE U.S. EMPIRE'S ACHILLES HEEL**

The American atrocities in Afghanistan roll on like a drumbeat from hell. With every affront to the human and national dignity to the Afghan people.

But even so with the highest paid and best trained military force in the world, American commanders can not keep their troops from making videos of "urinating on dead men" or burning "holy books" or letting loose homicidal maniacs on "helpless villagers".

These latest atrocities have brought the U.S. occupation to the point of crisis, "hopefully a terminal one".

American racism allows its citizens to imagine that they are doing the people of Afghanistan and Pakistan a favour, by sending "drones" to deal death without warning from the skies.

**FORMER ALP SENATOR FEARS FUTURE**

Veteran ALP member and former Senator John Black has made a detailed examination of the results of the recent Queensland elections and has concluded that based on the poll demographics forty-six (46) of the current Federal Labor members will lose their seats in the next Federal elections.

He claims that ministers such as Bill Shorten, Greg Combet, Stephen Smith, Wayne Swan and Simon Crean will go.

The implications of his findings is that the Labor Party has lost its "pre eminent" position in the thinking of the Australian working class and that working people have had enough of Labor politicians support of "capitalist" class policies.

**HOSPITAL SERVICE UNION NEEDS HELP**

The saga of allegations of corruption and fraudulent activity continues to plight the Hospital Service Union and to some extent cast a shadow over the Trade Union movement.

The Trade Union movement as a whole is run openly and correctly and finances are transparent and will stand any inspection.

However, at times allegation of corruption and misuse of "funds" and "real" estate occur and it appears there is no satisfactory avenue by which the Union membership can pursue the matter and ensure the Union is run in the interests of its members.

The Fair Work Australia is useless in this regard, after 3½ years investigation it has failed.

There needs to be some authority where at the request of a responsible and "bona fide" section of the membership, a "panel" of "certified" accountants can be engaged with full and total access to all aspects of the "organizations" finances and to report to the "Australian Council of Trade Unions".

**ARGENTINA NATIONALIZES OIL & GAS**

The Argentina Government has reversed failed neoliberal policies - backed by Washington and the International Monetary Fund - that brought the country to ruin and has commenced "nationalizing" sections of its economy.

The "oil & gas" industry has been nationalized and one of the early advantages will be a stop to the continuous increases in prices of "electricity and gas" to the Argentina people.

Hence forth this section of industry will function in the interests of the Argentina people and not for the benefit of Spanish capitalists in Spain.

There is a lesson here for the people of South Australia, where the people are groaning under the burden of the highest "electricity" charges in Australia. South Australia has the "third" highest "electricity" charges in the world after Germany and Denmark.

The "electricity" industry in South Australia was privatised by the Bannon Government and whilst there have been several occasions in which the South Australian Governments under John Olsen and then Mike Rann could have rectified the "error" they have come down on the side of "private enterprise".

Under Mike Rann privatisation was taken to the absolute limit, even to privatising "xlotto", there is now talk of "privatising" hospital car parking areas.



THE PLOD

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MEDIA REPORTERS EXPLOIT ALP DIVISIONS

Whenever the media reporters in Canberra find themselves with nothing sensational to report they inevitably fall back on playing up divisions in the governing Labor Party.

Sometimes to create a measure of democracy and variety they will switch to the divisions within the Coalition.

There can be no question that there are divisions within the Labor Party, but they are differences borne of personalities and have no relationship to "policy".

At present the position relates to Julia Gillard and the Shorten clique on the one hand and Kevin Rudd & Co on the other.

Both Gillard and Rudd covet the position of Prime Minister. Both are avid supporters of the capitalist system and support the exploitation of the working class in the interests of private enterprise.

Both Gillard and Rudd endorse the policies of the American capitalist class by actively having Australian forces joining America in invading countries thousands of kilometres from either country and which, by any stretch of imagination do not constitute a security danger to either the United States or Australia.

In this subservience to the American ruling class with a policy of deliberately adopting a hostile attitude to sovereign countries that have different social priorities, the Labor Party has the support of the Coalition lead by Tony Abbott, Joe Hockey and the likes.

The decision to allow the deployment of US Armed Forces in Australia will be seen as a hostile gesture by the countries of Asia, which, when coupled with the statement by US President Barack Obama "that China must play by the rules" leaves no doubt how the US will use the base.

China has been in this region for 8000 thousand years, America for the past 300 hundred years.

There can be no doubt that the Australia Labor Party is to-day at its lowest ebb in 125 years since its foundation and unless there is a dramatic change in policies and attitude it will become completely irrelevant to the vision and future of the Australian people.



COMMUNITY NEEDS INCREASED INCOME

To increase the volume and intensity of business activity, there needs to be an increase in the disposable income of the community, including an increase in the incomes of all sections of the working class.

This message appears to have got through to Helen Ridout, the outgoing head of Australian Business Group and now a member of the Reserve Bank Board. Ms Ridout is also a member of the Henry Tax reform panel that recommends a lift in payment of the "unemployed" benefits and for "student" assistance.

In the current economic climate there is a discrepancy of \$131 a week between the pay rates of these people and the Newstart allowance paid to Disability Support Pensions. Bill Shorten, Labour Minister has categorically rejected any increased payments to "unemployed or students" and cites the arguments used in the past by the Howard government as justification.



SOME MYTHS ABOUT SOCIAL SYSTEMS

From the beginning of human civilisation each form of social organization has sought to justify its existence by promoting myths to ensure its continuation.

Slavery reached its zenith during the Roman Empire and proclaimed that any "slave" could become a "freeman" and a slave owner, if he behaved by the rules. Some may have succeeded..

However, out of the contradictions of the "slave" society, human society moved into the system of "feudal" society, where "land" ownership became the symbol of wealth.

It was out of the "feudal" system that the modern capitalist system has developed and with it an array of "myths" designed to stabilise and create an environment of beliefs that "capitalism" is the final and last word in human social development.

Take the "myth" that anyone who works hard can become "rich". In fact, under capitalism, the probability of success, regardless of how long or hard you may have worked is the same as winning PowerBall.

Then we have the "myth" that under capitalism we are all in the same boat and that there are no "classes" in capitalist society. Try telling that to Gina Rinehardt, James Packer or to the "bloke" caught sleeping under a bridge or the family applying for the "dole" or looking for a job.

We then have the concept of "freedom" which is a kind of "religion of capitalism". Freedom in decision making is the ultimate "freedom", but is enjoyed in a modern capitalist society by a narrow circle of powerful individuals, not the people and not even government agencies.

But behind closed doors, the heads of large companies, banks and multinational corporations make financial and economic decisions of a major strategic nature.

This "myth" is used to manipulate markets and on numerous occasions to interfere in the internal affairs of non-capitalist countries on the assumption that they have no "freedom".

Another of the "myths" most assiduously propagated by the capitalist class is that you can only have "democracy" in a "pluralist" society this myth has been deliberately created to stifle any discussion of an alternate social system to capitalism.

The claim is made that "capitalism" is the ultimate system of "freedom" and "democracy" but the real meaning of these concepts are being confused and distorted to suit the desires of the capitalist class.

Modern capitalist society is a class society, the rich being an ultra-minority, dominate over all others

Capitalist "democracy" is nothing but a disguised dictatorship, and "democratic reforms" are processes opposite to real progress.

From time to time these "democratic reforms" also are used as an excuse to criticize, attack and invade non-capitalist countries.

If the human race is to survive the time has come to move on and replace "capitalism" with a superior social system.



WORKING CLASS MUST PROTECT RIGHTS:

Taking advantage of the present disorientated state of Australia's economy, bosses of industry have decided to launch an all out attack on the Trade Unions and the working class.

Headed by Gail Kelly, Westpac Bank, Richard Goyder, Westfarmers and Tony Shepherd from Transfield the aim is a total return to a revamped and extended "Work Choices" and the denial of any democratic rights to the working class to defend living or working conditions.

The only way that these draconian aims and objectives can be defeated is through the organised resistance of the working class led by the Trade Unions.

Unfortunately the Trade Unions at present are not the unified body they once were, when an attack on one by the dominant class oppressors was seen as an attack on all and was responded to accordingly.

The unity of the working class and the Trade Union movement is what the Capitalist class most fears and for this reason have adopted a policy of "knocking off" the Unions one by one.

A re-inspired, reinvigorated and unified working class and Trade Union movement would work wonders on the Labor Party and all political parties of the working people.

**ALUMINIUM PRODUCTION IN WORLD CRISIS**

The threat of closure of the Rio Tinto aluminium smelter at Port Henry in Victoria hangs over the "lives" of its 600 employees and casts a gloom over the community.

Paul Howes the National Secretary, The Australian Workers' Union is in discussions with the company and the Federal Government but to date no specific plans to overcome the "threat" have been released.

Aluminium production on a world wide scale is in surplus with Russia and Canada the leading producers, both have an abundance of cheap electric power, raw material and plants and smelters equipped with the latest technology.

Rio Tinto and its partner Chinalco are in discussions with a Malayan company to establish a hydro-powered smelter and plant on the island of Borneo, but to date nothing has been signed. It is envisaged that the plant will have an output of 750,000 tonnes of aluminium a year.

It is planned to use a Chinese technology rather than the more expensive Alcan method.

If this plan goes ahead it will add to the difficulty of keeping the Port Henry plant open with its old and antiquated technology.

Providing useful and satisfying employment for workers is a world-wide problem of the capitalist system and stems from the "private enterprise mode" of production seeking maximum profit from any activity.

**RAID AGAINST IRAN PLANNED FOR SUMMER**

The Chief of Staff of the Russian Army General Makarov has warned that Washington and Tel Aviv are planning an act of war against the Persian country in April and no later than June.

The Israeli fascists are anxious to involve America in a war with Iran, which they falsely accuse of "building" a nuclear weapon. Israel already is a "nuclear" armed country and a threat to world peace.

**CHINA THROWS AUSTRALIA A LIFELINE**

Both Australia and Brazil have huge deposits of cheaply mined "iron ore" and China is a booming market for enormous quantities of the mineral.

Because of Australia's closeness to China, Australian mining companies have had a distinct advantage. The Brazilians have sought to overcome this disadvantage by using "ore" carriers of over 400,000 tonnes.

Carriers of this size have enabled the Brazilians to land "ore" at Chinese ports that compare favourably with the costs of Australian "ore".

However, as a gesture of "goodwill" towards Australia the Chinese Government has placed an embargo on "ore" carriers of over 350,000 tonnes docking at Chinese ports.

This has restored the advantage to Australian "ore" companies, BHP Billiton, Rio Tinto and Fortescue Metals.

There could be a subtle message here for Australia's government, which depends so much on our lucrative trade with China and the above example indicates how finely balanced relations between countries can be.

**WORLD WAR II - WAR TO END ALL WARS**

At the end of the Second World War which was the greatest and most destructive war in the history of the Human race, it was declared it be the "war to end all wars".

"Some one forgot to tell the American neo-com's and the worst elements of their capitalist class.

In 1962 President John F Kennedy launched the most destructive and murderous act of aggression with the invasion of South Vietnam.

Around about the same time John F lamented the failure of American aggression and terror to crush Cuban independence.

When the war ended eight years later in the rout of the US forces some said it had been a "noble cause" and could have been won using the "ultimate" weapon. Other claimed it was a "mistake" and besides it had become too costly.

Then came the "war" in Iraq. It was marketed to a terrified public on the grounds of "self-defence" and as an awesome threat to civilised survival.

No "weapons of mass destruction" or "nuclear weapons" have ever been found in Iraq.

Now nine years later with over one million Iraqis dead, two million Iraqis refugees in neighbouring countries and the Iraqi infrastructure destroyed, America and Britain admit defeat and have turned their attention to Afghanistan, Syria and Iran.

Thanks to the "veto" exercised by Russia and China, Syria has been spared the fate meted out to Libya by America, France and Britain.

Where over 30,000 civilians were killed in relentless French and British bombing raids with the assistance of the occasional American missile attacks from warships off the coast.

America, France and Britain will support any "dictator" like Samozza, Marcos, Duvalier, Mobutu, Suharto and others as long as they maintain control.

When that is no longer possible, they discard the "dictator" and try and restore the old regime.



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LABOR MUST RETURN TO BASIC PRINCIPLES

The Labor Parties in the Federal and State arenas are confronting the most baffling and confusing ideological situation since the founding of the Labor Party.

The formation of the Australia Labor Party arose out of the struggles of the working class in the traumatic 1890 period.



Shearers raised the "Eureka" flag at Barcaldine in Queensland in 1891, the Barrier Strike at Broken Hill in 1892 and then the burning of the "Rodney" on the Darling River in 1894 along with the Maritime strikes were precursors in the formation of the Labor Party.

Those early fighters for social justice were ordinary workers with at best an elementary education and many of them probably could not read or write.

But they sensed that there was (is) something radically wrong with a "social system" that periodically condemns sections of the working class to unemployment, poverty, starvation, homelessness and loss of dignity, whilst a "minority" of society who perform no useful purpose continue to enjoy the products of the workers' "labour".

This led some early members of the Labor Party to advocate and set out the aims and objectives of the Labor Party and they wrote into the Program a call for the:

"nationalisation of the means of production, distribution and exchange".

In 1975 in a capitulation to the capitalist class and a negation of the rising "political consciousness" of the Australian working class the Labor Leaders removed this plank from the program of the Labor Party and replaced it with acceptance of the same tenets that guide the Liberal-National Party coalition.

Since that decision the Labor Party has lost its pre-eminence in the thinking of the Australian working class and people, along with loss of support of the "class" conscious workers which were the basis of its support during election periods.

The recent reshuffle in the Federal Labor Party appears more like a reward for characters who helped the Leader to the present position, than to people who have the ability and knowledge to improve the standing of the Party.



GERRY HARVEY UP TO HIS OLD "WHINGE"

If there is one thing that upsets Gerry Harvey, billionaire boss of Harvey Normans, it is to see little kids at Christmas time with shoes, clothing and toys which their parents have bought through the "internet".

About this time each year Gerry launches into his "whinge" about people buying on the "internet". Gerry says it is wrong and wants the government to stop it.



PRIME MINISTER RESHUFFLES CABINET

In any reshuffle in a political party there are always "winners and losers", the big winners on this occasion were the two ringleaders who were responsible for "knifing" Kevin Rudd and installing Julia Gillard as Prime Minister.

Julia Gillard claims that their activities in that episode had nothing to do with their elevation to higher positions in the cabinet.

This seems to indicate that Julia admires some of the qualities of Bill Shorten and Mark Arbib that is not readily apparent to ordinary "rank and file" members of the Labor Party.

Both are ultra conservative and are the prime theoreticians in plotting right wing tactics..

Bill Shorten for instance instead of opposing a Liberal as a way into Parliament, choose to conspire and take the seat of a Labor member who had by hard work and diligence improved Labor's position and made it a safe Labor seat.

Bill was a protégé and close personal friend of rogue billionaire and industrial cheat Richard Pratt. When Bill married the daughter of Menzies Government Minister Julian Beale, Richard Pratt made his mansion "Raheen" available for a lavish reception.

When as a "trade union" official, Bill addressed the Canberra Press Club, Pratt and Beale flew up from Melbourne in Pratt's private jet to hear Bill speak.

On an occasion when Bill was in a hurry to get to Tasmania and no transport was immediately available, Pratt placed his private jet and crew at Bill's disposal.

Richard Pratt made no secret of the fact that he supported capitalism and conceded there were some "acceptable" people in the Labor Party.



SHORTEN AND ARBIB MUST JUSTIFY FAITH

When Julia Gillard addressed the recent National conference of the Labor Party she repeatedly referred to the "Traditions" of the Labor Party, even though she made no attempt to explain what those "traditions" are.

Now would be a good time to rectify that position, with Australia beset with so many problems requiring attention.

Private enterprise has shown that it is incapable of handling, dealing with or solving the main social problems facing the country.

Provision of energy and housing are two areas in particular where a new approach is urgently required.

The Federal Government must take steps to engage and take an improved role in the generation and distribution of "gas and electricity".

There is nothing to prevent the Federal Government setting up a "government bank" to make loans available to people seeking to build a home, at nominal rates of interest, say 1% or 2%.

The basic intention of founders of the Labor Party was to change the nature of the social system in the interests of the people. Now would be an ideal time for Bill Shorten and Mark Arbib to show where their political intentions and activities will lead them.



AMERICA'S IMPERIAL ARROGANCE

Already involved in multiple direct and proxy wars around the world America is widely regarded as a rogue terror state and imperial predator.

With the American economy in a bad way with up to 20 million unemployed, 50 million below the poverty line and 45 million on "food" stamps, the war-hawks see continuing and expanding war as a solution to their problems.

With an election year beginning some hope that this will act as a kind of restraint, "but don't bet on it".

America is awash with fake threats that provide pretexts for militarism, wars, invasions and occupations, higher defense budgets, domestic repression and bogus claims of threats to America's security.

The American inspired and financed uprisings in the Arab states have not yielded the results hoped for, so new plans are being hatched to deal with Syria and Iran based on America's favourite of "regime change".

As a rogue state America seeks unchallenged global dominance and all countries it doesn't control are targeted.

Allowing American bases in a country is no guarantee of sympathetic treatment as the Pakistani's have learnt to their sorrow.

For how long and how successful the American policies will be? "Only the fullness of time will tell".

**ASYLUM SEEKERS CONTINUE TO ARRIVE**

Despite the continuing "jumping up and down and flip flopping around", Julia Gillard and Tony Abbott have been unable to prevent the unheralded arrival of "boat" people coming to Australia.

There's very little basic difference in the policies of either "leader", but neither have the "moral" courage to pin-point the cause and talk only about the effects of the arrivals.

At present discussions are underway with representatives from both the Labor Party and Coalition, all are tertiary educated and members of parliament.

From times immemorial it has been traditional for people to flee from areas under threat, whether it be wars, famine, persecution or multitude of other reasons.

It should be clear to the people involved in the present joint discussions that the cause of the migrations is "American foreign policy and American invasions in the Middle East" and they should have the "moral courage" to say so.

In the main these asylum seekers are from Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan all victims of American war and invasion. The migrants from Iran are leaving early because Iran is under constant threat from both America and Israel with unprovoked bombing and invasion.

Australia is involved in the American war and invasion of Afghanistan and to some extent is the cause of its own dilemma from the asylum seekers.

Australia should immediately withdraw its entire military and naval forces from all areas in the Middle East.

**DOES AUSTRALIA NEED AN AMERICAN BASE**

The decision to allow America to establish a military and naval base in Australia will do nothing to improve Australia's standing in the Asian area.

China poses no threat to Australia and is Australia's most important customer with regard to our export commodities.

There's no indication that China threatens to invade or attack America.

**MEDIA BIAS AND WITHHOLDING OF NEWS**

The withholding of news and bias reporting of other news with the deliberate intention of creating false impressions has become an art form especially with the Murdoch press and the electronic media.

Over the past week we have been reviled with reports of demonstrations in Moscow aimed at Vladimir Putin the former Russian president.

Obviously someone in the Murdoch empire doesn't like Putin, but that shouldn't be at the expense of withholding news about what's happening in America.

One thing is clear, demonstrations in Russia are permitted and properly organised and policed.

This contrasts with America where demonstrations are repeatedly broken up by police brutality and the leaders taken out for special treatment.

The treatment of the "Wall Street Occupiers" raises concern as to what happens to "Occupiers" when police take them around the corner.

**IS THE GREENBACK ON DEATH ROW?**

There appears to be growing concern about the continued health of the American dollar.

America has made full use of the printing press to turn out trillions of dollars and now the time has come to reappraise the situation and put an end to America's abuse of the fiduciary currency standard ushered in on August 15 1971.

It seems that the Bank of England is leading the push for the reassessment, but there is widespread support from other quarters and countries including financial authorities in America.

The Capitalist world is in dire circumstances and is groping for a solution to the problem of the trillions of dollars in circulation.

There is talk of reverting to the "gold standard" and setting the price of gold.

**A WITHDRAWAL WITHOUT HONOUR**

The United States has withdrawn its forces from the Iraq war without winning and failing to impose its will on the Iraqi people.

The reality is that American troops are leaving Iraq after they destroyed the country's hospital and health services, its electricity and gas systems, sewerage and water systems.

All of these had been functioning systems when the Americans arrived, but are now wrecked and dysfunctional. Bush, Cheney and Rumsfeld attacked Iraq to gain control of its oil resources, using the pretext that Iraq had "weapons of mass destruction. None of which have ever been found.

A battle now looms between Exxon-Mobil the giant American oil company and the Iraqi Government. Exxon-Mobil has been caught cheating by the Iraqis and could be in serious trouble.

Prior to the American invasion Iraq compared socially with any of the Middle East states, and despite being a "dictatorship" compared more than favourably with America's ally and friend Saudi Arabia.

In Saudi Arabia there is no 'democracy', women are not allowed to vote, or be in the street unless accompanied by a male, they are not permitted to drive a car and can be beheaded for minor indiscretions.



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RANN GIVES BHP-BILLITON THE GO AHEAD

In one of his last acts as premier Mike Rann has signed the mining indentures giving BHP Billiton an open go at South Australian resources and facilities.

This leaves it to the incoming premier Jay Weatherill to straiten out the anomalies, among them the location of the proposed BHP desalination plant and access to water from the "great artisan" water resource.

There is wide support that the desalination plant should be located in an area on the west coast where it could be enlarged to serve towns in the west and where the brine could be returned to the open ocean for more efficient dispersion and mixing.

With regard to the draw off from the "artisan" basin this is a resource that is vital to the towns and pastoral industry in Queensland, New South Wales and South Australia.

There are already reports that the "water table" has fallen and necessitating the installation of new pumping equipment on pastoral properties.

The Roxby Dam project is believed to have a life of 200 years, so it is imperative that things are planned and done right now and avoid problems in the future years.



KICK-BACKS ENDEMIC TO SYSTEM

One of the features of a social system in decline is the proliferation of shonky and fraudulent conduct by people in places of authority and responsibility.

Sometimes it is in areas of no great moment, but in others it is to the detriment and cost to individuals and the community and cannot be ignored.

One of the common methods leading to this anti-social conduct is to give a "gift" of some value to such a person in "authority" in return for having been given a sizable order for goods or a contract of considerable value.

A recent problem has come to light in NSW involving a number of local governments. Fortunately NSW has a set-up of an authority to investigate fraud and miss use of Council Finances.

South Australia has no such "authority" and calls from sections of the community for such a body to be set-up received a refusal from the retiring premier Mike Rann supported by his Attorney-General John Rau.

South Australia is now blighted by a dispute within the Burnside Council, which has cost \$1.5 million plus and about which the community has been kept in the dark.

Suddenly out of the blue comes to light the case of "kick-backs" regarding the orders and purchase of "printer rollers", which at the very least warrant and investigation by a proper authority.

These are some of the problems left for the incoming premier Jay Weatherill by the flamboyant, incompetent, spin merchant Mike Rann.

Jay Weatherill becomes premier at a trying time for South Australia and we wish him much success.



WESTERN CAPITALISM NEAR MELTDOWN

The western capitalist countries are caught up in a crisis of major proportions and the people are laying the blame for its cause on the behaviour of the "banks, financial institutions and the big corporations".

These organisations represent the core of the capitalist system of society and in a period of 'over production' maintain their "profit margins" by reducing their workforce.

Unemployment is now a number one problem throughout the world.

Workers require and want to work to provide for the maintenance of their families, but are being denied this "basic" right to work, unless at the same time they are able to produce "profit" for the capitalist organisations.



If capitalism is not able to solve the problems confronting the human race then the system must be changed.

This is the history of the "human race", when the "slave" system no longer could meet the needs of the people, the system was changed to feudal society.

When "feudalism" failed to meet the requirements of society "capitalism" came into being.

We are now on the eve of changing from "capitalism" to a higher and improved society to meet the needs of the people.

In each case the new society comes into being with all the contradictions and problems of the "old" society, but in the changed circumstances are solved.

Change is a "basic" law of nature, nothing is permanent or constant and this applies to human society.



AUSTRALIAN BUILDING & CONSTRUCTION COMMISSION - MUST BE SCRAPPED.

While ever this nasty piece of anti-working class legislation remains on the books, it is a threat not only to "Building Industry" workers, but constitutes an attack and a danger to every worker and Trade Union in Australia.

Initially aimed at the Construction Forestry and Energy Union (CFMEU) it is now realised it is a danger to all forms of Trade Union and working class activity in pursuit of improved living standards.

Introduced by the Howard Government as "Work Choices", its essence has been retained by the Gillard Government in its "Fair Work" legislation.

This has been recognised by Coalition Leader Tony Abbot and Senator Eric Abetz, two of the most reactionary politicians in Australia.

They say "Work Choices" is dead and sense that "Fair Work" can be used to attain the same ends.



ACTU TO CONDUCT WORK INVESTIGATION

The ACTU is to conduct an inquiry into the overall working conditions in a number of industries.

There are mounting reports of employers resorting to "all sorts" of shonky arrangements in order to avoid paying workers their correct entitlements.

These practices are particularly rampant in areas where women, migrant workers and students are employed.

Simon Crean has linked these practices to the Howard Government "Work Choices" and are aimed at stripping away workers' minimum "award wages" and "rights to annual leave and penalty rates".

There is also abuse of the purpose and intention of the "casual" work ethic, again at the expense of the "worker" and for the profit of the employer.

Using people who are desperate for a job and usually ignorant of the legal and award conditions to which they are entitled these people are easy prey for employers anxious to maximise their profit.

**THE SEVEN BIGGEST ECONOMIC LIES**

To justify the blatant rip off of the working class the 'capitalist' class resorts to all sorts of "furfies" to lull the workers into believing that they have the "workers" interest at heart.

1. "That tax cuts for the rich trickle down to everyone, with the 'bosses' able to employ more workers. "Absolute baloney":
2. "Higher taxes on the rich would hurt the economy and slow job growth". "False"
3. Shrinking government generates more jobs. "Wrong again". Fewer government workers be they public servants, nurses, shop workers, teachers, fire fighters, police officers, depletes the economy of their spending power and causes further loss of jobs.
4. "Cutting the budget deficit is more important than boosting the economy" "Untrue". It will increase unemployment. The first priority must be creating jobs and returning the economy to growth.
5. "Hospital and health services are major drivers of budget deficits". "Wrong again". These are legitimate public services. The main cause of increased costs are the fantastic profits of the drug companies.
6. "That "Social Security encourages idleness" "Wrong again".
7. "That its unfair that lower income Australians don't pay income tax" "Baloney" A worker on the "dole" pays the same tax on a "loaf of bread" and the various other sales tax as does James Packer or Gina Rinehart.

Demagogues through history have been aware that "big lies," repeated often enough, start being believed, unless they're rebutted.

The above seven economic whoppers are just plain wrong.

Constant repeating of "lies" was an important aspect of Hitler's rise to power.

Make sure you know the truth - and spread it on.

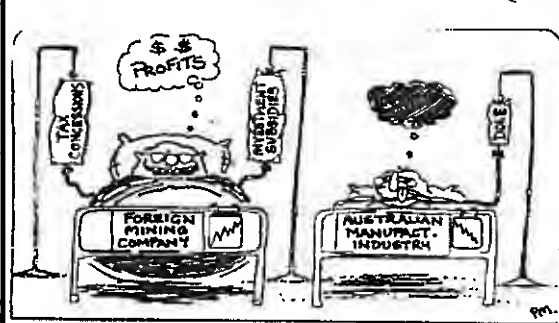
**WORKERS FIGHT TO RETAIN JOBS**

Workers employed by Qantas and Rio Tinto are engaged in struggles to retain their jobs and maintain their living standards.

In the case of Qantas the company "bosses" want to farm the maintenance work to low wage countries at the expense of Australian engineers.

It is also the Qantas plan is to employ stewards and stewardess from low wage countries instead of Australian workers on Australian wages and conditions.

Pilots are also in conflict with Qantas over the



conditions of engagement.

Qantas was recognised world wide as an Australian flag-bearer

and the safest air line in the world, but that is no longer the position.

Qantas was originally a "government owned" air line, but was "privatised" by the Hawke-Keating Labor Government.

Rio Tinto, the giant mining company has decided to dispose of its aluminium smelters and fabrication plants in Australia.

This threatens the livelihood of thousands of Australia workers in that industry at a time when jobs are in short supply.

If the Labor Government was still conscious and supportive of the original precepts of the Labor Party now would be an ideal time to commence nationalising some of our basic and strategic industries, which would include the "steel industry".

**BILLIONAIRE TIPS LABOUR SHORTAGE**

Billionaire Miner Gina Rinehart claims there is a labour shortage in West Australia and any move to attract more workers by raising wages and improving conditions will cause "investors" to go elsewhere.

Gina doesn't say where, for the reason that there is no where safer for "investors" than Australia.

Mining companies should be paying more "tax" and workers should receive higher wages and better living conditions. And Gina's fear would be shown to be baseless.

**AMERICAN WORKERS HAVE HAD ENOUGH**

American Nurses and Transport Workers have had enough and are leading the protest movement throughout America against the attack on their wages, living and working conditions.

At a time when there has been a sharp increase in "poverty" to 46.2 million, which is the highest since 1959, they have wide support.

The Transport Workers Union is leading the "Occupy Wall Street" campaign and have the full support of other Unions, including the New York City Unions.



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UNIONS & WORKING CLASS HAVE DILEMMA

The Trade Unions and the working class are faced with a social and political dilemma.

It was the original concept of the Trade Unions to create the Labor Party as a means of bringing about the social changes in which unionists and the working class would receive a fairer share of the "values" which they produce.

That belief has been dealt a savage blow by the present leaderships of both the Federal Labor Party and the State Labor Parties.

Where as the original aim and objectives of the Labor Party was to strengthen the political position of the working people, plus the "public" ownership and control of "vital" activities and resources, the present leaders are more concerned with strengthening the position of the capitalist class and "private" enterprise.

Private enterprise which is the "essence" of the "capitalist" system of society is now in its twilight and has no interest of serving the needs of the people.

Capitalist activity is interested in profit and to maintain profit at its maximum, exploits the working class and uses any development of new technology for the same purpose.

Capitalism is now an impediment on the development of society and unless the Trade Unions and working class take control of the situation, social and living conditions will get worse.

Its no good looking to the present leadership of the Labor Party to understand or do anything about the worsening situation.

If the Labor Party is to survive and regain the support of the Unions and working class, most of the present politicians must be "retired" and replaced with representatives in tune with traditional needs.



JUSTICE IN AMERICA - THREE CRIMES

Paul Allen, 55 a Chief Executive Officer of an American mortgage company defrauded lenders of over \$3 billion, he went to prison for 40 months.

Roy Brown, 54 a hungry homeless man robbed a bank in Louisiana of \$100 - the teller had given him more but he handed the rest back.

The next day he surrendered to the police. He got 15 years.

Richard James Verone handed a female teller in an American bank a note demanding money and claimed he had a gun.

He started to walk away from the teller then went back and told her.

"I'll be sitting right over there in the chair waiting for the police".

Verone has no medical insurance. He has a growth of some sort on his chest, two ruptured disks and a problem with his left foot. He is 59 years old.

He is in goal and hoping to get 3 years and so get medical attention.



RANN GOVERNMENT AT LOWEST EBB

The Rann government is at the lowest ebb a Labor government has ever been in living memory.

Its position hasn't been helped by the sudden and mysterious resignation of one of one its top performers and minister the Hon. Bernard Finnigan after less than two (2) months in the position.

The Party caucus has now appointed Hon. Russell Wortley, his mate as a minister.

Mr Wortley, who as Secretary Gas Union, promoted himself as a "hard left" member of the Labor Party and his criticism of the "soft left" was that it was too docile in pressing its objectives to benefit Union members.

Now as Minister for Industrial Relations and Local Government, Mr Wortley is in a key position to publicise and encourage action on his beliefs.

The Trade Unions and the working class will be watching with special interest his reaction to a 30 hour week, improved job conditions and wage increases.

By adopting a positive attitude Minister Wortley could lift the standing of the Rann government.



ATTACK ON PSA WONT GO AWAY

The resignation of Kevin Foley as Treasurer was welcomed by all sections of the community and probably by none more so than the Public Service Association.

The newly appointed Treasurer Jack Snelling made a good start by correctly proclaiming that:

"capitalism reduces humans to economic units serving capital. Such a system, be it rational or irrational, is fundamentally incompatible with the dignity of man, given him by God."

Whilst people will differ as to who or what is responsible for "man's dignity", most will agree that "capitalism is the prime cause of man's social problems today.

Now is a good time for Treasurer Jack Snelling to right the "wrong" made by former Treasurer Kevin Foley in robbing "public service workers" of their "dignity" by deciding that 4000 of them are to join the unemployed.

This would go some way towards restoring the "dignity and support" of the SA Labor Party.

Deliberately sacking workers and creating unemployment might enable budget funds to be allocated to areas where it is a benefit to builders and investors but it has a detrimental effect on service to the community and social living standards.

It should be the aim of any government and a Labor government in particular to maintain and improve service and the living standards of the people and not just look after the "big end" of town.



AMERICA HEADED FOR A DEPRESSION

A number of influential American economists are no longer mincing words, they claim that politicians in Washington are setting the US up for a repeat of the 1930s.

While things at present may not be a full replay of the Great Depression, that is little consolation for the millions of American families suffering from the "slump that just goes on and on" insists Nobel laureate Paul Krugman.

"At some point there must be new thinking in Washington - but until that time, welcome to the second Great Depression" says Dean Baker of the Centre for Economic and Policy Research.

Some claim that the level of the US job market is in worse shape than during the Great Depression. More than six (6) million Americans, or 45 per cent of the unemployed have been out of a job for more than six (6) months.

That's a higher proportion than at any point during the Great Depression. In all, about 25 million Americans are unemployed or under employed.

And American present policies could make the situation worse.

**US NURSES CAMPAIGN FOR A FAIR SYSTEM**

National Nurses United the nurses union has commenced a national campaign for a "Main Street Contract for the American People".

They are holding rallies adjacent to the White House and Congress along with a protest at the Chamber of Commerce, the lobbying arm of Wall Street and big business who created the crisis that has put so many Americans in dire circumstances.

As the nurses walked the Halls of Congress in Washington, one political aide warned that "Wall Street runs this place". Another told the nurses to "lower your expectations" to which one nurse replied, "how would you like us to say that when we're prepping you for surgery".

Nurses in all countries from time to time have to stand up to managers, insurance bureaucrats and even doctors to demand their patients get the care they need, not just what the government or someone decides the hospital should provide.

Like Jesse James, the solution begins in America by going to where the money is, Wall Street. In Australia to Banks and super-rich Industrial and Mining Companies.

**CRUELTY & TORTURE OF PRISONERS**

For almost 40 years Albert Woodfox and Herman Wallace have been in **solitary confinement** at Louisiana infamous Angola State Prison, in what is thought to be the longest period of enforced isolation in America's vast prison system.

Amnesty International says their treatment is "cruel and inhumane and a violation of US obligations under International law".

Convicted of murder in 1972, there has been no credible or legitimate review of their case.

There was never any physical evidence of their guilt, only questionable testimony of other inmates, one of whom was bribed by officials and another who retracted his testimony. Such is American justice.

**LIBYA - THE GREAT DEBATE AND THE LAW**

There is no doubt that the situation in Libya provides one of those moments in history when the collective test is where does common sense, honesty and decency stand.

How far has NATO led by England, France and America progressed towards a state that is governed by the precepts of the rule of law, in which international law not only exists but is applied and practiced.

In the United Nations "Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review - Libyan Arab Jamahiriya (2) praises Colonel Gaddafi for upholding human rights in Libya and he was to receive a "United Nations" award in March.

Where Gaddafi fell foul of the Imperial powers was in deciding to completely "**nationalise**" Libyan oil resources and distribute the profits for the benefit of the Libyan people.

Any move to nationalise resources is like a "red rag" to a bull and America immediately unleashed 50 to 60 cruise missiles on Benghazi creating the conditions in which rebel elements could seize weapons.

America then handed the further conduct of the attack over to NATO headed by England and France, both of whom have social and economic problems and see control of Libyan oil and labour resources as a possible way out of their mounting problems.

The position in Libya should be left to the Libyans along with the African Union to sort out. If NATO, England, France and America don't accept this, then what exactly do they support.

Certainly not peace and not democracy.

**CLASS NATURE OF SOCIAL TURMOIL**

The social turmoil that is embracing most countries of the world is taking on the nature of a conflict of ideologies.

This turmoil indicates the conflict between the two main classes in society the "capitalist" class which owns the "means of production" and the working class whose "working time" is the source of capitalism profit.

From the capitalist's profit position the aim is for workers to work for the maximum number of hours each day, say 6, 8, 10 or more creating values for which the worker receives values in exchange (food, clothes, housing etc) which on the "average" takes 1 to 3 hours to produce.

The extra hours worked by the worker is the source of the capitalist's unworked for value or profit.

This leads to the political situation where the "working class" could do without the capitalist class by socialising the "means of production", but the capitalist class cannot do without the working class.

Depending on the political consciousness of the workers depends their living standard, which leads to the position that some workers with the same skills will receive a higher share of the values produced..

However, the capitalists seek to control the amount paid out to workers by relying on "friendly" governments to put a "cap" on wages, whilst allowing and encouraging an open slather on working conditions, with no limit on profits and taxes kept to the minimum



THE PLOD

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SHOCK RESIGNATION ROCKS RANN GROUP

The shock resignation of Bernard Finnigan, one of the Rann governments top ministers has caused apprehension throughout the Labor Party.

A former official of the Shop Assistants Association (SDA) and protégé of Senator Don Farrell, a Labor Party boss, Mr Finnigan had been in the position less than three months.

The suddenness of his resignation took everyone by surprise, including his closest and influential colleagues of the "right-wing" faction such as Attorney General and Deputy Premier John Rau and senior ministers Pat Conlon and Tom Koutsantonis.

Mr Finnigan continues to keep the reasons for his resignation to himself and to date has everyone guessing.



Mike Rann cut short his trip to Melbourne and returned to Adelaide to take charge of the situation, but has been unable to clear up the enigma.

To make matters worse for Mike a few days after he returned it was reported in the "Advertiser" that a Labor Party member has been charged by the Police with "child pornography".

Things can't get much worse for Mike with the latest opinion polls showing Mike at the all time low for his leadership of

the Labor Party at 24%.

It must be time for the Parliamentary Labor Party to take stock of where Mike is leading and "tap" Mike on the shoulder along with his incompetent senior ministers.

The present leadership of the Labor Party is bankrupt and devoid of progressive working class ideas.

It is in the grip of the "builders, investors and Standard and Poor" the upstart American economic advisers.

This has led to the position where finance from the "budget" has been directed into "capital" works for the benefit of the "builders and investors" by neglecting the legitimate requirements of the working people.

This has led to thousands of workers losing their employment in the health, hospitals and educational areas, a run down public transport service and a public service unable to cater for the peoples needs.

If the Labor Party is to survive it must develop a working class policy and strategy, with ministers appointed on ability and support of Labor principles, not on their allegiance to the "right-wing" faction or as to whether or not they attend church or mass on Sunday.



AWU TO DEFEND MEMBERS RIGHTS & JOBS

Delegates at The Australian Workers' Union (AWU) conference early in the year expressed alarm at the deterioration and loss of jobs in industries traditionally employing AWU members.

The Conference identified one of the causes of this problem of loss of jobs as being the result of uncontrolled entry of "goods and material" from countries with lower living standards than Australia and in accord with the guide-lines of the American sponsored "World Trade Agreement" to which Australia is a signatory.

China was named as one of the countries fitting this category, but, constitutes a special problem for Australia, as being Australia's biggest trading customer it is at present underwriting Australia's prosperity.

The "class" nature and contradictory position of Australian society is evident, whilst one section of Australian "capitalism" (mining) is prospering another section (manufacturing) stands on the brink of sharp decline.

The position fundamentally is that China's continued economic development is more important to Australia, than is Australia's manufacturing industry is to China.

The task confronting the AWU is to convince the Australian people of the national importance of maintaining the basic manufacturing industries and jobs of AWU members.

In view of the Gillard Government's precarious position and its total subservience to the rules of the World Trade Agreement, it is doubtful if it will make any move to protect Australian industry and jobs.

In accordance with past practice of "capitalist" private enterprise the "capitalists" will seek to create the "level" playing field by shedding jobs and cutting wages.

Workers should prepare for the inevitable.



WORKING CLASS POLICY TO SAVE JOBS

If workers jobs are to be saved and additional jobs created there needs to be a return to the basic policies that were a feature of the Labor Party and AWU in the early years and which inspired the working class..

Capitalism is incapable of solving the problems with which Australian society is now confronted.

Capitalism, which is based on the exploitation of the working class has proved a failure because of its focus on maximum profit which it seeks to maintain by lengthening hours of work and reducing workers wages.

The working class needs a political party dedicated to:

Nationalisation of the financial system

Social ownership of all public utilities

A thirty (30) hour working week



REASON FOR WAR-NATIONALISING OF OIL

The Libyan leader proposed the nationalisation of U.S. oil companies, as well as those of the U.K. Germany, Spain, Norway, Canada and Italy in 2009.

On January 25, 2009, Al Gaddafi announced that his country was studying the nationalisation of foreign companies due to lower oil prices.

Oil should be owned by the State at this time, so we can better control prices by the increase or decrease in production, he is reported to have said.

These statements have worried the main foreign companies operating in Libya, which included Anglo-Dutch Shell, British Petroleum and U.S. ExxonMobil.

As a result of these contract changes Libya gained 5.4 billion dollars.

Then Gaddafi took a step further and called on Libyans to back his proposal to dismantle the government and to distribute the oil wealth directly to the 5 million inhabitants of the country.

This proposal met opposition from senior officials who could lose their jobs due to a parallel plan by Gaddafi to rid the state of corruption.

His ideas were condemned by bankers and senior officials, but, it gives a lie to the false image of Gaddafi as a dictator who "robs his people".

There is growing evidence that there were no "unarmed civilians" involved in any actions against Gaddafi and that the subsequent uprising and civil war has been organised by the CIA and other intelligence service mercenaries, foreign elements and Al Qaeda.

**INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY**

Speaking on the occasion of International Women's Day 2011, Michelle Bachelet, United Nations Women Executive Director made some interesting observations.

"Evidence shows that where women have access to good education, good jobs, land and other assets, national growth and stability are enhanced, we see lower maternal mortality, improved child nutrition, greater food security and less risk of HIV and AIDS"

International Women's Day has been a public holiday in Russia since 1965..

"Women are participating in the work force in greater and greater numbers and 67 countries have laws mandating equal pay for men and women, 126 countries have guaranteed maternity leave, women and girls are mobilising, alongside men and boys, to advance political freedoms worldwide".

However, she points out much more needs to be done. Seventy per cent of the world's poor are women, 66% of the world's illiterate are women: women can be decapitated, beaten, stoned to death or buried alive, women can be punished by death for being raped or for complaining about being raped

International Women's Day started in the United States of America, launched by the Socialist Party of America and was endorsed at the International Women's Conference in Copenhagen in 1910.

The horrific and inhumane conditions at the New York Triangle Shirtwaist factory which caused the deaths of 140 garment workers (mostly women) in 1911 provided an added impetus at a time when women were pressing for the "right to vote".

Following the Russian Revolution in 1917, Lenin declared March 8, as Women's Day.

**MIKE RANN TO EXPLAIN FINNIGAN ENIGMA**

Mike Rann, South Australia Premier is to address parliament when it re-assembles early next week and is expected to explain the circumstances leading to the puzzling resignation of Mr Bernard Finnigan from his ministerial positions on Thursday 21st April.

Mr Finnigan was one of the most powerful ministers in the Rann Government and was acting Police Minister at the time, during Kevin Foley's absence overseas.

Mr Finnigan was the government leader in the Legislative Council and his counsel was sought by "right wing" Labor members in both houses.

People like Federal Senator Don Farrell, who was his mentor believed Mr Finnigan had a bright future and would go along way in the Labor Party.

Mr Finnigan's resignation has devastated the Labor Party and along with the people of South Australia will be looking to the Premier Mike Rann to throw some light on the reasons for his sudden departure.

**AMERICA'S PROBLEMS IN MIDDLE EAST**

Unrest throughout the Middle East and North Africa continues to haunt the Imperialist powers, the USA, Britain and France in particular.

This is the area that contains the greatest reserves of oil and since the Second World War has figured largely in American political strategy.

The problem for the Imperialists is that the people in these areas are mostly Arabs and whilst they are split into various religious sects, have a united hatred and mistrust of the Imperialists and in particular the United States of America..

This has led the Imperialists to make use of those treacherous elements found in most societies, to stir up trouble when the ruling clique in a country begins to act in a manner that the Imperialists feel threatens their grip on the countries "oil" resources.

America in particular makes great use of the claims that they are supporting "democracy and freedom" as a cover for their brutal attacks on the people and which is to assist the treacherous elements causing the trouble.

America doesn't care what sort of government or ruling clique is in power in any country, so long as that country is subservient to the dictates of America and allows America control of its "oil" resources.

You only have to look at the situation in Saudi Arabia and Bahrain and the Arab Emirates to confirm this fact.

Iraq bucked the Imperialists demands which led to the American and British invasion, the devastation of the country and over a million deaths to date and with the Iraqi people still fighting to control their own country and "oil" resources.

America, Britain and Australia have now been involved in a "war" in Afghanistan for over ten (10) years which in the American and British strategic thinking is necessary to occupy in order to gain control of the "oil and gas" resources of Central Asia and the Caspian Sea area.

The sooner Australian forces are withdrawn from Afghanistan the better for Australia.



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CHANGES IN LABOR PARTY LEADERSHIP

Recent movements in the South Australia government set-up are what the Shop Assistants Association wanted and are in line with the political objectives of the Catholic Church.

Police Minister Michael Wright a long standing minister was unceremoniously dumped screaming and kicking and Kevin Foley fresh from his latest trip overseas took his place.



Foley, who is on the nose with the unions and working class generally, retains the support of Don Farrell and Peter Malinauskas the bosses of the SDA.

The big loser in the whole episode is Mike Rann whose claim that he decides which portfolios go to which minister sounds rather hollow in view of the fact that Farrell and Malinauskas made the decisions and Mike's job was to carry them out.

In Don Farrell and Peter Malinauskas the catholic church has two devout disciples who can be relied on

not to "rock the boat" and to faithfully follow the tenets of the church.

It matters not to the catholic church which political party is in government the important thing is the preservation of the "pluralist" class nature of capitalist society, with the right of the dominant capitalist class to exploit the working class for their enrichment.

Workers are encouraged to put up with unemployment, poverty, homelessness and a constant deterioration and loss of health, hospital, educational and living standards, while servicing the dominant class, "with the promise of pie in the sky when they die".

♦♦♦♦♦

AMERICAN WORKERS WANT A FAIR GO

The mass uprising which started in Tunisia and has spread throughout the Middle East has now reached America with the workers and people in Wisconsin and Ohio leading the way in support of democratic rights.

Beginning in Madison the state capital the mass rallies has spread across the country.

When the Governor Scott Walker proposed to 'strip the unions of their collective bargaining rights' the people decided it was time to act.

A rally of 30,000 quickly spread from Madison across Wisconsin to other cities and towns.

The Democratic state members refused to allow the enactment of the proposed legislation and stood by the workers and people.

Wisconsin people have a reputation for fighting for the people's constitutional rights and are prepared to take the fight to the streets if necessary to defend their democratic rights.

♦♦♦♦♦

LABOR PARTY IN TERMINAL DECLINE ?

The Labor Party is in decline and unless it can be reinvigorated by new policies in accord with its original purpose and principles it will become just another party serving the interests of the ruling elite.

The Labor Party grew out of the trials and struggles of the working class which can be said to have commenced in 1778 at the landing at Sydney Cove.

The original purpose of the Labor Party was to represent the working people who were mainly employed in construction, mining and rural work of which "shearers" became the most active.

Out of the discussions in the shearing sheds arose the idea that if workers were to improve their lives, then there had to be changes in the "structure" of society with the working class having a greater say in the "production, distribution and exchange" of the goods and services that they by their "labor" produce.

Since the end of the Second World War the Labor Party has reneged on its basic principles and now is more interested in serving the capitalist class than the welfare of the working class.

Because of these circumstances the Trade Unions and working people are looking to the Communist and Socialist Parties, Greens and Independents for the political changes they want.

♦♦♦♦♦

BLEAK OUTLOOK FOR TIMBER INDUSTRY

The outlook for workers in the timber industries in the South-east of South Australia are grim and to some extent are a result of the Rann-Foley-Conlon decision to privatise the South-east pine Forests.

It will be interesting to see how the new Labor Minister Bernard Finnigan handles this question.

Bernard Finnigan comes from the south-east and will be known to most of the workers and small businessmen, whose livelihood is now in peril.

The big question is, will Bernard Finnigan find the courage to challenge Rann & Co and earn the gratitude of the South-east people or will he buckle under and be seen as a supporter of the crazy policies of Rann-Foley-Conlon.

♦♦♦♦♦

FUNDS RAISING BY THE LABOR PARTY

There's no question that Nick Bolkus is the most successful funds raiser that the Labor Party has ever had, but the big problem is that his fund raising method has resulted in the "builders and developers" gaining control of the distribution of the State budget.

For \$1500 a seat "builders and developers" get to sit at tables where they can "blow" in the ear of the relative minister without fear of being observed or heard by "pesky" trade unionists or inquisitive ALP members.

In this way their projects have received the bulk of the budget funds, and funds for hospital, health and public benefit areas is severely cut.

♦♦♦♦♦

NICK XENOPHON INITIATES A GOOD IDEA

Nick Xenophon, the Independent Senator has come up with a suggestion that the states should take up a "disaster insurance" scheme to meet the cost of reconstruction following widespread destruction.

The Independent Senator is using his position and proposal to pressure the Labor government to gain some traction for his idea.

Its too late now for it to be put into action for the present emergencies but should be taken up by the Labor Party and fleshed out into a policy of significance to deal with national disasters resulting from "bush fires, cyclones and flooding" and or any other calamity which destroys the homes and livelihood of thousands leaving many families destitute.

The Federal Government should set-up a proper and clearly worded insurance scheme, run as a national institution in the interests of the people with the profits going into a fund where they can be held and be available in times of disaster.

National insurance of the scale and type required is too big an undertaking for "private enterprise" with its "crafty and tricky" wording of policies and so must be organised and controlled for the benefit of the people.

**JULIA GILLARD GETS STUCK INTO THE AWU**

Within a few days of addressing The Australian Workers' Union National Conference, during which Julia Gillard heaped praise on Paul Howes, National Secretary and Bill Ludwig, National President, she changed her attitude and used the national press to "lambaste" both.

Paul Howes apparently because he indicated that the Union would initiate a campaign in the "hard-rock" mines and aluminium industries for increases in pay rates and improved working conditions, perfectly legitimate aims for a trade union.

Bill Ludwig fell foul when he referred to one of the Labor ministers as a "rat". Nothing wrong with that, except maybe he should have expanded it to include more ministers as its obvious to the voting public that there are plenty of "rats" infesting the Labor Party.

This accounts for the poor showing of Labor candidates in recent Federal and State elections and the low esteem in which the Labor Party is now held in State and National polls.

**TRADE UNIONS DEFEND DEMOCRACY**

The bulwark of democracy is the Trade Union movement. This has been true since the beginning of the Industrial Revolution.

All social programs can trace their roots to union activism, as can the protection of our civil liberties.

The first people Hitler and Mussolini put in prison and concentration camps were neither Jews or gypsies - "they were trade unionists".

The Howard Government's "Work Choices" is inspired by busting the Trade Unions and is retained by the Gillard Government, with some alterations, for the same purpose.

For the "hard-right" in both the Liberal Coalition and the Labor Party the aim is the same, total control by the capitalist class of Australian society by the rich and for the rich.

The material essence of "capitalism" is the exploitation by the capitalists of the workers, resulting in a massive transfer of wealth from the producing workers at the bottom to the capitalist class at the top.

The challenge to democracy is clear.

**LIBYA AND THE UPRISING IN MIDDLE EAST**

Of all the struggles going on in North Africa and the Middle East, the one most difficult to unravel is the one in Libya.

Libya is not like Egypt. Its leader, Moammar al-Gadhafi, has not been an imperialist or American puppet like Hosni Mubarak.

For many years, Gadhafi was allied to countries and movements fighting the imperialist powers and America.

On assuming power in 1969 through a military coup, he nationalised Libya's oil and used the oil money to develop the Libyan economy, Dramatically improving the life of the Libyan people.

The American's bombed Tripoli and Benghazi in 1986 killing many civilians, including Gadhafi's infant daughter.

Sanctions were then imposed by America and the U.N. to wreck the Libyan economy.

It seems ironic that America, England, France and Germany are now calling for further sanctions on Libya. None of these countries have a record of being sympathetic to people whose government they disagree with..

In the circumstances it might be better to wait and see how things develop in Libya before making any judgement as to where its going.

**AUSTRALIAN COULD BE EXTRADITED**

A British Court has ruled that the Australian reporter Julian Assange, founder of WikiLeaks can be extradited to Sweden to face allegations of sex crimes, although no charge has been laid against him.

It is believed that the move to get him to Sweden is to then extradite him to America.

American government leaders have been severely embarrassed by WikiLeaks exposure of the American system of running a "duel diplomacy" one for the masses in which America appears as a supporter of "honest and moral conduct" and the other to cover the "secret plans" which constitute a danger to the people of the world..

We know what awaits Assange if the American's get their hands on him. We've seen how they treated prisoners in Iraq at Abu Ghraib and at Guantanamo.

It is known that the top leaders of the Swedish Government have close relations with the American ruling class.

**REPORT HAS BEEN PREPARED FOR ALP**

Following the walloping handed to the Labor Party by voters last year it was decided to set up a committee to examine the causes and to see what could be done to rectify the drift.

A full report has been prepared and handed to the Party, it is in three parts but only the first part has been made available to members.

Apparently the other sections are being examined by some officials who will decide whither to release it to the membership.

The fundament problem with the Party at present it has no "strategic" policy setting out the Party's aims and objects. Members will be hoping that this question is dealt with in these later sections.



THE PLOD

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WORKERS FACE POLITICAL QUANDARY

The collapse of the Labor Party, under the present leaderships in the Federal and State arenas has been caused by failing to faithfully represent and uphold the original aims and objectives of its founders. This now presents the Trade Unions and working class with an organisational, political and theoretical dilemma.

There was a time when the Labor Party was pre-eminent in the ideological thinking and voting patterns of the working class - that is no longer the position.

Recent elections confirm that sections of the workers class are now deserting the Labor Party, which is seen by working class people as being more concerned about looking after the interests of the capitalist class, builders and developers.

A treacherous group in the Australian parliament, concerned only with their own advancement and identified as Labor Minister Bill Shorten, Senators Mark Arbib, Don Farrell and David Feeney, created the conditions which reduced the Labor majority in the Aust Parliament from 28 to zero and where Labor now depends on "independents" for support.

Not one progressive idea has been put forward by this clique even through their leader, Bill Shorten has been promoted to Deputy Treasurer and had an opportunity to insist on some real controls of the major banks, instead of the fiasco that has been imposed.

In South Australia the Leadership of Mike Rann, Kevin Foley and Pat Conlon has reached an all time low, with Treasurer Kevin Foley, allocating so much of the "budget" for the benefit of "builders and developers" that he has sacked up to 380 public service workers.

This led to the ironic position where Mike Rann and Kevin Foley needed a police escort and protection to enter the recent Labor Party conference.

Its essential that the working class must either clean out the Labor Party and install genuine representatives of the working class or else look to either the "Greens, - Independents - Communist or Socialist Unity" parties as their representatives in the Parliaments.

♦♦♦♦♦

AWU CALLS FOR GENERATIONAL CHANGE

The Australian Workers' Union played an original and central role in setting up the Australia Labor Party at Barcaldine in Central Queensland in 1891.

At the recent Labor Party conference in Adelaide the SA Branch of the AWU took the lead in calling for "generational change" in the leadership of the SA Labor Party.

The AWU Branch Secretary was merciless in his exposure of the anti-working class behaviour of the present leadership of the South Australia Labor Party.

♦♦♦♦♦



Bill Shorten

WORKERS INSIST ON RIGHT TO ORGANISE

The working conditions and pay rates of Australia workers continue to be under attack by the Australian capitalist class, which is the dominant class in our society.

Working class rights is a distinctive, critical part of human rights, as recognized in the "Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international covenants.

Freedom of association - the right to bargain collectively and to take "strike" action - is the condition for the exercise of individual rights as workers.

Once Australian workers could rely on the Labor Party to defend and support these rights.

The Liberal-National Party Coalition is keenly aware of the organised strength of the working class and for that reason introduced their draconian "Work Choices" legislation and the use of State coercive forces to impose it on workers..

With the change of government in 2007 the working class and Trade Unions expected the Labor Government to annul and delete the Australian Building and Construction Commission from the Industrial calendar.

Under Julia Gillard, Work Choices was re-badgered and continued to be used against Trade Unions and workers.

The recent Ark Tribe case is a striking example that Trade Unions must rely on their own organised strength to achieve justice in a capitalist class dominated society.

♦♦♦♦♦

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL ENJOY TOP PROFITS

The perversity of Australian capitalism emerges in the statistics on earnings and employment in Australia.

While the people are faced with higher interest charges on mortgages, increasing electricity and gas charges, water rates etc, along with a diminished health and hospital service, plus steep increases in the cost of living, the Big Businesses are reporting record profits.

The mining companies are having a real bonanza and any attempt by the government to extract any of their "super profits" by way of additional tax is met with threats to take their investments and go elsewhere.

Of course this is pure bluff to cover their greed, and the government should challenge the mining companies to do just that.

Australian miners are on such a "good thing", that they refuse to believe that there is anything like a world recession and keep on making record profits.

When dealing with the mining companies about tax the craven nature of the governments is there for all to see. Any move by the workers to improve their lot by seeking Union access to the mine workers and the governments side with the mining companies.

♦♦♦♦♦

THE IMPERIAL WAR IN AFGHANISTAN

America's war in Afghanistan is in its tenth (10) year, with no end in sight.

It started out as an American dream to establish a bridgehead for the exploitation of the oil, gas and mineral resources of the Caspian and Central Asia. areas

Despite changing generals from time to time and experimenting with a variety of strategies nothing has worked.

With the American and Nato forces caught in a quagmire, it would seem that the sensible thing to do would be to withdraw military forces and try the normal "commercial" practice of obtaining the "resources" they require by normal peaceful trading.

The war in Afghanistan has split the American nation, with 65% of the people saying the war is not worth fighting or being involved in.

President Obama is in an awkward position, originally he announced that American forces would "pull" out by the middle of 2011.

This is opposed by a section of the American generals, along with the extreme right-wing of the Republican Party, armament manufacturers and neo-fascists, also sections of the ruling class in countries that hope to profit from an American victory.

In the meantime America's position in relation to the rest of the world continues to deteriorate, with the US dollar losing its value.

Australia as a "friend" of America should advise President Obama to declare he has "won" the war and withdraw. Australia could help him make this decision by withdrawing Australian forces from the Middle East and Afghanistan.

**CLASS WAR AGAINST WIKILEAKS**

The exposure by WikiLeaks of the manner by which the capital class conducts its diplomacy has become as an eye opener for people everywhere and sent shock waves through the civilised world.

It is obvious that there are "two" strands of diplomacy conducted by the "ruling" class in most countries, one for the purpose of misleading the working class and the underhand and secret aspect for the purpose of preserving and safe guarding "capitalist class" rule.

Despite all the noise and condemnation of Wikileaks, no one has challenged the "correctness" or "truthfulness" of any of its revelations.

Decent honest people around the world are rallying to the defence of its Australian presenter Julian Assange and view with the utmost disdain the actions of the American ruling class to silence this expression of "free speech".

Hilary Clinton, US Secretary of State recently gave her views on "freedom of the internet" and was critical of countries which sought to restrict their people from accessing parts of the electronic networks.

Now she is like the woman who had her mobile phone stolen and wants to bring back "hanging".

**KEVIN FOLEY FORECASTS A GLOOMY 2011**

Fresh from his recent stroll in Weymouth Street and in an interview with the "Advertiser" Kevin Foley paints a "dim and dreary" picture for the future and to quote Kevin "we've got to take a financial hit".

This is real "Standard & Poor" talk and is designed to soften-up the people for further cuts in services and price increases in those areas such as health and hospital services, public education, water, electricity and gas services.

The "WorkCover" program is also a cause of concern and could be on the list for more pruning.

**SENATOR EXPOSES JULIA'S DUPLICITY**

One of the cables released by WikiLeaks says that Senator Don Farrell tipped off the American embassy staff a year before that Julia Gillard was "actively campaigning for the leadership".

This contradicts the Labor Party version that Julia Gillard was reluctant to replace Kevin Rudd and only agreed to take the position on short notice at the behest of Bill Shorten who is the leader of the "push".

Senator Don Farrell is the leader of the South Australian right wing faction and wields awesome power in his home state through his connection with the conservative Shop Assistants Union.

Along with Senator Mark Arbib, they have kept the American Embassy informed about developments in the Labor Party.

As a result of their duplicity Julia has rewarded each of the four ring-leaders with promotion, Bill Shorten is now deputy treasurer and has access to all government information.

It might be a good idea for Julia to watch her back and remember what happen to Kevin Rudd.

**TIME FOR CAPITALISM TO WORK**

The end of 2010 has brought the usual rhetoric, media hype and academic declarations about the 'Australian economy recovering and that 2011 will be the year of achievements'. We've heard it all before since the economic crisis hit in 2007 and they have always proved wrong.

Labor and Liberal Party politicians alike dare not link the crisis to the "economic system", that has never stopped producing "downturns" that regularly cost so many thousands of jobs, wasted resources, lost outputs and injured lives.

While working class conditions continue to deteriorate, capitalist surpluses and profits continue to soar and stock markets boom, income and wealth is redistributed from the "workers and lower middle class" to the "rich".

The crisis and its burdens will continue until capitalists see sufficiently attractive opportunities for profit to resume investing and hiring workers.

The freedom of Australian capitalists to gain immense government support as needed when they can make maximum profits will remain.

The freedoms from want and insecurity for Australian working people will remain a distant second priority- "unless mass political action changes that".



THE PLOD

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FROM STUNNING WIN TO IGNOBLE LOSS

From the moment that Kevin Rudd led the Labor Party to a stunning victory by defeating the Howard anti-working class Liberal-National coalition the knives were out for Rudd.

Led by the Murdoch and Fairfax print press aided and abetted by the electronic media a continuous campaign was launched against the Rudd Government.

Sometimes subtle, at times more direct, it reached a crescendo when the Rudd Government announced a "tax" on the super profits of the mining companies.

A "tax" on these super profits was in line with the traditional policies of the Labor Party and was justified by the phenomenal profits resulting from the exploitation of Australian workers and national resources by the mining companies and which were benefiting from the continuing expansion of the Chinese economy.

The campaign against Rudd and the Labor government relied on the bogus claim that by "taxing" companies Rudd was placing foreign investment in Australia and Australian jobs in jeopardy. Neither claims had any basis in reality.

This fear campaign by the media had an effect on some within the Labor Party which saw it as an opportunity to advance their own agenda and masquerade as saviours of those Labor Party members who had slim majorities.

This internal party conspiracy against Rudd was led by Bill Shorten MHR and Senator David Feeney from Victoria and Senator Don Farrell from South Australia and resulted in Rudd being dumped and Julia Gillard installed as Prime Minister.

Julia Gillard called an election and went to the people with a negative policy based on reaction to the negative policy of Tony Abbott and the Liberal/National Party coalition

The fate of the Labor government now hangs in the balance and the Australian Government will be decided according to the whims of three (3) independents.

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TIME TO END AFGHANISTAN EXERCISE

Australia's involvement in the American invasion of Afghanistan has never been explained or creditably justified to the Australian people.

During the recent election campaign both Gillard and Abbott never mentioned the Afghanistan involvement, except in "off-the-record" statements when both "leaders" would pledge their support for the American adventure.

As hypocrites they both make a practice of appearing at the return to Australia of the bodies of Australian soldiers killed in Afghanistan and profess sympathy for the grieving families.

The Australian people should be told the truth as to why our troops are in Afghanistan and the contingent should be withdrawn immediately.

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LABOR MUST RETURN TO PAST POLICY

The collapse of Labor Party support in Queensland and New South Wales is the prime cause of the present precarious position of the Gillard government and indicates that the Labor Party has lost its pre-eminence with the Australian working class.

The Labor Party came into being as a result of the titanic struggles of the shearers and other workers during the economic problems of the 1890's when workers developed a clear recognition of the "class" nature of Australian society.

Arising out of the experiences of that period some of the early objectives of the developing political ideology was that some areas of vital economic activity should be "publicly" owned and operated.

This led to the position that for a time one of the objectives of the Australia Labor Party was:

"The nationalization of the means of production, distribution and exchange".

This remained the objective of the Labor Party until the Labor Party conference at Terrigal (NSW) in January 1975, when it was decided to adopt a policy that would guarantee the profitability of 'private enterprise' and put the "clampers" on workers wage rises and improved working conditions

From that time on Labor has continued to lose ground so it is no surprise that today the Labor Party faces serious theoretical and practical problems for which the present leadership lacks the knowledge, experience or ability to deal with.

It is imperative that the Trade Unions, the working class and the people generally pay more attention to the ideological and political consciousness of the people we elect to Parliament.

Parliament should not be a "reward" for "stooges" and "political" hacks to secure their own financial security by neglecting the welfare of the people they are elected to represent.

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NEED FOR CHANGE IN FRAMING BUDGETS

Labor Party Treasurers need to change the manner in which they frame budgets, if they are to avoid the financial quagmires which they continually find themselves in.

Instead of putting the "interests" of the capitalist class, builders, developers and other members of the "big end of town" first when allocating the "budget" funds, they deal with the interests of the people first.

Items like "hospitals and health services, public education services, provision of electric power, gas and water and public transport", should not be starved for funds and should have first call on budget funds.

After meeting these essential and vital social services, then is the time to allocate what is left to those sections of society who live off the "sweat and toil" of the working people.

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ISRAEL A DANGER TO WORLD PEACE

The most immediate threat to world peace is posed by the attitude of the fascist style government in Israel and its use as a provocateur by America.

Israel is the only nuclear armed State in the Middle East and poses a constant threat to its neighbours.

America's intrusion into the Middle East along with its invasion of Iraq and Afghanistan and its use of Israel as a provocateur is bound up with America's Imperial Strategy to take control of the "oil, mineral and labour" resources of the Middle East, Caspian Sea area, Iran and Central Asia.

With the support and backing of the U.S. Israel has embarked on a campaign of genocide against the Palestinian people and threatens to bomb Iran.

Iran has a history going back 8,000 years and poses no threat to the security of America which is 10,000 miles from the Middle East.

America's war in Afghanistan has now raged on for 9 years and 60 to 70 per cent of the American people are ashamed and opposed to the continual slaughter of Afghani people and 200 million dollar a day cost to the American taxpayer.

Its about time that Australia withdrew its troops from Afghanistan and advised our "American friends" to do the same.

**THE BANE OF THE WORKING CLASS**

Unemployment is the bane of the working class and a constant feature of "capitalist" society.

With the problems of production in previous societies this could be understandable, but in modern capitalist society production is no longer a problem.

The problem to-day is distribution which is hampered by lack of "purchasing" power in the hands of the people.

In a capitalist society, such as we have in Australia and where the capitalist class is in control, the motive of any activity is "profit" and the welfare of the people is of no concern to the capitalist class.

Unless a worker has a job he/she is condemned to a sub-standard life. With so many projects that could be undertaken and which would provide "jobs", people are entitled to question whose interests the politicians are looking after, besides their own?

**STIMULUS NEEDED TO CREATE JOBS**

Unemployment now hovers at around 6% with many of those listed as employed are on short hours and are subsequently destined to live a sub-standard life.

The time has now come for the State and Federal Governments, if they can't do anything about reviving the economy by providing jobs, then to take steps to increase the unemployment payments to embrace short hour workers and pensioners.

**INDEPENDENTS ON VERGE OF DECISION**

The "independents" have announced that they will decide which party they will support during the week beginning Monday 6th September.

These "independents" made up of disgruntled former National Party members are or have been subjected to pressure to rejoin the coalition and support policies to which they originally objected.

As the Parties now stand Labor requires the support of two (2) of the "independents and the Coalition three (3).

Of the three independents by reason of the composition of his constituency Bob Katter would seem to enjoy the greater degree of freedom to make a decision favouring Labor and acceptable to his majority.

It will be a test of the integrity of the other two (2) whether they stand by their earlier criticisms and claims or cave in to the pressures and urgings of the "wild-men" of the Liberal-National Party coalition.

As things stand it is obvious that the policies and "concessions" extended by the Labor Party is in the best interests of Australia at this point of time.

Labor has indicated it agrees to widespread improvement in the conduct of Parliamentary business and procedure, will support a proper and intelligent conduct of "question" time.

Labor will support greater "freedom" for backbench members to raise and participate in debates.

The Labor decision to support an open debate in Parliament of our involvement in the American occupation of Afghanistan is in accord with the thinking of the majority of Australians.

**ELECTION OF A SPEAKER A PROBLEM??**

Whichever Party gets the nod to form a government the election of the "speaker" will pose a problem.

In a tight situation which could arise if the "independents" break one (1) to Labor and or two (2) to the coalition there would be 75 members each.

To avoid this possibility of a new election, the "independents" must vote as a block and give their support to one or the other of the contending parties.

If Labor gains their endorsement it will have the support of 77 members and would be able to retain the support of 76 members after the election of a "speaker".

Should the "independents" give their support to the coalition as indicated above the provision of the "speaker" will be a major problem for them. Unless of course they are able to lure someone from the Labor Party to "rat".

Now might be a good time for all Australians to give some thought to the method of choosing a "speaker". A more democratic method is required..

A "speaker" is required to be "fair and independent" and it is unreal to expect a person elected by his/her constituency as a member to act in this way at all times



THE PLOD

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CAPITALISM FACING A SYSTEM CRISIS.

No sooner had the advanced capitalist countries believed they had weathered the threat of an economic recession, than they are again facing a deteriorating economic situation.

European countries, along with Japan and America are in dire straights, with massive debts, politically restless populations and rising unemployment.

It could be that the stage is being set for social and political change in these countries.

Because of the development taking place in China and with Australia's favourable position of being able to supply the materials required by China the Australian economy has to-date coped with the looming economic downturn with some confidence.

Our current buoyant economic position is entirely due too and mainly dependant on the continuing expansion of the Chinese economy.

There is a similarity between the overall social policies of the Rudd/Gillard government and the Abbott Liberal National coalition.

For instance both approve and support the American invasion of the Middle East and Afghanistan, both support "private enterprise" with no control of price increases in basic essentials such as food and energy.

Both support a "cap" on workers wages and in their own way continue to support and use the Howard government "Work Choices" legislation to threaten and limit any industrial activity by workers and their unions for improved safety, pay rates and conditions.

However there has developed a difference between the Rudd government and the Abbott liberal coalition, around the issue of which of them can best preserve and serve the interests of the capitalist class and system.

Rudd believes that a portion of the super profits flowing to the Mining Industry in particular, should be taxed and used to pay off debt and be available to stabilise the capitalist system should the Chinese expansion bubble burst or their trading practice changes

Abbott and his cohorts who represent the most conservative and reactionary elements of the Australian capitalist class have the support of the Murdoch press and the media generally, along with a troupe of craven reporters, who deliberately slant their reports in a manner that they know their media bosses will approve..

Abbott, part of whose education was with one of the most conservative and medieval organizations ever known to man, supports no tax on the "super profits" of the Mining companies and if necessary the use of coercive and State powers against the working class.

One of the lurks being used by employers to conceal the true state of the economy is the widespread practice of engaging workers on part time or short hours.

A worker employed in this manner is regarded as employed, is not entitled to social relief and becomes part of a sub-group of workers with a standard of living below that of workers on full time employment.



JOB REP PERSECUTED OVER SAFETY ISSUE

Ark Tribe was the Union Rep for about 30 building workers employed on a building site at the Flinders University, when a serious matter of safety was brought to Ark Tribe's attention.

As is usual the workers held a meeting and decided to have the matter attended too.



This request was conveyed to the contractor, the matter was attended too and work was resumed.

But, then a "lowlife" reported the holding of the meeting to the Australian Building and Construction Commission which promptly

summoned the Rep, Ark Tribe to give them a report and "pimp" on his mates.

Acting in the finest tradition of the Australian Trade Unions and working class Ark Tribe refused to act as Judas. Ark now finds himself being persecuted by the ABCC and threatened with a 6 months jail sentence.

That the ABCC can continue to use this hang-over from the Howard government to persecute decent honest workers taking action to ensure safe working conditions, is a condemnation of the inept and bumbling manner in which Julia Gillard has tinkered with Howard's "Work Choices" legislation.

Its "time" that Work Choices in its entirety is lapsed and deleted.



ABBOTT IN A FRENZY OVER BOAT PEOPLE

Tony Abbott seems to go into a frenzy whenever he hears that another boat load of people escaping from war zones are heading for Australia.

He seems to think that the Rudd government is slack on these people and takes the bat on Kevin Rudd.

The continuing arrival of boat people is another hang-over from the Howard government of which Abbott was a key member, and is a direct result of involving Australia in the American invasions of Iraq and Afghanistan

The root cause of the increasing number of boat people heading to Australia is American policy in the Middle East and Afghanistan, which Abbott supported as a minister in the Howard government..

If Abbott was fair dinkum he would be calling for the recall of Australian troops from Iraq and Afghanistan and urging and supporting the Rudd government to do the same.



U. S. DOUBLE STANDARDS IN MIDDLE EAST

Propped up by the United States, Israel continues to play the role of a provocateur and main preventer of any peace agreement with the countries of the Middle East.

Israel is the only nuclear armed state in the Middle East and continually threatens to bomb Iran, falsely claiming that Iran is building a nuclear weapon.

Israel's recent attack on the High Seas of a Peace Convoy taking "food and medical supplies" to the besieged people of Gaza, broke just about every rule in the book of what is considered civilised conduct.

Israel is a "terrorist and apartheid" state and under the present Zionist fascist government constitutes a danger to the peace of the world.

Israeli forces killed 1400 defenceless people with their indiscriminate bombing of Gazan people in December 2009 and January 2010.

Israel now has 200 nuclear weapons and uses its monopoly to threaten and blackmail the countries of the Middle East and to defy the United Nations.

Iran has no nuclear weapons and carries on nuclear activities for medical and peaceful purposes.

Over the past 40 years, Israel has demolished more than 9000 Palestinian homes and is holding 1.5 million Gazans in an open-air jail and defies the calls of the rest of the world to unlock it.

**TIME FOR MIKE TO DO THE RIGHT THING**

Fresh from his recent solo trip to England and American now would be a good time for Mike Rann to take steps to set up an Independent Commission against Corruption in South Australia.

South Australia is the only State that has no such facility to investigate corruption or shonky behaviour by politicians or public servants in this state.

As Mike knows not every politician, lobbyist or public servant is courageous enough to admit they were or are wrong.

The recent example of a senior politician withholding information from the public until after the elections is a case in point.

There is no valid argument against the setting up of an ICAC in South Australia.

By continuing to resist the setting up of a ICAC in South Australia, Mike leaves himself and his government open to the "suspicion that they have something to hide".

**NURSES STRIKE IN MINNESOTA HOSPITALS**

Donning bright red t-shirts and waving "We care for you signs" 12,000 Minnesota (U.S.) nurses walked off the job a couple of weeks ago.

Unable to reach an agreement with six Minnesota hospitals nurses held a 24 hour strike. The first in U.S. history. Nurses are seeking a 3% wage rise and protection of their pension plan.

Also involved is a demand for a "strict patient-to-nurse ratio" which nurses say will protect patients safety.

**AMERICA IN TROUBLE IN AFGHANISTAN**

After 10 years of war in Afghanistan things are getting worse by the day, with increase activity by the Afghani people making it clear that they want the American invaders out.

Recent attempts to capture the Marja areas where the Afghanistan taliban are entrenched have been failures and the move on Kandahar has been postponed until September.

Over 1800 troops from the combined invaders have now been killed in Afghanistan, more than 1100 being American.

Appeals for more troops from NATO countries have fallen on deaf ears and the deaths of five (5) Australian diggers in the past two (2) weeks raises the question as to why are we in Afghanistan anyway.

Top brass and leading politicians of both parties routinely express their profound sorrow and sympathy to the grieving wives and loved ones.

"War is delightful to the inexperienced" (Erasmus)

"Sweet and seemly it is to die for one's country" (Horace)

President Obama is under extreme pressure in America to get his troops out, 53% of the American people now say the war is not worth fighting.

Coupled with the "oil spill" in the Gulf of Mexico, Obama certainly has plenty to occupy his time.

The time has come and is opportune for Kevin Rudd to bring all Australian forces home from the Iraq and Afghanistan fronts.

**WORKERS SHOULD STUDY CAPITALISM**

Capitalism as a world system has legions of apologists. Some do so in good faith, the product of their ignorance, as Karl Marx said "the system is opaque and exploitative and its predatory nature is not evident in the sight of men and women of the world".



Others claim they are major beneficiaries and they get huge fortunes from its injustices and inequalities.

To contradict the proliferation of idyllic versions of capitalism examine some of the data from Official U.N. documents. They are highly

didactic especially in relation to the current and developing crisis.

Some claim the solution to the problems of capitalism is to be obtained with more capitalism by the G20, the IMF, WTO and World Bank, repentance of past errors and more promises to resolve the problems effecting humanity.

All these institutions are incorrigible and irreformable and any hope of a change in their behaviour is nothing more than a pure illusion.



Prepared and issued by
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Life member of The Australian Workers' Union

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LABOR PARTY RETURNED TO OFFICE

The Labor Party has been returned to office mainly as a result of the loyalty of its "true-blue" members and its grass roots supporters.

Under the leadership of Mike Rann, Kevin Foley, Michael Atkinson and Pat Conlon there has been a catastrophic loss of support and confidence in the Labor Party.

Instead of heeding the needs and requirements of the working people for policy direction. It has been the "builders, developers and entrepreneurs" who have had the ear of the Rann Government at the expense of the working people.

The functions set up by former Senator Nick Bolkus, himself a millionaire, have a price tag of \$1000 to \$1500 a seat where Rann Government ministers and the "bosses" can get together without any fear of "rank and file" workers learning or knowing what is being hatched.

If Labor is to regain the confidence and trust of the people of South Australia there must be openness and transparency in what the Government says and does.

There are some areas of vital concern to the people of South Australia that "private enterprise" can not satisfactorily handle.

The Rann Government must take steps to control the rising costs of: "electricity and gas - water - education - hospital and health services" etc.

These items should have first claim on the "budget" ahead of "capital" allocation expenditure.



WHO IS THE "FERAL" NOW?

Kevin Foley and Michael Wright in their quest for some cheap publicity at the expense of "protesters" at the Beverley uranium mine nine years ago will now cost South Australian taxpayers plenty.

Irrespective of what is a persons particular attitude to uranium mining and or protesting, it doesn't call for the stupid "bunch of ferals" comment made by Kevin Foley.

Protesters at the Beverley uranium mine nine (9) years ago were within their rights and were entitled to be treated with respect as lawful protesters.

This is the view of Justice Tim Anderson who on Friday 9th April awarded (9) protesters and a television cameraman a total \$724,550 as compensation for their ordeal at Andamooka in May 2000.

The protesters had offered to negotiate a settlement but Deputy Premier Foley refused. Taxpayers will now have to pick-up the tab for both sides in the case, which will cost tax-payers a fortune.

Foley and Wright should now both consider their positions and do the "right" thing by the people of South Australia and the Labor Party.



LESS SPIN AND MORE TRANSPARENCY

One of the lurks used by some "employers of labour" and which creates a false impression of the true state of the economy is to employ workers as "permanent part-timers" or as "under employed" workers.

Irrespective of whether a worker is employed for one (1) hour or twenty (20) hours a week he/she is regarded as being employed.

This practice is wide spread in some sections of industry including the retail industry, with some workers being on short hours for years.

It is an area where Mike Rann should initiate an inquiry as to how wide spread the practice is in South Australia as it's a fact of life in Australia that to enjoy the minimum "living standard" a person should be employed for 38/40 hours per week.

By employing two (2) workers on "short hours" as being employed gives a false reading of the percentage of employment and enables government ministers to make dodgy claims to have reduced unemployment.

While some unions have accepted this situation and made provision for members on permanent "short time" to pay union dues "pro rata", some unions continue to charge these unfortunate members "full dues".

Approving of and benefiting from this situation is contrary to the "traditions" and "aspirations" of the Labor Party and should be exposed and workers employed full time.



GILLARD PICKS A FIGHT WITH TEACHERS

Deputy Prime Minister Julia Gillard has decided to pick a fight with the Australia Education Union about an issue when common sense would suggest she should confer with the Union.

Next to the parents, teachers have a very special contact and relationship with pupils and students during the decisive formative years at school..

Teachers get to know and understand the particular problems of students because of family and social conditions and which can have an influence on a students' ability to absorb and learn.

Under the conditions that prevail in some areas, it would be manifestly wrong to "name and shame" these schools and by inference cast some doubt on the professional competence of the "teaching staff".

Julia Gillard's uncompromising attitude has led to the Teachers Union deciding to boycott the proposed tests so as to protect its members from any unfair criticism.

Sharan Burrows the ACTU President is urging Deputy Prime Minister Gillard to re-think her attitude and to meet and work with the AEU to iron out the cause of the concerns.



MAY DAY CELEBRATED BY WORKERS

May Day is celebrated by workers throughout the world as the day they review their achievements and make plans for the future.

The first May Day in Australia was celebrated in Barcaldine in Central Queensland during the Shearers' strike in 1891.

Every May Day has its own special significance and to draw attention to issues of vital importance to the working people.

For instance bringing to the notice of working class leaders the need to rekindle the original aims and aspirations of Australian Labor Party.

This May Day will signify 65 years since the end of the Second World War with the raising of the Red Flag on the German Reichstag by soldiers of the Red Army.



It signalled the end of the Hitler regime and the liberation of the German people from the scourge of war and fascism.

This year in Moscow at the "Victory Celebrations" on May 9, contingents from the Armed Forces of France, Britain and the United States will march through Red Square with thousands of Red Army veterans as they celebrate "peace" and the momentous events of 1945.

**ISRAEL SABOTAGES NUCLEAR CONFERENCE**

Israel is making a practice of thumbing its nose at international law and is the greatest danger to peace in the Middle East and the world.

Invited to President Obama's recent nuclear conference in Washington, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu sent a deputy.

Israel is the only "nuclear" armed state in the Middle East, estimated to have upwards of 60 nuclear weapons.

Israel continually threatens to bomb Iranian facilities claiming that Iran is building a "nuclear" weapon, despite Iran's claim that it is seeking only to provide "nuclear" fuel for power plants.

Its about time that the United Nations and the leading world powers brought this rogue apartheid state to its senses and put a stop to its genocide of the Arab people.

**KYRGYZSTAN PEOPLE CHANGE LEADER**

The motivation for the change of leader in Kyrgyzstan has been reported to have been the corruption of President Bakiyev and the sky rocketing costs of electricity and gas.

The continuing increases in the costs of items necessary in peoples living standards is causing discontent and anger in many countries and the events in Kyrgyzstan could be the forerunner of similar actions in other countries.

**TIME FOR A SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ICAC**

Its time that South Australia had its own "Independent Commission against Corruption" and its hard to understand why anyone would be opposed to such a plan being legislated for without any further delay.

Most unions support such a move and unless someone has something to hide why would they oppose it?

An ICAC could help to prevent many of the schemes that seem to come into being during a period of economic stress and honest people are less vigilant than they should be.

Mike Rann says he wants a national ICAC and a State ICAC would supplement such a plan should the Rudd Government ever get around to implementing such a plan.

**MINES MINISTER GETS NEW ADVISER**

Failed Federal Labor Party candidate Nicole Cornes has landed a plum job as adviser to Mines Minister Paul Holloway.

It is believed that Ms Cornes will receive a salary of at least \$122,000 per annum.

Ms Cornes who has worked in the office of the Shop, Distributive and Allied Employees Association, once had her own "novelty shop" and will bring this know how to the Mines Department.

Prior to being the Labor candidate for Boothby in the 2007 election, Ms Cornes used to support John Howard and the Liberal Party.

During the 2007 election Ms Cornes succeeded in recording a drop in the Labor vote, whilst defeated Labor candidates in other electorates did at least increase the Labor vote.

Ms Cornes is believed to hanker for another tilt at entering Parliament and is believed to have the support of Senator Don Farrell and State Treasurer Kevin Foley.

**AFGHAN PRESIDENT DEFIES HIS PATRONS**

The Afghan President Hamid Karzai is in hot water with his American patrons and should remember what happened to South Vietnam politicians who defied their American masters during the U.S. war there.

Karzai has dropped a bombshell by asserting that the U.S. was occupying Afghanistan to dominate the oil and gas rich Caspian Basin region. He has also accused the U.S. of vote "rigging" and wants the U.S. to stop killing Afghan civilians.

The Americans claim they are there looking for Bin Laden and to break-up the mythical al-Qaida and Taliban.

The Americans have 100,000 soldiers in Afghanistan and the dregs of capitalist Europe have 40,000 troops. Australia has 1500, which the Australian people say should be brought home.



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GREED - THE VERY HEART OF CAPITALISM

There is a view in sections of the Labor Party leadership that 'greed' is the cause of the melt down of the economy afflicting most of the world, including Australia.

No matter how it is explained "greed" is the very essence of the capitalist system and it serves no useful purpose in trying to delude the people by implying that there are "good" capitalists and "greedy" capitalists.

Karl Marx characterised capitalist "profit" as "rational behaviour" meaning that "greed" is an integral and general feature of the capitalist system.

Capitalists do not have a choice in the matter, any capitalist who is

not "greedy" falls by the wayside.

Capitalists continually seek to maximize their profits (greed) as a matter of necessity, any one who fails to maximise profits and falls behind will go under.

In the campaign to maximise profits and accumulate capital, capitalists seek to exploit the working class to the maximum by the reduction of wages, increasing the hours of work and reducing the standard of living.

In some cases whole industries and factories are closed down and set up in another country where wages and living standards are lower and profits (greed) is greater.

It is ironic that the same "greed" that underlies the economic slump is also the underlying cause of the booms.

In other words since profits (greed) drives the system it causes both "slumps and booms".

There was a time when the Labor Party recognised these obnoxious features of the capitalist system and had the aim and objective to bring about changes to the advantage of the working class and people.

With the penetration of the Labor Party by capitalist class ideology these aims and objectives have been deleted and Labor leaders now vie with the Conservative Parties as to who can best serve the capitalist class.



KEVIN FOLEY UP TO OLD TRICKS

Foley's ill-advised criticism of the Royal Adelaide Hospital in support of his wacky idea to replace it with a hospital on the contaminated site at the western end of North Terrace has bought an invitation from Dr Katsaros for him to visit the RAH and inspect it, so at least he would know what he is talking about.



KEVIN RUDD IGNORES UNION ADVICE.

Kevin Rudd has created a problem for himself and bought the Labor Party into disrepute by mishandling the question of asylum seekers coming to Australia.

Rudd has fallen for the "needling" by Malcolm Turnbull that he was soft on asylum seekers and to show how tough he can be concocted a scheme to off load 78 asylum seekers from an Australian ship on to the Indonesians.

This scheme has blown up in Kevin's face, much to the delight of Turnbull and Co and to the shame to the Australian people.

Paul Howes National Secretary, Australian Workers Union and David Noonan National Secretary CFMEU warned Rudd to be careful and to show some leadership and common sense on the question.

Advice Kevin Rudd has ignored at his own peril and to Australia's standing as a compassionate society.

It is natural for people escaping from war zones and poverty to gravitate to an area where they hope to find a better life for their families. That has been the history of the human race since the dawn of time.

The onus is on the recipient country to ensure all asylum seekers are genuine and not seeking to enter the country for illegal purposes.



"HOW SWEET AND FITTING IT IS TO DIE FOR ONE'S COUNTRY" (Horace)

One area where Kevin Rudd and Malcolm Turnbull are in complete agreement is keeping Australian Military forces in Afghanistan, despite the opposition of the Australian and Afghani people.

Afghanistan is the "poorest" country in the world and it is hard to understand how it can be a threat to the security of Australia or Australia's ally the United States of America, which is the most heavily armed country on the planet.

It is clear that the American people are opposed to their country's invasion of Afghanistan and are calling for their withdrawal from both Afghanistan and Iraq.

It now appears that America's on going wars in the Middle East is for the purpose of boosting the profits of the American armament industry at the expense of the American working class, where unemployment is just on 10% and rising.

The American experience of basing an economy on costly armament and imperialist war adventures is no solution to the social problems confronting the American people. It is an aspect that the Labor Party and Australian working class should take note of.

It can be said that there is truth in the saying that "war is delightful to the inexperienced".



TRADE UNIONISTS CONDEMN GESTAPO ACT

Thousands of Trade Unionists, led by the CFMEU Building Workers met opposite the District Court in Angus Street on Friday 30th October to protest at the use of the Howard/Gillard Australia Building and Construction Commission legislation to persecute building worker, Ark Tribe.

Ark Tribe, who was reported by a "low-life" to the ABCC because he insisted on safe working conditions on a construction site and then refused to attend an ABCC meeting for interrogation and to inform who and what was said at their job meeting.

The ABCC is a threat and danger to all sections of the working class and whilst at present aimed specifically at the CFMEU, could also be used against the AWU, AMWU, SHOP ASSISTANTS or any group of workers taking action to safeguard or improve their working conditions

The ABCC is a piece of Class legislation from the Howard Government, which has been taken up by the Rudd/Gillard Labor Government for the benefit of the builders, developers and the corporate sector of society.

Workers who worked so hard to ensure the defeat of the Howard Government and its "work choices", believed that the Labor Government would abolish the ABCC, now know they were sold a "pup" as the Rudd/Gillard Government has picked up and ran with the Howard Government legislation.

**TIME FOR OBAMA TO LINE ISRAEL UP**

The American Secretary of State is back in the Middle East for the purpose of "kick" starting the meetings to solve the problem of Israel's war against the Arab people.

The outlines for a durable agreement have long been clear. But Israel continues to frustrate any agreement by attempting to dictate the conditions, with no regard to the needs and conditions of the Arab people..

Israel is an "apartheid" state and the aggressor in the Middle East which continues to ignore and "thumb its nose" at the United Nations and any suggestions to act responsibly.

If America is sincere in wanting Israel to act honestly in negotiations, America holds the whip hand..

America continually supplies Israel with modern armaments and an annual subsidy of \$3 billion. Now is the time for Obama to tell Israel to come clean or lose American support.

Even though Israel is "nuclear" armed and periodically threatens and bombards its neighbours it does this because of support from America. It is now in America's best interest that it stops encouraging Israel's uncivilised behaviour..

**OIL TYCOON WANTS CHEAP IRAQI OIL**

Oil tycoon T. Boone Pickens claims America is entitled to Iraqi oil because America lost 5000 soldiers with 65,000 injured and one trillion five hundred billion dollars in costs paid the price. Pickens confirms that what America invaded Iraq for was oil.

**PROBLEMS OF A PLURALIST SOCIETY**

Now that the Australian Labor Party has dispensed with its "socialist" objective, members have to grapple with the problems of "pluralism" and the effects it is having on some of the leaders.

Australian capitalism is a 'class' society the dominant capitalist class prevails and this dominance is expressed in the activities of all sections of the bureaucracy which favours the dominant class.

An area where this bias is particularly prevalent is in colleges and universities, where students are turned out with a false sense of "freedom".

Just how workers can have freedom in a class society which is based on the exploitation of the worker for the benefit of the capitalist class is the question workers are faced with.

Just how this concept of "pluralist" freedom works is shown by "poverty and wealth" going hand in hand.

One of the spin offs of the "pluralist" concept is that it enables some Labor leaders to masquerade as upholders of freedom, when the net result of their actions is a benefit to the capitalist exploiter.

**THE AMERICAN WAR IN AFGHANISTAN**

George W Bush bequeathed to Barack Obama two wars, one in Iraq and the other in Afghanistan

Obama claims that American forces will be out of Iraq by the end of 2010, but is in a quandary with regard to Afghanistan.

Common sense says he should pull out of Afghanistan where things are going from "bad to worse", but he is under pressure to remain and to boost the number of troops there.

Obama's problem is the general's want more troops but the American people are opposed.

The original purpose of American invasion of Afghanistan was to use it as a launch base in a strategy to gain control of the oil and gas resources of Central Asia and the Caspian Sea area.

That dream has been become a nightmare, with Russia and China now being in the box seat and welcomed by the people of the various countries.

The European countries have refused to be inveigled any further into the "adventure" and whilst Prime Minister Kevin Rudd says he's in for the "long haul" the Australian people are opposed to any further involvement.

If there is a sincere and honest desire to help and assist the Afghanistan people that could best be done by prevailing on Barack Obama to withdraw and for the billions of dollars to be devoted towards the rebuilding of the devastated country.

There are plenty of areas here in Australia where the money now wasted in Afghanistan could be diverted and used to develop and improve Australia.



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THE PLOD²

file
Jim Doyle
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BOSSES HAPPY WITH FOLEY'S BUDGET

When the Treasurer Kevin Foley and his staff finalised the 2009/10 budget, Kevin Foley immediately hotfooted it to New York, to have it examined by Moody's and Standard and Poor, who act as supervising auditors for the International Monetary Fund.



Foley's budget was endorsed as being in accord with the directions of the IMF, and this accounted for the grin on Foley's face when he returned from the USA on Wednesday 27th May.

Whilst the Foley budget was greeted by the Builders, Contractors and the "Big End of Town", there was very little or nothing of benefit to the working people of South Australia.

Kevin Foley

Now is an ideal time for a Labor Government to restore the State Bank, Government owned Electric Power Industry and other State enterprises that were sold by ill advised governments to "private enterprise".

The State Bank, Electric Power Industry and other State Enterprises had all been the pride of South Australia and of benefit to the people.

Neither Mike Rann or Kevin Foley have been able to offer any solutions to the economic problems confronting the State.

They appear to be hoping that "private enterprise" can solve the problems and are overlooking the fact that it is "private enterprise" that is the prime cause of the problems that capitalist society is now confronted with.



CHANGE OF GENERALS IN AFGHANISTAN

The American War in Afghanistan is reaching a stage where the original objective is no longer achievable and only defeat and withdrawal must be faced.

There is a similarity between America's present position in Afghanistan and that which befell the American adventure in Vietnam.

General McKiernan has been replaced by General McChrystal in much the same way that General Westmoreland was replaced by General Abrams

Westmoreland wanted more troops in Vietnam as did McKiernan in Afghanistan and the change over in Vietnam paved the way for American withdrawal.

America's original strategy for getting involved in Afghanistan was to open the way for "pipelines" to exploit the oil and gas resources of Central Asia.

That strategy is in "tatters" as the countries of Central Asia now see America as an "imperialist" predator, which has brought suffering, brutality and destruction to the people of every country in which they gained a foothold.



GILLARD RENEGES ON ELECTION PROMISE

Union members throughout Australia are furious at the action of the Federal Labor Minister Julia Gillard for dressing up the Howard Government "Workplace Relations" laws under the "Fair Work Act" and trying to palm them off on Australian workers.

Workers had every right to expect the Rudd/Gillard Government to honour its promise to create a non-discriminatory work environment in which workers in all industries and callings would enjoy traditional democratic rights and freedoms.

In retaining the coercive powers of the Australian Building Construction Commission over workers in the "construction industry", Gillard endorses the position of the Liberal/National Party coalition and seeks to make the "workers" pay for the failures and short comings of the "capitalist" system.

Capitalist society is a class society where the dominant class exploits the working class by restricting workers share of the "values" workers have created, so as to enhance and increase capitalist "profit".

Kevin Rudd and Julia Gillard know this as does Simon Crean, Martin Ferguson, Bill Shorten and a whole bevy of ex-union officials in Federal Parliament who are now lining up and supporting legislation which had its origin in the "minds" of Howard, Costello and Malcolm Turnbull.

Is it any wonder that The National Secretary of The Australian Workers' Union Paul Howes, has been scathing in his criticism of the actions of the Rudd/Gillard Government, which he says is "unwise to **jump on the union-bashing bandwagon and start sending in the storm troopers**" to attack Union leaders for holding views that in the recent past were held by members of the Rudd/Gillard ministry.

The Rudd/Gillard Government goes down this path at its peril.



THE DOLLAR COMES UNDER CHALLENGE

Since the end of the second World War the American dollar has been regarded as a "reserve" currency and American has exercised a "right" to print dollars to finance its imperialist adventures.

The dollar has as a result lost a lot of its appeal as its value has fallen and some countries have been left with huge amounts of dollars with which they find it difficult to purchase tangible assets.

Some of these countries recently met at Yekaterinburg in Russia and explored ways by which they can change the financial set-up and use local currency.

It is estimated that China, Russia, India and Brazil which attended the conference hold around three (3) trillion American dollars.

There is evidence that some trade is now being conducted with "local" currencies and they have suggested changes to the International Monetary Fund, which would make it more friendly to developing countries in Africa and Asia.



ABCC GESTAPO HOUND HONEST WORKER

When construction workers on a building site Adelaide took action to rectify a number of safety issues which had been ignored by the building contractor the workers called in their union.

The CFMEU got SafeWork SA to visit the site. Prohibition notices were issued, the problems were rectified and work resumed as normal.

But then the Australian Building Construction Commission Gestapo men turned up on the job and began nosing around.

Instead of questioning the **builder** about the safety issues or his lock-out of workers on the Saturday, the Gestapo tried to haul workers in for questioning.

When Ark Tribe a rigger on the job was summoned for interrogation he ignored the summons and is now being charged "with failing to attend the interview".

Ark Tribe is entitled to work in a safe environment and should not be expected to put himself at risk.

Ark Tribe has done nothing wrong and is not prepared to be singled out and treated unfairly.

The treatment meted out to Ark Tribe could be the fate of any worker should Julia Gillard decide to extend the provisions of the ABCC to other workers.

Ark Tribe wont be intimidated and says "I'm prepared to go to court where I can be represented by a lawyer of my choice. I have the right to a fair hearing".

The Australian Building Construction Commission (ABCC) is a threat to the safety and working conditions of all workers and must be removed from the Industrial Relations Legislation in Australia.

**FAVOURITISM WILL DILUTE QUALITY**

Pat Conlon the Infrastructure Minister is one of the Rann Government foremost supporters of "private enterprise" and never misses an opportunity to push for "public-private" enterprise.

Instead of supporting "public" ownership of the "power industry" Conlon came out in support of private enterprise, claiming it would result in "cheaper electric power" for the people of South Australia.

South Australia now has a multitude of "private" providers of electric power and which has resulted in consumers having continual price rises, another rise in "electric power" charges is now in the pipeline.

Mike Rann and his acolytes have forfeited control and or have never attempted to regain authority over areas which were previously the responsibility of government

There are some areas in the production and service of some enterprisers that are better administered by government in the "public interest" of which generation and distribution of electric and gas energy are of prime importance.

Experience shows that "private enterprise" uses access to any production or service to the people for the purpose of extracting the maximum profit and in most cases provides a sub-standard product and service.

It is obvious that the Rann Government has lost its way and has turned into the "flip-side" of the Liberal Party, it is imperative that Trade Unions and the Labor Party Sub-branches pay greater attention to the quality of the candidates they endorse for Parliament.

**ISRAEL THEATENS MIDDLE EAST PEACE**

When American President Barack Obama delivered his speech in Cairo he made a number of important points which could be the basis for a beginning to settling the Israeli occupation of Palestinian lands.

The Israeli Government which is dominated by a Zionist Group of fascists has acted as a "terrorist" group for the past 60 years and have repeatedly thumbed their nose at any proposals to restrict their actions in the West Bank, by either America or the United Nations.

America has and is still playing a treacherous role in the Middle East and continues to supply Israel with the most modern armaments available, plus a three (3) billion dollar annual donation.

Israel is "nuclear" armed and continually threatens to bomb Iran, which is developing a "nuclear" industry for the production of electric power.

To show the world its contempt for any restriction on its "terrorist" activities, during the last days of December, Israel carried out a systematic bombing campaign against the "women and children" of the Gaza strip.

In all 1300 gazians were killed including one United Nations school with 300 children.

Israel today is the pre-eminent threat to world peace and instead of applying sanctions to Iran, the United Nations must deal with Israel.

**ELECTIONS IN IRAN UPSET THE LOSERS**

It happens in all elections the losers always "claim" they were duded and the recent elections in Iran are no exception.

During the Bush-Cheney period a number of Middle East reporters claimed that American "green" beret men and the CIA were operating clandestinely in Iran.

Given that Bush-Cheney were critical of the Iran regime, you can be sure they were not there to help the Iran Government.

Its American practice to question any election that results in support for people they do not approve

This accounts for the continuing campaign in the media against the Iran elections.

It is known that America sees Iran as critical to its plans for the Middle East with its oil and gas resources and overall strategic position.

**INQUIRING INTO THE IRAQ WAR**

So intense and widespread is the hostility among people in Britain at having been involved in the American war in Iraq that the British Government has been forced to set up a wide ranging inquiry into all aspects of Britain's involvement in the sleazy adventure.

Tony Blair has a lot to answer for as does the Howard Liberal Government, which was responsible for Australia's involvement despite the opposition of the Australian people.



THE PLOD ²⁰⁰⁹ *File*

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AUSTRALIAN WORKERS FACE DIRE FUTURE

Both the Prime Minister Kevin Rudd and Treasurer Wayne Swan have warned that catastrophic increases in unemployment could reach 10 per cent in the near future.



This gloomy outlook reflects the attitude that is gripping the leaders of capitalist countries world wide and ironically they are looking to China, a country with a Communist Party led government to help get them out of their self imposed mess.

According to Prime Minister Rudd the prime cause

of the problem is greed and avariciousness as practiced by "banks and insurance" companies, particularly in the US and by implication also in Australia.

The position can only get worse, unless the Labor Government does something to change the structure of Australian society.

The fundamental cause of the problems is the failure of the capitalist form of society based on "private enterprise" to meet the growing social needs of modern societies.

It was one of the original objects of the Australian Labor Party to aim for the ultimate nationalization or socialization of the "means of production, distribution and exchange".

Sadly, at the Federal Labor Party conference at Terrigal in 1975, these progressive aims were eliminated from the Party programme and Labor entered into an on going competition with the Conservative Parties as to who could best serve "capitalist" class interests.

The problems now confronting Australian workers and people will not go away and will intensify unless workers come together and demand proper worthwhile employment with government control of "banking" along with water, power generation, public transport, health and education.



CATERPILLAR WORKERS PROTECT JOBS

When the bosses at a French Caterpillar factory informed workers of a number of planned layoffs recently the workers took action.

They held the bosses hostage for 24 hours until President Sarkozy intervened and the company agreed to reopen negotiations.

While the bosses were held hostage the workers provided them with meals and played them a variety of "revolutionary" music and songs as entertainment.



DARK DAYS FOR AUSTRALIAN STEEL JOBS

One of the best indicators of a country's economic state is the activity of its industries and its steel manufacturing.

Since the end of the second world war with the enormous destruction that it entailed the world has enjoyed a period of unprecedented prosperity, but it has now come to an end and Australia's steel industry is facing hard times with the possible loss of up to "half a million jobs".

Australian steel mills claim that their orders have disappeared and their export and some domestic markets have been taken over by mills from foreign countries that use Australian iron ore to make their steel.

Paul Howes the National Secretary of The Australian Workers' Union has come up with an interesting suggestion for the Federal Labor Government.

Howes wants the government to insist that major government infrastructure projects in the May budget be required to buy Australian steel at a "benchmarked" international price reflecting a fair cost of production rather than cheaper overseas product.

This puts Rudd in the "hot seat" who is a vocal supporter of the "free trade" system and recently criticised Barack Obama's "Buy American" as "being protectionist and unacceptable".

Paul Howes' task is to balance the requirements of AWU members employed in the "iron ore" mines in West Australia and AWU members engaged in "steel making" in New South Wales.

May be he should consider the "original and traditional objects" of The Australian Workers' Union.



SURGE IN REFUGEES FROM AFGHANISTAN

As America beefs up its indiscriminate bombing in Afghanistan and Pakistan there is an increase in people trying to escape the carnage.

This is reflected in the up surge of "boat people" endeavouring to reach safety in Australia, some with tragic results.

Both Kevin Rudd and Malcolm Turnbull know that it is the invasion of American, Nato and Australian forces in these Middle East countries that is the core cause of the up surge in "boat people".

In any war there are people who try and head for safer areas. But it is the people who have the wealth who are able to pay the "fees" that get the furthest.

In the case of "boat people" coming to Australia there are reports of some paying up to \$16000 for the chance.

There is unlikely to be any relenting in the surge of "boat people" until such time as the Australian people join with the people of America in demanding the recall of all forces of aggression from these countries.



THE SPIRIT OF MAY DAY MARCHES ON

May Day 2009 is the 120th anniversary of Australia's first May Day procession at Barcaldine in Central Queensland, during a time of tumultuous struggles by the shearers for a fairer share of the wealth which they created.

It was these struggles that eventually led to the founding of the Australian Labor Party in Barcaldine.

The concept of May Day for the expression of the ideals and objects of the working class arose in America. A conference of American and Canadian trade unions in 1884 set 1st May 1886 as the day to commence strike action for the eight (8) hour day.

Six workers were shot by police at a procession in Chicago and following a protest demonstration at this police action a further eleven people were killed.

On the 14th July 1889 at an international congress of workers in Paris it was decided "to organise a great international demonstration in support of a working day of eight hours and May 1st 1890 was adopted as the day for the international demonstration".

This decision was welcomed in Australia, where the Operative Stonemasons' Society in Sydney and similar building trade unions in Melbourne, by strike action, procession and negotiation had already won this important demand.

May Day continues to be a rallying day for workers in all countries throughout the world in the fight for democracy, against war and a fairer share of the produce of their labours.

In some countries the level of struggle has reached a political level with demands for a change in society to a socialist mode of industrial production.

AGITATE ! EDUCATE ! ORGANISE !

WORKERS OF ALL LANDS UNITE !

**INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND**

Wayne Swan, Australia's Federal Treasurer is in Washington attending meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank and his comments released in Australia to date make dismal reading.

Both these organizations were set up at the end of the second world war and serve the imperial interests of America capitalism.

Countries that have borrowed from these bodies have found that their financial and social conditions have worsened as they are pauperised for America's benefit.

Conditions attached to IMF loans insist on sale of publicly owned property to "private enterprise" and minimum expenditure on health, education and anything of benefit for the people, along with wage rates at the lowest possible, short of causing popular uprisings.

Wayne Swan has signalled from Washington that the present down turn in production with unemployment to reach 10%.

If Australia is to progress we must reject any advice from the IMF and adopt an independent policy in the National interests of Australia and people.

**SOUTH AUSTRALIA LABOR HITS NEW LOW**

The recent elevation of Tom Koutsantonis to the ministry by Labor Party caucus and then subsequent appointment by the Premier Mike Rann to be Minister for Correctional Services, Youth Affairs and Gambling has blown up in the face of the right wing controlled caucus.

In their haste to prove their loyalty to the Shop Assistants Association and its boss Senator Don Farrell this mob have by passed more capable people.

There are Labor members with impeccable Labor credentials and who would make excellent ministers in any portfolio, but they come from the trade unions or from the left leaning section of the Catholic Church which makes them anathema to the Farrell clique.

Koutsantonis has held on to his ministerial positions and the big white car and he knows that in the present circumstances he is secure while ever he retains the support of Senator Don Farrell.

**DEVELOPERS CALL THE TUNE FOR LABOR**

Developers and sundry carpetbaggers have emerged as secret Labor Party financial backers and this helps to explain the change in Labor Party policies which now appear to be heavily favouring these people..

There was a time when the interests of the workers and disadvantaged sections of the community were the prime concern and every effort was made to improve and strengthen their position in society.

To some extent the working class has its self to blame as we have accepted the position of political policy being imposed from above by the leadership, instead of being generated from the struggles of the workers in their daily experiences in the class struggle.

Leadership from the top leads to class collaboration and the adoption of policies that are designed to favour the capitalist class.

We saw this recently when Mike Rann and Kevin Foley dumped "injured and maimed" workers with amendments to "Work Cover" at the behest of the employers.

It is imperative that that we must pay greater attention to the quality and ability of those who we elect to represent us in parliament.

**TIME TO BRING THE TROOPS HOME**

It was the Howard Government that committed Australian forces to supporting American invasions of Iraq and Afghanistan. That was eight (8) years ago and its time our forces were brought home.

There is a campaign under way in the United States to bring US forces home which has the support of ever growing numbers of people including politicians, university professors and even sections of their ruling class.

Its time for Australia to bring our troops home.



Noted

THE PLOD

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WORLD FINANCE - TRADE IN DIRE STRAITS

It is now abundantly clear that the capitalist structure of society in all countries is in dire straits as industrial production is cut back and thousands of workers lose their jobs and become unemployed.

It has been conservatively estimated that up to fifty (50) million workers world wide have now lost their livelihood and are unemployed.

To remedy and arrest this downward slide governments are embarking on campaigns to boost their economies by injecting huge amounts of cash into the communities with the aim of creating jobs.

There is a similarity in the methods adopted by the Rudd Government in Australia and the Obama administration in America.

And leads to the belief that in both cases they are being inspired by the American controlled International Monetary Fund (IMF) which has as its main aim the preservation of the capitalist structure of society.

The Rudd Government has succeeded in winning Senate approval for the injection of \$42 billion of fiscal stimulus into the Australian economy, designed to create jobs, lift business activity and encourage investment in worthwhile job creating projects.

It is to the credit of the Prime Minister Kevin Rudd that he has hinted that there is no guarantee that this "stimulus plan" will work and return the economy to a satisfactory and sustainable basis.

If it doesn't it will be necessary for the Labor Party to brush the dust off its traditional policies and begin to explore the nationalisation of the "banking system" sections of the "mining industry" and the larger "corporations" in the "National Interest".



CHINA TRADE COULD HELP AUSTRALIA

Australia's positive trade relations with China could go a long way in helping to alleviate Australia's developing economic downturn.

China remains a huge market for Australian iron ore and mineral products generally. China is also our biggest buyer of wool and looms large as a purchaser of many of Australia's exports.

China should be seen as no different to any other country, when their first concern is always governed by what is in the best interests of China, and that is how Australia should look at its dealing with all countries including China.

It is the duty of the Australian Government to ensure that Australia's interests are not compromised in structuring trade with any country.

It is believed that China will be a key country in helping the world recover from the present crisis. If that is the case then it is important that Australia doesn't adopt a policy of thinking that we have a monopoly of certain products and that China has no where else to go.



VICTORIA RAVAGED BY BUSHFIRES

Once again Victoria has been ravaged by bushfires, with over 200 lives lost and over 1000 houses destroyed.

Bushfires are an occurrence which happen with a certain regularity in all States in Australia and it seems that there should be some sort of Central organization that can exercise control and minimise the loss and damage that occurs by early warnings.

Its obvious that left to their own resources local towns are unable to gauge the dangers that are maturing and could change and sweep in their direction.

There needs to be established an organization, adequately equipped and maintained on a National basis for assessing and warning of bushfires and to give timely warnings to those areas in eminent danger.

Such an organization could be an integral part the "Air Force" and could constitute some of the training of air crews.



LIBERAL-NATIONAL PARTY IN DISARRAY

The Liberal/National Party coalition could be in a terminal disarray as the various factions struggle for influence and leadership.

The major cause of their problem is the multitude of philosophies and causes with which they are beset.

The hard core of the coalition is wedded to the belief of support for "private enterprise" and at the same time fail to recognise that "private enterprise" is the cause of the economic mess and crisis.

Another of their problems arises from the "splitting" role of Peter Costello. Costello feels he was duded by Howard who after promising to stand down as Prime Minister reneged and left Costello marking time.

Costello now hangs around the Liberal Party like an albatross thinking he will get a chance to assume the leadership at a critical moment in the future.

Another aspirant with a PM baton in his satchel is Tony Abbott, who during the recent election campaign "supported" an increase in old age pensions, but has now reneged and opposes any increase.



CORRUPTION ENDEMIC TO CAPITALISM

The CIA and FBI in America have a full time job looking for and catching fraudsters. Latest figures released by the CIA indicates they are looking for 500 at present. They have now located Allan Stanford the head of Stanford Finance who is believed to have knocked off \$9 billion from investors.



FORMER GOVERNOR SINKS HOSPITAL PLAN

The Rann/Foley plan to short change the people of South Australia by restricting finance to run hospitals, schools, housing and public transport and to use the money to replace the RAH has come unstuck.

Former Governor Marjory Jackson has refused to have her name used in support of the sleazy scheme.

The scheme is designed to cut to the minimum finance for providing services for the people and to divert the finance to the building of an unnecessary hospital to replace the present Royal Adelaide Hospital.

Doctors and Specialists at the RAH are emphatic that the present hospital is eminently suitable for all purposes and with some building improvements can be brought up to modern standards and requirements.

Rann/Foley want to allocate \$1.7 billion for their scheme to build a hospital on reclaimed contaminated land. Doctors say the plan they favour would cost less than half (.5) a billion dollars.

The Rann/Foley scheme will suit entrepreneurs and sundry investors who stand to make a packet. Rann/Foley intend to do the initial decontaminating of the site as a joint government/private enterprise and then build the hospital in the same way, when completed the hospital to be sold to entrepreneurs and then rented back by the government.

Its hard to believe that such a wacky building and financial scheme could be put forward by Labor Party leaders in this modern age

**DOUBLE DIPPERS ON PARADE**

A "BILL" before State Parliament will if passed curtail "double dipping" by ex-members of Parliament and their mates.

Introduced by former Labor Party member and now an Independent Member Kris Hanna it should expose the extent and amounts which these people continue to draw from the "public purse".

These people are in most cases already in receipt of generous parliamentary and government pensions but in their "greed" continue to be a drag on the community.

This is the sort of behaviour that is putting the Labor Party in a bad light and to some extent helps to explain the reason why voters are supporting "Independents" and dumping the major parties.

**PRESSURE ON RANN FOR CABINET CHANGE**

Rann is under increasing Media pressure to appoint some new members to the State cabinet. But he hasn't got much to choose from and the list submitted by the Advertiser is of little help and will make no difference to the political direction of the leadership.

If anything it will veer further to the "right" and of course will ensure that the "lucky" recipients will qualify for increased pensions should they fail at the next elections.

That now seems to be the main ambition of some members is to qualify for maximum pension.

**AFGHANISTAN ANOTHER VIETNAM**

Australia should be careful that it is not sucked into another conflict similar to how we ended up in Vietnam.

George W Bush left Barack Obama an administration in disarray with two unfinished wars and an economy on the verge of bankruptcy.

Whilst Obama claims he wants to get out of Iraq, he appears to be taking on Afghanistan where Bush left off and is to send an additional 17,000 troops to Afghanistan.

American strategy in Afghanistan is in serious trouble. At the recent conference in Krakow in Poland the main European countries refused to be drawn into providing any further combat troops for Afghanistan

America's original strategy was to use Afghanistan as a base for entry into Central Asia. That strategy is now in tatters. As American influence has waned the influence of Russia and China has strengthened in Central Asia.

Now to add to America's problem the "Taliban" which was originally trained and armed by the CIA to fight the Russians have turned on the Americans.

The Government of Kyrgyzstan which had allowed U.S. forces to use Manas military base has gave notice to vacate the base by 180 days time.

This is a major blow to the U.S. which channelled 15,000 troops and 500 tons of military supplies through Manas each month.

America now says it is in Afghanistan to build schools, hospitals, power stations and all sorts of good things, the Russians have agreed to allow goods of a peaceful nature through their country for U.S. use in Afghanistan, but, no war material.

Prior to leaving for the conference in Krakow, Joel Fitzgibbon the Australian Defence Minister said any extra troops from Australia for Afghanistan would depend on NATO countries increasing their numbers.

There is now no valid reason for Australia to become further embroiled in the Afghanistan fiasco.

**WORKERS SUFFER FOR COMPANY PROFITS**

One of the reasons for the tidal wave of layoffs and short time even at viable businesses and institutions in many cases is the lack of union organization on the job.

It is easy for managers to engender an attitude of fear and passivity among employees, which makes it easier to pick them off and make those on the job work harder.

Without Unions and proper awards there is little workers can do to resist speedups that can seriously threaten their health, safety and well being.

Only a new militancy and sense of solidarity among Australian workers and a revitalization of the nearly moribund labor movement can rescue this situation, which will get worse as the economy continues to sink.



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ANOTHER CRISIS OF CAPITALISM

Capitalism is in the grip of a "crisis of overproduction" on a world scale, and a corresponding crisis of unmet human needs, even for food and water.

Both the world wars of 1914/18 and 1939/45 were preceded by similar crises of "overproduction", coupled with a more intense exploitation of the working class.

The present failure of capitalism is accelerating the damage already done to the social and environmental foundations of human existence, and to spread the nightmare facing millions in the Congo, Haiti, Middle East, along with significant pockets of poverty in advanced capitalist countries including the European Union, United States and Australia.

For any economy to avoid crisis, an approximate balance must be maintained between production and demand by both producers and consumers.

Contrary to capitalist class propaganda - which unfortunately has penetrated the Australian labor movement - capitalists do not control the capitalist economy.

If they did they would avoid periodic crises, which slash their profits and can endanger their rule.

A capitalist economy is regulated by the laws of commodity production and exchange, independent of the capitalist's desires.

This is one of the basic tenets of Marxism for any understanding of capitalist political economy and its periodic crises.

The only element of control capitalists hold is in the distribution of pain and suffering caused by crises and environmental destruction.

The IMF and WTO are used for redistributing pain on a global basis backed by the US Military, NATO, FBI and CIA and in Australia by the "Australian Building & Construction Commission" - "Workcover" and "Industrial Relations Laws".

All of which are designed to limit and prevent the democratic organising and action by the "working class" for an improved order of society.



TURNING BACK TO MARX AND KEYNES

One of the features of the present recessionary times is the renewed interest in and sales of the works of Karl Marx and John Maynard Keynes.

Both in their own way, argue a central role for the State in managing the economy.

In Europe extra editions of Marx's "Das Kapital" are being printed and thirty (30) German universities are now offering new courses on Marxist theory. Whilst thousands visit his birthplace in Trier.

In London there is a constant stream of visitors to Marx's grave in Highgate cemetery with its huge monument to Marx engraved with his immortal words:

"WORKERS OF THE WORLD UNITE"



ISRAEL'S CRIME AGAINST HUMANITY

Israel's siege of Gaza is largely unseen by the outside world because of Jerusalem's refusal to allow humanitarian aid workers, reporters and photographers access to Gaza. It has disturbingly echoed of the Nazi ghettos of Lodz and Warsaw.

This is a stain on what is left of Israeli morality, so says Richard N Veits, the former U.S. ambassador to Jordan who led a delegation from the Council on Foreign Relations to Gaza to meet Hamas leaders during the summer.

"I am almost breathless discussing this subject. It is so myopic. Washington, of course, is a handmaiden to all this. The Israeli manipulation of a population in this manner is comparable to some of the crimes that took place against civilian populations fifty years ago".

Princeton University law professor Richard Falk, himself who is Jewish, has condemned the collective punishment of the Palestinians in Gaza as "a flagrant and massive violation of international law as laid down in Article 33 of the Fourth Geneva Convention".

Israel seeks to break the will of the Palestinians to resist. The Israeli Government has demonstrated little interest in diplomacy or a peaceful solution.

Israel is now bombarding Gaza, latest reports are that over 400 women, children and old men have been killed in the most concentrated and devastating bombardment since world war 2.

Israel is constantly and consistently supplied with American war material and assured of American support in its use.

Israel which is a "terrorist" state refuses to recognise or accept any advice or decisions of the United Nations Security Council.



RANN LETS FLY AT TEACHERS' UNION

School teachers are among the most respected group of people in our society. It came as a considerable shock to everyone when the Premier Mike Rann made false claims that the Teachers Union was seeking to take away from the Minister the running of the schools.

The Teachers Union is involved in a democratic campaign to improve the pay rates and working conditions of its members.

The people of South Australia have made it quite clear to Rann that they support the Teachers and Mike Rann has had to draw his horns in.

Instead of skimming off "tax-payers" money for projects to benefit the "developers and contractors" Rann should see to it that "taxpayers" money is used in the first instance for the benefit of the workers who produce the values represented by the money.



FOLEY'S BUDGET IS ANTI WORKER CLASS

Kevin Foley's mid year budget is a sell out of working class principles and traditions.

At a time when creating and maintaining employment should be first priority, Foley has decided to add to the unemployment pool by sacking 1600 workers from the public service.

It is generally agreed that the past five years has been a period of relative prosperity for South Australia, but very little of it has trickled down to South Australian workers.



Kevin Foley

The Rann-Foley government has kept South Australian wage levels low, whilst also cutting back on funds for education, health and hospital services, public transport and housing, areas which could be regarded as a form of social wages.

Finance, which should have been used in these areas has been deliberately channelled to projects for the benefit of "developers and contractors", who immediately take 25% to 30% as profit for their part of the deal.

Not content with serving the requirements of these entrepreneurs during a relatively prosperous period, Foley now plans to add "icing to the cake" for these people by selling to them what remains of public property and then "renting" back premises required by government departments.

In this way the "entrepreneurs" win both ways and South Australian workers pick-up the "tab".

**SLAVERY'S STORY TURNS FULL CIRCLE**

When Barack Obama takes the oath of office as American President he will be the first African-American to hold that office.

He will appear before a crowd massed on the Mall, where slaves were once held in pens, ready for auction. He will end his inauguration at the White House where the foundations were laid by slaves and where eight presidents held blacks as their human property.

The people of all countries will wish him well.

Barack Obama inherits a country left in a social and economic mess, plus two continuing wars, by the outgoing Bush-Cheney administration.

The Bush-Cheney administration specialised in deceit and led America into an invasion of Iraq as an absolutely essential response to the September 11 attacks, when Iraq had nothing to do with the Sept. 11 attacks.

Iraq had no "weapons of mass destruction" so Bush and Cheney ignored this evidence.

Now 6 years later over 4200 Americans are dead plus hundreds of thousands of innocent Iraqis are dead, their cities destroyed and the country laid waste.

According to the American Nobel laureate economist Joseph Stiglitz the cost to the American taxpayer to date is 3 trillion dollars and rising.

**PROBLEMS WITHIN A CLASS SOCIETY**

By its very structure as to who owns and controls the "means of production" in a given society is a dominant class created.

Australia is a class society and its very nature is reflected in the "constitution, judiciary, bureaucracy and all organs of state power, including the parliaments".

In times of potential economic uncertainty the dominant class takes steps to safeguard its position, by enacting legislation to safeguard its forte.

The Howard Government which represented the highest peak of "class" domination in Australia obliged with the "Australian Building & Construction Commission" and "WorkChoice" legislation.

By these pieces of legislation Howard stripped away from the 'working class' the right of democratically opposing the "dominant class" either organisationally or individually, and placed the pay rates and working conditions of workers in the hands of the "dominant class".

With the election of a Labor Government, in which the Trade Unions and working class played a prominent part, workers' had very right to expect the new Labor Government to take steps to negate the AB & CC and WorkChoice legislation.

Workers have been disappointed with the Rudd Government reluctance to act in this area and are being "fobbed" off with rhetoric about maintaining a "balance" which suits the "dominant class", and leaves workers considering their next move.

**MURDOCH PRESS OPENS UP FOR RANN**

Rupert Murdoch is the shrewdest newspaper owner in the English speaking world, so that when his most ideologically consolidated and trusted reporters begin devoting pages in his papers to a particular politician it is natural questions are asked.

What is Rupert up too?

For some time now Mike Rann has been getting special attention in Murdoch's papers, both at local state level and nationally and is being heavily buttered up in the "Advertiser" and "The Australian".

It is known that Rann is losing support among trade unions and ordinary Labor Party members as he veers further to the "right" and away from traditional working class principles and values.

Mike Rann and his Treasurer Kevin Foley earned top marks from the anti-labor press when they "took the bat" to workers maimed and injured at work by reducing their pay and conditions.

Mike Rann now says he will give John Olsen a job when he returns from his present position in New York.

Olsen is a former specialist used car salesman and it is believed Rann and Foley may intend to use his skills to sell off the "public property" as contemplated by Kevin Foley in his "mid-year budget".



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CONSPIRACY IN THE S.A. LABOR PARTY

The leadership of the South Australian Labor Party is again being questioned and causing the ring leaders to look for excuses and seek cover.

Questions about the suitability of Mike Rann as leader surfaced some years ago, when Clyde Cameron called for the replacement of Mike Rann as leader with Kevin Foley.

Cameron saw Rann as an intruder and a leader who might bring about changes in the party not to the advantage of the closely knit group which he believed should rule the Labor Party in South Australia.

Cameron maintained close relations with B. A. Santamaria who was at the time the leading force behind the National Civic Council which is allied to the ultra conservative wing of the Catholic Church.

It is this faction which is active against Rann and anyone else in the Party who disagrees with their extreme ideological conservative position.

This is a bad time to be raising distractions around leadership questions and so for the time being the "top" bosses have ordered their "disciples" to leave the question of leadership in abeyance.

However, there is a fringe of this faction which feels they are missing out in the "spoils of office" and are agitating for changes to gain ministerial positions so as to qualify for higher pension payments should they be defeated in the next state elections.

For the time being the "bosses" of this faction seem to have quietened this "unruly" group and convinced them that Labor has no chance of retaining office with Kevin Foley as leader.

So for the time being Mike Rann will remain Leader of the Labor Party in South Australia, until at least after the next elections.



WORKCOVER CHANGES DESTROY FOLEY

Kevin Foley is seen by the Trade Unions and the working class as the prime mover in reducing the payments to workers "maimed and injured" at work..

As Treasurer, Foley has shown a lack of social responsibility and comprehension that is expected from a Labor Party leader.

Foley's attack on the Secretary of SA Unions because she addressed and explained the perils of "WorkCover" changes to a meeting organised by the Communist Party is an example of his anti-social attitude.

It seems ironic that Foley has accepted that it is OK for South Australians to talk to and seek trade with communists overseas, but no talk in South Australia.

Kevin Foley's lack of social understanding is illustrated by his remarks on unfortunates who find themselves in trouble with the law.

The object of incarceration is to punish for the crime while at the same time to rehabilitate and reform the prisoner. Foley's creed is summed up as: "Packem - stackem and rackem" a sure way to make them worse.



IS IT THE END OF WORLD CAPITALISM?

The capitalist world is besieged with the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression of the 1929/1930 period and has every appearance of getting worse.

It is one of the features of capitalism to undergo periods of prosperity and then periods of economic stress for the working class.

This down turn in the world economy was triggered in America, where a number of financial institutions embarked on a scheme to build houses knowing that the intended tenants had no hope of meeting the mortgage payments.

American banks and financiers then flogged these non-paying mortgagees off to foreign banks and investors who were caught with the non paying mortgages, leading to a world wide credit crisis.

In reality workers world wide have now worked themselves out of jobs and as more and more workers become unemployed, investment in other areas also tapers off.

There is no shortage of commodities in the advanced capitalist countries, but there is an acute shortage of purchasing power in the hands of the working class, both employed and unemployed.

A walk through any of the main shopping centres will confirm that shops are stacked with commodities of all types, but buyers are thin.

To overcome this problem of lack of purchasing power, the Rudd Government plans to boost purchasing power by releasing \$10.4 billion into the community in early December.

While this is a welcome start and will give the economy a lift, it is permanent jobs the working class require and eventually will be the issue that will decide the fate of governments whither Labor or Liberal.



CAPITALISM IS ANTI DEMOCRATIC!!

"Politics is the shadow cast on society by big business" so wrote America's leading 20th century social philosopher John Dewey, and will remain so as long as power resides with and in:

"business for private profit through private control of banking, land, industry, reinforced by command of the press, press agents and other means of publicity and propaganda".

There is a growing belief among many working class people that there is little difference between the policies and behaviour of the two major political parties in Australian society.

They see them as factions defending the same social system.

Minute differences can be detected and should be considered, but without illusions about the political leadership and with the knowledge that consistently over the years in all countries, progressive legislative and social welfare have been won by popular struggles and not gifts from above or from politicians.



CAPITALISM AT BAY - BADLY WOUNDED

Make no mistake but the world wide financial meltdown is effecting the performance of the capitalist economies throughout the world, leading to increased unemployment and social poverty.

It is in the advanced countries that have looked to America for leadership that it is most pronounced and now borders on panic and for good reason.



The International Monetary Fund (IMF) along with Bush, Brown, Merkel and Sarkozy are becoming fearful of the reaction among the "working people" who are or will be the main sufferers from their solutions and political shenanigans.

At present these leaders are endeavouring to prop up the capitalist systems by advancing enormous amounts of capital from the state treasury's to the private banks in the hope of restoring credit and creating jobs.

To do this there has been a reluctant acceptance of the tenets of marxist socialism by nationalising banks in some countries and in others of the government taking shares in banks and financial institutions.

This conflicts with the concept of private enterprise, free markets and laissez faire capitalism.

Of course it has been done, not, in the interests of the working class, but to save the system of capitalism and finance capital. A return to the system of private enterprise and worker exploitation is the aim.

An attendant danger from nationalisation, from capitalism's point of view, is that workers may decide that if it's OK to adopt socialist or nationalisation principles to save the capitalist class and their system of exploitation then it can also be used to avoid unemployment and social degradation.

If Marxist concepts and tenets can be used to save finance capital, then why not socialise industries and all means of production in the interests of saving the jobs, livelihood and living standards of the workers and people generally?

Capitalist economies are in a bad way, but are not out. It is doubtful if they can recover to anything like full employment, in which case the working class will need to consider future political and industrial action.

**WAR IN AFGHANISTAN UNWINNABLE?**

There is a growing belief among top generals and military experts and people generally that the war in Afghanistan is unwinnable and is a lost cause.

Lieutenant General Gillespie Australia's top soldier agrees with British Brigadier Carleton-Smith that counter insurgency and reconstruction will not succeed through military action alone.

He says that the coalition strategy in Afghanistan is "opaque" and the strategic objective is not clear.

The original aim was an American dream to use Afghanistan as a transit for a pipeline from Central Asia. That imperial dream is now dead and buried, as the coalition finds itself fighting against a Taliban originally trained by the American's to fight the Russians.

**BUSH CALLS EMERGENCY SUMMIT**

The American President has called an emergency meeting of the leaders of 20 nations to Washington for a conference on November 15 to discuss the global economic crisis.

President Bush has been under intense pressure from European leaders, notably President Sarkozy from France, Bush has been reported as originally opposed as he was afraid it could add layers of regulations restricting free markets, free trade and laissez faire capitalism.

Such a meeting could lay the basis for the overhaul of the rules governing global financial markets, much as Bretton Woods did in 1944 following the Second World War.

The international scene has now changed with the emergence of new power and economic blocks.

Most economists endorse such a meeting, coming at a time when fears of contagion among emerging market economies has multiplied.

It will be interesting to see whither the new American president will attend and risk being tainted with Bush's massive failure in the administration of American domestic and foreign policies.

Bush bequeaths his successor a domestic situation in rebellion and two unfinished losing wars.

Australia has received an invitation to the conference and Kevin Rudd will attend as Australia's representative.

**RUDD ACCUSES GREED AND CAPITALISM**

The Prime Minister Kevin Rudd says that "greed and extreme capitalism" is the cause of the economic crisis now causing havoc throughout the capitalist world and system.

He has a point, but instead of drawing the correct conclusion that something is inherently wrong with capitalism and doing something about it he sets out to "fix" it in the interest of capitalists..

Up to date he is strengthening the position of the capitalist class and punishing the workers, who in the final analysis are the ones producing the real values in society.

Instead of putting the clampers on workers struggling to better their working conditions he should be advocating and supporting the capping of "profits" to the same rate as average bank interest.

It's the enormous and extortionate profits that are extracted from the community by all sections of the capitalist class that are the prime cause of the economic crisis that confronts Australian society today.

The Rudd Labor Government was elected to do something about it.

**KEVIN FOLEY GIVES HIMSELF ADVICE**

"I shouldn't have said it, it's stupid and I just wish at times I could just grab a few words and put them back in my mouth".

Kevin Foley regrets calling the Commonwealth Games a B-grade event.



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FIGHT FOR WORKERS RIGHTS CONTINUES

Even through the Howard Liberal Party Government was well and truly defeated in the November elections last year the Rudd Labor Government is being overly timid in allowing the most obnoxious features of the "Work Choices" legislation to continue.

Workers in all sections of industry find themselves being harassed by employers and threatened with punitive penalties when workers seek to take action to improve their working conditions, safety and pay rates.

Its time that the Rudd Labor Government declared all such penalties cancelled and restored a "level industrial relationship" between "workers and employers".

Unions with members engaged in the construction industry, like the Australian Workers' Union (AWU), Australian Manufacturing Workers' Union (AMWU), Electrical Trades Union (ETU), Plumbing Trades Employees Union (PTEU), and the CFMEU, along with the ACTU and State Trades Halls are supporting a campaign to restore "workers rights at work".

The above Unions with members in construction and for that matter any worker engaged in construction is hit with a "double whammy" by virtue of the "Australian Building & Construction Commission" legislation.

This is probably the most despicable and obnoxious piece of legislation ever devised by any government in the history of Australian industrial relations.

It is specifically aimed that a particular group of workers and denies them even the most elementary rights to which people are entitled in a democratic society.

Here is an area where the Rudd Government should act immediately and declare the "Australian Building & Construction Commission" legislation "null and void".



THE SCOURGE OF THE "IMF"

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is a capitalist class "think tank" type of organisation set-up by the capitalist class with the specific task of preserving the capitalist structure of society.

Along with the "World Bank" it has its head quarters in Washington (DC) and specialises in advising governments how to allocate money in their "budgets".

The IMF advises that the minimum amounts be budgeted for peoples health and hospital services, public education, housing programs for the people. The IMF also recommends that all public property such as, electricity and gas systems, water systems and public transport systems along with all government owned land and buildings be sold off to "private enterprise".

Government "budgets" are to be structured in such a way as to ensure that the bulk of revenue raised by "taxing" the community is used for the benefit of "private enterprise" and capitalist class business.



UNION LEADER GIVES RANN A SERVE

AWU Secretary Wayne Hanson spoke for the Trade Union movement and working class when he exposed the class nature of the Rann Government's "WorkCover" legislation at a Labor Party conference on Saturday 16th August 2008.



Mike Rann sat there and squirmed as Hanson ripped away any pretence by Rann that he had acted in the interests of workers.

What Rann and Foley have done with their "WorkCover" legislation is to strip away from workers part of their meagre protection when maimed and

injured at work.

Rann and Foley would be well advised to let the Liberal Party look after the interests of the "big end of town", while they attend to the interests of the people who elect them.



SHOPPIES CHIEF LANDS PLUM POSITION

The secretary of the Shop Distributive and Allied Employees Association that gave crucial support to the Rann-Foley Government during the debate surrounding the changes to the WorkCover laws, is to be rewarded with a \$50,000 position on the WorkCover Board.

According to an item in the "Advertiser" the deal was secured by Michael Wright the former industrial relations minister.

Michael Wright who was originally in the "left" faction has since "rolled over" and is now a leading member of the "right" faction.

Whilst members of the SD&AE Association are as much entitled to proper and decent compensation if "maimed and injured", the environment in which they work is much safer and accident free than for workers engaged in the construction and building industries.

The welfare and interests of all workers would be better served by appointment of a representative to the WorkCover Board from a Union with members employed in more hazardous environments.



RUDD NEEDS NEW FUELWATCH PLAN

Looks as though the independent Senators have poured cold water on the Prime Minister's FuelWatch plan.

Both the Rudd Government and the Liberal opposition are afraid to take on the Oil Companies, who are the real culprits the government should deal with.

Just how forcing "retailers" to advise their prices 24 hours in advance will lower prices is doubtful. The RAA thinks motorists would be worse off under the scheme.



LOWER MURRAY LAKES AT CRISIS POINT

It is now apparent to most people that money is not the total answer to solving the water crisis in the Murray-Darling river system.

Whilst the problem has been accentuated by changing climate and rain patterns, there is also the uncontrolled access to the river water that adds to the growing problem.

It is obvious that the problem is too big for the politicians.

Essentially the problem has its roots in the nature of the "private enterprise" system and the support this system gains from the "Commonwealth Constitution".

Both of the major parties think that money can solve the problem, when the underlying cause is the lack of water in the system and its use.

The Australian river systems belong to the people of Australia and the amount of water drawn from or prevented from entering the system should be controlled by a "National River Water" Authority.

Such an Authority should be clothed with the necessary power to restrict "water" use in some areas to that in accord with the function of the original leases.

Special attention should be paid to the lower areas of river systems to ensure that there is always sufficient flow to maintain essential economic activity and a cleansing flow to the sea, wetlands and swamps.

A further task of such an Authority would be to initiate a national scientific investigation into whether there are sites suitable for construction of dams to augment and increase the water flow into river systems.

**LABOR PARTY LOSING TOUCH**

Recent actions by Labor Parties is causing disquiet among wide sections of the working class and Trade Unions who have traditionally been the back-bone and principal support of Labor.

The recent action of the Rann Government in South Australia in amending the WorkCover Act to suit the requirements of the employers is a case in point.

Despite taking substantial pay increases and improved conditions for themselves and parliamentary members generally, the Rann Government stand flat footed about increased pay and improved conditions for other workers.

School teachers are a section of the working class that Rann and Co have targeted for special treatment, even though most fair minded people support the increases and improvements asked for by the "teachers".

Because of the irrational behaviour of the Rann Government the South Australian school teachers have been forced to engage in "stop work" days which are further isolating the Rann Government from the people.

There is a similarity in the way the Rann Government operates and that recommended by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), which is to cut pay rates and benefits to the minimum for the mass of workers and devote the bulk of revenue to the benefit of the capitalist class, developers and business interests.

SA Business chief Peter Vaughan seems to be delighted with the Rann Government which is in contrast with the working class and Union movement.

**PEACE RETURNS TO THE CAUCASUS**

When Georgian President Saakashvili launched his treacherous and murderous attack on "peacekeepers" in the South Ossetia he was either "mad" or expected that Bush and Cheney would come to his aid.

Saakashvili's army destroyed most of the city of Tskhinvali and killed an estimated 2000 people, mostly civilians, women and children.

The Russian response was immediate and devastating, destroying the Georgian army.

Bush, Cheney and Gates were quick to disassociate the U.S. from Saakashvili and left him for the time being on his own.

Irresponsible action such as Saakashvili's could lead to a world war and it is good to know that sober minds are at work in Europe putting the "claspers" on people like Bush, Cheney, Rice and Saakashvili.

**KEVIN RUDD BEGINS TO LOSE TOUCH**

The message on this placard, carried by a young boy should cause Kevin Rudd to rethink the track he is going down.



The Rudd Government says it will take no action to modify the Howard Government's Australian Building & Construction Commission, ABCC until it is used a further 18 months to intimidate and savage the CFMEU building workers. The bosses are ecstatic.



Families where children do not attend school are in danger of having their social benefits cut off for three months. This is expected to hit hardest those families of indigenous people who need counselling about the advantages of children being educated.



Another of Prime Minister Kevin Rudd's ideas is to bring to Australia a number of South Sea Islanders or New Guineans to assist with fruit and vegetable harvesting, pruning etc.

This raises the question as to why unemployed or disadvantaged Australians don't or won't offer for such jobs.

The big problems associated with this sort of employment is the provision of accommodation. Very few towns or farms can provide accommodation for an influx of seasonal workers.

As things are at present seasonal work as outlined above is more suited to people or families who are travelling with their caravan.

It is to be hoped that the Rudd Government takes this problem of accommodation into consideration before going any further with this matter.



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AUSTRALIA AND THE DEVELOPING CRISIS

The Rudd Labor Government has come to office at what could be a testing time for the future of the Australian Labor Party and economy.

At a time when the leading "western" industrial countries are experiencing severe economic down turns Australia's economy is "booming" thanks mainly to trade with the expanding Chinese and Indian economies.



The American economy is in dire straights and according to some leading economists is in the grip of a severe recession.

One of the important causes of the American crisis arises from the sub-prime mortgage method which coaxed people into signing up for home mortgages at "teaser" rates and then a few months later hitting them with new higher amended rates which they cannot meet.

This method was originally seen by the American financial community as a great invention, which allowed people to sign-up for houses they couldn't afford and when they missed their payments seize the property.

The mortgages were "flogged off" in many cases to banks both domestic and foreign at inflated "house prices".

In this way something like 3 to 4 million houses in America have come on the market at greatly reduced values, leading to the position that some people are now paying for houses that no longer reflect the value for which they are paying.

It is estimated that up to 300,000 Australian are now in danger of losing their home with something similar occurring in Australia, coupled with rising bank interest rates.

This is one of the features of the world economic scene which the Rudd Government must ensure is not repeated in Australia.



INFLATION ON THE RISE

One of the problems inherited by the Rudd Government from the Howard Liberal Government is rampant inflation.

Inflation is endemic to the capitalist system and the section of the community that suffers most is the working class, more especially the less advantaged and lower paid workers.

At the present time the Rudd Government has no clearly defined policy to handle the problem and seems to be hoping that it will just go away.

In the meantime workers are expected to "cop" it and watch their living standards deteriorate.



THE TIME FOR A REAL RESHUFFLE IS NOW

Early in the year the Premier Mike Rann indicated that he intended to reshuffle his government.



The general understanding at the time was that he would promote some from the "back bench", many of whom were becoming critical and getting "toey".

Some members wanted to improve their "pension" rights in case they missed out in the next elections.

At the time a caveat was placed on shifting members who were termed "The Untouchables" because they belonged to the extreme right which controlled the Party through their "Machine" faction.

However, things have changed, with the "Heavies" of the "Machine Faction" now playing a leading role in ramming through legislation to reduce payment of compensation to work injured workers.

Mike should now include these former "Untouchables" among the changes, as it is clear that their continuation in these top positions constitute a real impediment to the re-election of the Rann Government in a future election.



HOMELESS MUST HAVE QUALIFICATIONS

When the Premier Mike Rann was told about the scheme founded by Rosanne Haggerty and used to turn historic buildings in Times Square in New York into housing for homeless people Mike was impressed.

The Premier endorsed the concept for Adelaide and pledged more than \$6 million for a Franklin Street facility and \$5 million for a complex on Light Square.

It seems that the qualification to gain access to Franklin Street is too high and despite there being a growing number of homeless people the facility remains practically vacant.

This seems to be different to the attitude of the Adelaide City Council.

Homeless politicians or homeless millionaires caught by City Council Inspectors sleeping in the park or under a bridge are treated the same as anyone else and could have their belongings confiscated.

On the other-hand homeless politicians and homeless millionaires could be favoured as tenants by the State Housing Department even with the strict requirements applying to applicants..



Any man is liable to err, no one except a fool will persevere in error. (Cicero)



AMERICAN WARLORDS VISIT AUSTRALIA

The American Secretary of Defence Robert Gates, accompanied by John Negroponte from the State Department have made a flying visit to Australia.

Gates was here to beef up Australia's commitment to the war in Afghanistan, but Negroponte's presence remains a secret.

Gates is unhappy with the position in Afghanistan and is particularly critical of the response he is getting for help from Nato and European countries.

It is obvious that America is trying to involve the Nato countries, especially Germany and France in the strategic plan to control the Caspian Sea region, Middle East, Afghanistan and Iran.

Keeping Australia on side is of vital importance to America with Australia being used to "prod" reluctant countries to make greater contributions to the American grand plan.

Support for American policy in Afghanistan is crumbling, with Canada announcing the withdrawal of its troops for next year.

Both the German and French people are opposed to any further increase in their contributions and the Australian people are opposed to our involvement.

In the meantime America continues to "bomb and blast" women and children with its indiscriminate bombing campaigns.

There's nothing altruistic in American involvement in Afghanistan or Iraq, its pure and simple an attempt to gain access too and control of the natural resources of the area including Central Asia.

**IS KEVIN FOLEY CRACKING UP ?**

Recent outbursts by the Treasurer, Kevin Foley has caused a number of staunch Labor Party supporters to wonder if he is getting tired or if the position is too "big" for him

Addressing a meeting on the 22 February he let fly at the people of South Australia who he accused of being "a bunch of bloody whingers".

Foley has a political philosophy and financial belief that bears a close resemblance to the policies of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund.

Both these organisations, which are the creations of the most conservative American global corporations and serves their interests, have one aim and that is to "screw" the working class in all countries to the limit, so as to increase capitalist class profits.

Kevin Foley ought to re-think his position and remember he was elected by "working" class people and that only the "gods" are beyond criticism.

**RUDD DECLARES WAGE FREEZE FOR MP'S**

Kevin Rudd has initiated a wage freeze for Federal members of Parliament. But it will not affect their living standards in any way.

Trade Unions and workers should continue to campaign for increased pay rates and improved working conditions.

**GET REAL ABOUT SAVING HOMES**

Reports that further increases in bank interest rates are likely, is bad news for the estimated 300,000 Australian families who are even now just hanging on to their homes.

The Rudd Labor Federal Government and State Labor Governments should examine any and all legislation which allows "lenders" to throw people out of their homes when they are unable to meet the increased charges.

All such "legislation" should then be amended to make it obligatory for the "lender" to enter into negotiations with the "borrower" with a view of modifying the mortgage arrangements.

If negotiations are unable to reach an amicable solution then there must be provision where a Judge in a properly constituted Court can examine all aspects of the particular mortgage and make a decision in line with the new circumstances of the "home owner".

**WORLD'S BIGGEST ECONOMY IN TROUBLE**

Alan Greenspan, the former chairman of the US Federal Reserve System, "is fairly certain that it is nearly impossible to rapidly retrieve the economic growth in America".

"As of right now US economic growth is at zero, we are at stall speed", said Greenspan.

Greenspan was addressing a conference of investors meeting in Saudi Arabia.

Greenspan also said that the price of oil would continue to grow, last week oil set a new all time high as it reached \$101 per barrel.

The situation on the US mortgage market will also continue to worsen, claims Greenspan.

The above mentioned situation draws a sad picture for ordinary working Americans, who can expect higher unemployment, more expensive fuel costs and higher credit card repayment costs.

Greenspan paints a gloomy picture for the US economy and doesn't think it will be able to spend more to support the world's biggest economy.

Greenspan was chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve of the United States from 1987 to 2006 and is being blamed for the mess that America now finds itself in.

**UNEMPLOYMENT RAISES ONLY HEAD**

The closing of the Mishibishi Motor factory has thrown 1000 workers on to the industrial scrapheap. Some of these workers will be picked up for other jobs, but the older workers may find it more difficult.

To top it off 150 workers have lost their jobs at Electrolux.

It about time that Australian governments put a stop to imports putting Australian workers out of their jobs.



THE PLOD

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✓ noted

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LABOR PARTY WINS HISTORIC VICTORY

The Labour Party won an historic victory in the election of 24 November and is now in the position to cancel all the anti-working class legislation of the Howard Government years.

The Labor Party owes its success to the dedicated efforts of thousands of workers and others led by the ACTU and Trade Union movement, which alerted the nation to the dangers and the threat to Australian working and living standards posed by a continuation of the Howard Government.

Australia is a capitalist society and as such retains all the characteristics of a class society. The Liberal Party governed the country in the interests of the capitalist class, which led to record profits for that class and deteriorating living and working conditions for the working class and people generally.

To add insult to the Trade Unions, Howard and his cohorts claimed "that workers had never had it so good"

Now is the time for the Labour Party under the leadership of Kevin Rudd to remember to whom it owes success and to set about removing the anti democratic restrictions placed on the organisational rights of Trade Unions and the working class.

For a start the Rudd Government should take steps to completely annul and remove from the Statute books the anti-democratic "Australian Building Construction Commission" (ABCC) legislation.

The "ABCC" along with Howard's "Work Choices" legislation are two of the most vicious and iniquitous pieces of class legislation ever devised by a government in any country since the end of the 2nd world war.

If the Rudd Government is to carry out its domestic policies, as outlined during the 'election campaign' it will require the active support of the working class and Trade Unions, there is growing evidence that the remnants of the Liberal/National party will oppose it at every opportunity.



LIBERAL BOSS JOINS NELSON'S OFFICE

Liberal boss Peter Hendy has joined the Opposition leader's office in what appears to be a desperate attempt to lift the sagging morale of the Liberal Party following their massive defeat in the elections of 24 November.

Hendy was the head of Peter Reich's office that organised the training of "scabs" in Dubai for the ill-fated attack on the Waterside Workers' Federation.

He is believed to have "master-minded" the ABCC & Work Choices plot which formed the core of the Howard Government's attack on the working class and which led to the Liberal defeat in the recent elections.



DECLINE OF THE AMERICAN COLOSSUS

In the beginning it was hailed as being the start of the American century. Now, within the first decade America is in dire trouble both with its military adventures and its domestic economic policies.

It is now widely conceded that American Imperial plans for the Middle East have collapsed and the "Grand Plan" to take over the oil and gas resources of the Middle East, Iran, Afghanistan and the Central Asian countries around the Caspian Sea is in tatters.

As a consequence of the hostility engendered world wide by American foreign policy, new economic and power blocks have arisen in Asia and Europe.

While the American economy teeters on the verge of recession the Asian block comprising Russia, China, India is surging ahead.

America has been hit hard by what is termed the "mortgage crisis" which was bought on by the belief that "capitalism" would go on expanding indefinitely.

The mortgage crisis in America clearly demonstrates that there is no place for miracles in the economy and no loan or mortgage can allow a person to own things which they cannot earn.

American Banks and financial institutions are being bailed out by Asian and European central banks which are in many cases taking over American assets.

The lesson for the Rudd Government is not to go down the same tract as the Bush Administration in America.

Australia's buoyant economy is due to the hard work of Australian workers and trading with the emerging economies of Asia and it is in Australia's interests that this relationship continue.

It is in Australia's best interests that we adopt a more independent attitude in dealing with these countries and not blindly follow the policies of Bush and Cheney in America.



AUSTRALIA SIGNS KYOTO PROTOCOL

It is now beyond question that the world is warming up, as a result of the combined emissions of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere by world wide industrial activity.

The outcome of the recent Bali conference on this question was particularly disheartening. Caving into pressure from the "utilities and oil companies" the American delegation stood flat footed and as spoilers rather than offering any form of leadership.

This set a bad example to China and other heavy polluters who used America's reluctance to do anything as an excuse to follow suite.

Australian Senator Wong, who led the Australian delegation was able to wangle an undertaking for the delegates to meet and negotiate a new agreement by 2009 to replace Kyoto which expires in 2012.



RANN LOSING POPULAR SUPPORT

After enjoying a long run as Australia's most popular premier Mike Rann's high rating is beginning to erode.

One of the prime reasons for this has been Mike's support for the policies of disposing of "public assets" to private enterprise and having his government "roll-over" and become indistinguishable in many vital areas from the Liberal Party.

This has caused problems for the Liberal Party and "The Advertiser" which now finds it difficult to criticise Labor, which is embracing and carrying out policies which the Liberal's initiated.

Mike Rann is never going to be a Don Dunstan type of Labor Leader, but he could remain true to the "grass roots" aims and objectives of the Labor Party.

What Rann and his ministers are doing to justify their behaviour is to use the directions and advice of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the OECD, both of which are concerned with protecting the profit motive in the "capitalist structure" of society.

This has led to continual increases in the price of electricity and gas, public transport, water, housing, education and hospital and health services, at the expense of the welfare and working conditions and living standards of the working class.

It is high time for the Trade Unions and Labor Party membership to pay more attention to the quality of the candidates which are selected and supported for parliamentary office.

**DEALING WITH THE DRAGON**

The continuing increases in the price of oil, now running at almost \$100 a barrel with corresponding increases in the price of petrol is causing concern in a number of countries, including Australia.

The high price of oil is putting the economies of some countries under pressure and they are looking around for someone or event to blame.

In America it seems that China is being blamed for America's problems in this area. If China was not expanding its economy, so the thinking goes, it would not require such large quantities of oil and would not be buying on the world market.

On the other hand some think that America's policy of war in Iraq and Afghanistan is the primary cause of the problem and the solution is in America's own hands.

Australia can help itself by urging America to get out of Iraq and Afghanistan and to normalise its relations with Iran which will enable these oil and gas-rich countries to resume normal trading relations with the world.

**THE AMERICAN DILEMMA**

The ultimate concern of US imperialism, Bush and Cheney is that an alternative power centre has developed in Asia, which makes it difficult for Washington to bring to heel countries like Venezuela, Iran, Democratic Republic of Korea, Cuba and Zimbabwe and if its not careful Pakistan.

**IRAQ PROGRESS NOT AS HOPED FOR**

Despite the claims of improvements, 2007 has been the worst year yet in Iraq.

The first big move in 2007 was the launch of a troop "surge" by Bush and Cheney in February, by June an additional 30,000 troops had been deployed to Iraq.

A few months later it was estimated that the U.S. had 175,000 military personnel in Iraq. Yet, while Bush continues to talk of withdrawing some, the numbers on the ground contradict these promises.

The purpose of the "surge" was to encourage the U.S. installed government to gain time to enact U.S. directed and supported political reforms.

During the "surge" according to the Iraqi Red Crescent the number of Iraqis displaced from their homes has quadrupled by the end of 2007.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) estimates that there are over 2.3 million displaced persons within Iraq and over 2.3 million Iraqis who have fled the country.

A recent UNHCR survey found that those returning to Iraq did so because they lacked a visa, had run out of money whilst abroad or were deported.

Whilst there has been some decrease in attacks on the occupation forces, attacks still number more than 2,000 monthly.

An Oxfam International report claims that 70% of Iraqis lack access to safe drinking water and 43% live on less than a dollar a day. The report also states that eight million Iraqis are in need of emergency help.

"Iraqis are suffering from a growing lack of food, shelter, water and sanitation, healthcare, education and employment".

The year 2007 has been one of the bloodiest of the entire occupation. "Just Foreign Policy, an independent and non-partisan mass membership organisation dedicated to reforming U.S. foreign policy", says that the total number of Iraqis killed so far in the U.S. led occupation to be 1,139,602.

To date, 894 U.S. soldiers have been killed in Iraq, making 2007 the deadliest year of the entire occupation for the U.S. military.

The latest figures from the U.S. Department of Defense confirms that 3,896 U.S. troops have been killed in Iraq.

Underscoring another failure of the so-called surge is the fact that the U.S. backed government in Baghdad remains more divided than ever, and hopes of reconciliation have vanished.

According to a recent ABC/BBC poll, 98% of Sunnis and 84% of Shias in Iraq want all U.S. forces out of the country.

To keep faith with the Australian people the Rudd Labor Government must hasten the withdrawal of all Australian military and naval forces from Iraq and thus go some way to restoring the image of Australia as being an independent country guided by the highest principles and morale standards.



Prepared and issued by

Jim Doyle JP

Life member of The Australian Workers' Union

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✓ Noted

RFB Speech attached

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HOWARD FACES HUMILIATING DEFEAT

It is now abundantly evident that the Coalition Government under the leadership of Howard and Costello is facing defeat in the elections and that the Australian people are fed up with their lying claims and support for the American wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The "core" feature of Howard's present election propaganda is a particularly vicious and lying campaign against the Trade Unions, because of their defence of pay rates and working conditions for their members and the working class generally.

Howard inherits this attitude from the founder of the Liberal Party, R.G. Menzies who was paranoid about the Trade Unions and working class organisations.

In 1938 Menzies visited Germany and had a long discussion with Adolph Hitler, when he returned to Australia in October, Menzies was profuse in his admiration and praise for the Nazi Dictator.

What impressed Menzies most was the brutal manner in which Hitler had dealt with the German Trade Unions and working class organisations and he expressed the desire for this same kind of treatment for Australian Trade Unions and working class organisations.

When Hitler attacked the Soviet Union in 1941, Menzies boastfully predicted that "the German Army would cut through the Red Army like a hot knife through butter".

Four years later the Red Army was in Berlin and Hitler committed suicide.

Now, according Howard, Costello and Hockey if Australian voters don't heed their "dire warnings" we will be besieged by a recession and higher cost of living. Worst of all we won't get the chance to have Costello as Prime Minister. "Indeed how sad that would be".



GERRY HARVEY WANTS BIG WAGE CUTS

Gerry Harvey the billionaire head of Harvey Normans, the giant retail chain, wants a "second tier" of foreign workers to be created in Australia, and to be paid fifty (50) percent less than local workers.

Harvey says this is the plan of Howard and the Liberal Party, but because of the election campaign is being kept secret. Gerry Harvey is a heavy donor to the Libs and is on the inside with regard to Liberal Party plots.

Liberal Workplace Relations minister Joe Hockey wants to get rid of unions altogether so as to deprive working people of any representation and protection from these planned cuts in wages and conditions.

Liberal Finance minister Nick Minchin has apologised to big business because Industrial Relation laws don't go far enough and then on TV says there will be no further changes to Industrial Relations.

Peter Costello who wants to be Prime Minister, but lacks the "ticker", wants a "minimum wage for all".



HOWARD'S TAX PLAN A GIGANTIC RORT

The first action by Howard and Costello when it was announced that the elections would be held on Saturday 24 November was to announce a "tax" plan involving \$34 billions of refunds.

The "core" purpose of this "tax" plan is to transfer a still greater portion of the peoples wealth to the capitalist class and their elite echelons.

Australia's present circumstances owes nothing to any special economic "expertise" which the Howard Government claims, but follows from the productivity and diligence of the Australian working class.

The role of the H/G over the past 11 years has been to facilitate and protect the actions of the capitalist class in exploiting Australia's national resources and to reduce the "standard of living" of the working class for the benefit of the capitalist class.

To achieve these aims the H/G has consistently neglected and cut back on funds for Hospitals, Health and Dental requirements and any area of "public" enterprise that is to the advantage of the working class.

The H/G is determined to maintain and strengthen the class structure of Australian society and for this basic reason gives massive tax concessions to the rich-elite and the absolute minimum to working people.

This \$34 billion hand-out should have been used to upgrade Public Hospitals and Health Services, Public Education, Housing, Public Transport, Electricity systems and a reliable Water system where required.

The H/G belief that these problems can be solved by "private enterprise" is a pipe-dream and will only be exacerbated by relying "private enterprise".



AUSTRALIA PAYS FOR AMERICA'S WARS

Australia is paying a high price for the H/G involvement in America's wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and the H/G is one of the few, anywhere in the world still pedalling the line that we are bringing "democracy" to the Iraq and Afghanistan people.

This crazy claim has been exposed by top sections of the American ruling elite who at least now admit that it is to plunder and steal their oil and gas that America is there.

Both Howard and Downer seem to have followed the example set by their "mentor" R.G. Menzies, who was all for war provided it didn't involve his active participation.

In 1914 Menzies was a Lieutenant in the Melbourne University Rifles, but resigned immediately on the outbreak of the 1914/18 war.

This led Eddie Ward, Labor member for East Sydney to observe,

"that his brilliant military career was cut short by the outbreak of war".



THE RISE OF THE MULTIPOLAR WORLD

When the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991 America stood tall, militarily, economically, diplomatically and dominated the information channels worldwide.

It looked as though the American century had arrived



as it assumed the mantle of the sole superpower.

Now, less than 10 years into the present century, we are witnessing the rise of a multipolar world with several new power groups challenging different aspects of American supremacy.

The Bush/Cheney administration's debacle in the Middle East with the invasion of Iraq is a major factor and is a classic example of an imperialist power, brimming with hubris, over extending itself.

This coupled with the campaign in Afghanistan, the exposure of the scandals at Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq and Guantanamo in Cuba, along with the widely publicized murders of Iraqi civilians in Haditha have crippled the credibility of America and badly tarnished its moral self image.

America's grand plan was to establish its hegemony over the oil and gas resources of the Middle East and the Caspian Sea area, is in tatters and has been buried in the desert sands of Iraq and mountains of Afghanistan.

The Bush/Cheney attempt to prevent Iran from developing a nuclear program for peaceful purposes has given rise to Russia and China supporting Iran's rights which are in complete harmony with the requirements and policy of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Bush and Cheney are now endeavouring to "bully" the European Union and other countries into supporting a set of American "sanctions" against Iran and threatening Iran with "serious consequences".

Iran says its nuclear program is to generate electricity so as it can export more of its valuable oil and gas.

Mohamed ElBaradei (IAEA) Chief, has told Washington that its harsh stance towards Tehran is counter productive and urged Iran's critics to "stop spinning and hyping the Iranian issue".

The Russian President Vladimir Putin said Russia would not accept military strikes against Iran and urged that "dialogue is the way to ease tensions".

If America were to bomb and invade Iran as threatened by President George Bush and V/P Cheney it could unleash "Armageddon in the Middle East".

In the meantime Iran which is one of the biggest oil exporters in the world has decided to accept payment for its oil in "Euros" which is a stinging blow to American dollar prestige and trade.

**THE RIGHT TO ORGANISE**

Ever since the first fleet landed at Botany Bay in 1788 the working class has been involved in a struggle to organise Trade Unions to protect and improve their living standards and working conditions.

Its has been a long hard continuous struggle, which culminated in the 8 hour day victory in 1854 and the 40 hour week victory in 1946.

The anti-union drive has at all times largely had the support of government and it is the practice of employers to fire and penalise any workers engaged in Union drives and activities.

The Howard Government (H/G) is no exception and has set out to destroy all Trade Union organisations and reduce workers to subsistence levels.

To carry out this immoral and obnoxious task the H/G introduced the Workplace Relations Act and then scraped around and found Joe Hockey as Minister for Workplace Relations.

Hockey's announced objective is to destroy and completely eliminate the Trade Union movement.

The aim of the Trade Unions and working class must be to move to the next stage in the working class agenda and campaign for a 30 hour week.

The success of such a campaign will do more to create real jobs and contain "interest" rate rises than all the pious talk from Howard, Costello, Hockey and the Liberal/National Party.

**FOREIGN POLICY CRISIS FOR HOWARD**

The foreign policies being pursued by Howard and Downer have become an on going embarrassment and expensive involvements for the Australian people.

Australia's involvement and support for the American invasion of Iraq and Afghanistan has resulted in the Australian public paying for the big increases in petroleum products.

When Bush went to India and undertook to provide "nuclear nohow" to India in contradiction to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Agreement, Downer rushed in to support Bush and to sell Australian uranium to India.. India has now rejected the American plan.

Australia has gone along with the American plan to bring "democracy" to the Middle East including Pakistan.

Musharraf has now set himself as a "military dictator" suspended the "constitution", carried out widespread arrests of any suspected opposition and fired the Judges of the Pakistan Supreme Court.

Just where is the Howard Government taking Australia, with its phoney claims of being "economic" experts and custodians of Australia's well being and security aboard.

The sooner we are rid of this clique of incompetents, double dealers and falsifiers of the truth that make up the Howard Government the better it will be for the Australian people.



Prepared and issued by
Jim Doyle JP

Life member of The Australian Workers' Union



Parliament of South Australia
GRIEVANCE DEBATE
24 October 2007

*The grievance debate enables members to speak
on any matters relating to their electorates,
constituents or public policy.*

FRANCES BEDFORD MP JP *Member for Florey*
"Mr Jack Watkins"

Ms BEDFORD (Florey) (15:43): On 17 October, South Australia learned of the passing of one of its most influential adopted sons. Although I knew Jack Watkins, I did not know him as well as many so, on their behalf, it would be an honour to place on record a tribute to someone who all of us privileged to know him would wholeheartedly agree was a great man.

I say 'adopted son' because Jack Watkins was born in Manchester, England 10 years before World War II ended. During the family eulogy I learnt that Jack was a twin at birth, and that he remembered hiding in caves during the bombing, watching the glow of war in the sky. He and his family lived in a cave when their home was destroyed and eventually moved into a vacant house where, in years to come, he began his own family. Jack married his sweetheart, Cathy—or Cath, as most of us knew her—in 1955, and they had two sons, Bill and Paul. In 1966 Jack and Cath and their sons left their family and friends to emigrate to Australia on board a ship called the *Fairsea*. During the six week crossing the young family enjoyed shipboard life and the sights of new worlds.

They disembarked in Adelaide to start their new life and, after 18 months living in the Pennington hostel, they rented for a few years until they had enough to buy a block of land in the north-eastern suburbs where I first met them, because it was there where they built their home in Ridgehaven and where Jack eventually passed away. We all hope that Jack is now with his beloved Cath, who passed away in 1993. What helped him greatly in the years without Cath was his family, and particularly through Bill and his daughter-in-law, Carlye, his beloved grandchildren Christie, Brent and Ebony, whom he adored. Cath's death was a great blow for Jack and he struggled for years with her loss and in many ways never recovered. They were very close and loved each other dearly.

Through her working life I had met and known Cath a little through her participation and work in the ALP. Like Jack she was proud of the party and they both knew that the ALP, founded by workers in their struggle for fair wages and conditions, was the means to a better and more just society. I respected her as much as Jack, knowing that she too was always as good as her word, never wavering from her beliefs and undertakings, honest, true and caring.

During his life Jack cared not for himself but, rather, for his family and others. Proud of his working heritage, Jack worked in mines from the age of 13 surrounded by the poisons and harsh working conditions that he fought for the rest of his life. He learnt the lessons of exploitation, no doubt the hard way, and Alan Harris, obviously a close friend and collaborator, gave a personal and very moving account of life with Jack, which we all knew could sometimes be hair-raising. Alan recounted adventures with Jack. One I had had was a night out with Jack on a ladder, putting up election posters. After a few hours we realised that Jack's keys were missing and we spent the rest of the night scouring grass and gravel looking for the keys—which as far as I know are still missing.

Alan also had tales of being on picket lines with Jack and evening expeditions to uncover unsafe work practices and locations harbouring asbestos, that silent killer used by greedy companies to make a profit in such a deadly manner. It was Jack's work raising awareness about the dangers of asbestos and the struggle for compensation and justice for those afflicted by the sinister and terrible effects of exposure to it that is legendary, and earned him the soubriquet 'Asbestos Jack'. He was fearless in his pursuit of its detection and safe removal. He will always be remembered for his dedication and determined contribution to the eradication of this lethal substance.

In this pursuit, Alan recounted the uncanny way Jack had of getting information, invariably accurate and detailed information, that many concerned had hoped would never see the light of day. He also told the story of the day that Jack convinced the then doubting members of parliament of the dangers of asbestos. They soon believed, as a fine layer of dust floated down from the public gallery.

A proud unionist, Jack made sure that when he started in the Plumbers, and eventually through to the BLF, that he never forgot his working class heritage. He also made sure that every worker he ever encountered knew that labour was the valuable means by which all industry functioned and prospered. He always did his best to make sure that there was truly a fair go for all, and up to his death maintained the struggle for workers' rights.

He was particularly angry and upset about the current situation workers face, and was passionate that everyone in the Labor Movement double their efforts to take the message to today's workers about the situation they may face or may already be facing through the legislation known as WorkChoices, which Jack felt was no choice at all. Today we farewelled Jack at a service led by Mr Ian Wood and directed by Kaylene of White Lady Funerals, both of whom have assisted me with information for this contribution. Jack's legendary status within the ranks of the Labour Movement was reinforced by the number of trade unions represented at the service. To the strains of 'Hit the Road, Jack', and with apologies to those I did not see in the overflowing gathering at Centennial Park's Heyesen Chapel, secretaries and members of many unions, the CFMEU, the AWU, the NUW, the AEU, the CEPU, the CPSU, the ASU, SA Unions and RUMA (the Retired Union Members Association) all paid their respects.

Also present were past and today's members of state and federal parliament and representatives

from local government, in particular Johanna McLuskey from the City of Port Adelaide Enfield, who during her time as mayor of that city oversaw the development and opening of the Jack Watkins Park at Kilburn in honour of his work for that community. Many other of his community connections were also present, and I know Jim Doyle and a good number of other comrades were not able to be there. They were there, though, Jack, in spirit. Jack will be greatly missed. Vale comrade.

Time expired.



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TIME IS UP FOR THE HOWARD WRECKERS

Time has caught up with the Howard Government and its deliberate policy of misleading and deluding the Australian people.

Howard is a domestic political marauder, the personification of a conservative movement which lacks a moral compass and has a complete disregard for facts.

Howard's claim of his ability to control "interest" rates has been exposed as fraudulent and misleading, as has been his claim that Australian workers have never been so well off.

Howard's domestic economic policy is based on the "guide lines" laid down by the "World Bank and the International Monetary Fund", both of which are controlled in American financial interests.

The essential feature of both these organisations is that economic activity must favour capitalist private enterprise and that the working class is to be screwed and oppressed to the lowest possible level short of bringing about a revolutionary situation.

No one takes seriously the manic ranting of Howard and his cohorts. Howard and his senior ministers have and are providing the Labor Party and working class organisations with the sort of political ammunition that assists Labor to fight and win the battle for the political heart of the Australian people.

It is time for the Labor Party to start separating itself from the policies of the Howard Government and take an active role in outing and eliminating the danger arising from our association with the Iraqi policies of Cheney and Bush.

Australia today is engaged in a life or death struggle against the forces of evil. However, the enemy resides not abroad, but here in Australia in the persona of Howard and the Liberal Party.

Neither Osama Bin Laden or Saddam Hussein threatened the life blood of Australia to the extent that Howard, Cheney and Bush does.



KEVIN VICTIM OF AMERICAN HOSPITALITY

As part of the Liberal Party policy of trying to disparage any Labor Party leader, they have got into the gutter to rake up something on Kevin Rudd.

Its part of American culture and hospitality, to show a guest around New York and pride of place with Murdoch editors is always the Manhattan "strip shows".

Four years ago Kevin Rudd was taken to one of the New York Post editor's favourite strip show, following a lavish dinner.

However, it seems that somehow a "mickey finn" got among Kevin's drinks with the result that Kevin missed out on the show and can't recall any of the "attractions".

Fortunately for Kevin, when a "low-life" reporter in Australia tried to blacken his reputation by referring to this episode, Kevin's colleagues were able to vouch for Kevin's behaviour, which they said was at all times that of a perfect gentleman.



THE RIGHTS OF WORKERS MUST PREVAIL

Central and integral to the Howard Government attack on the Trade Unions and the working class is the Industrial Relations Legislation (IRL).

The precursor to this legislation was the attack on the Building and Construction workers by the Cole Inquisition which laid the ground work for the Howard Government attack on one the most responsible, active and militant sections of the Trade Unions.

Despite spending \$64 million on the Cole Inquisition not one case against any building or construction worker could be fabricated and preceded with.

The inspiration for the Inquisition and the subsequent IRL arises from the Howard Government subservience to and complete acceptance of the precepts of the International Monetary Fund, (IMF).

The most important task confronting IMF supporters is the strengthening and consolidation of the "capitalist" system in all countries and this leads to the most vicious exploitation of workers and restrictions on working class and Trade Union political activity.

At present the Howard Government is after the active and militant sections of the working class, but, is ultimately aimed at all workers whither in the building industry, manufacturing, mining, pastoral or shop assistants and service industry workers.

The ultimate aim is a docile and subservient working class whose purpose in life is to improve the life style and increase the profits of the capitalist class.

However, the Trade Unions and the working class are alert to these plots and are fighting back. The first step is to ensure the defeat of the Howard government and its replacement with a government more susceptible to the needs of the working people.



PASTORAL WORKERS GIVEN A RAW DEAL

For over a hundred years the shearing industry has enjoyed a mixture of piece work and weekly wage pay rates, which has worked to the satisfaction of the pastoral workers and the pastoral industry.

Now as a result of the Howard Government's, Work Choices - Workplace Relations legislation a new system of pay methods is being introduced.

The previous formula used to assess pay rates has been abandoned and a confusing method introduced which divides the employers into two groups with differing methods and pay rates.

For instance if the employer is a company or corporation one method prevails, if an individual grazier or farmer another method of assessing pay rates prevails.

The overall purpose of the changes is to ensure that pastoral workers receive the minimum pay increases awarded by the Fair Pay Commissioner and the employer decides which category suits him.



TRUE BLUE LABOR SUPPORTERS CONFUSED

Labor Party grass roots supporters are finding it difficult to understand the similarity of the basic direction and objectives of the Labor Parties and the Liberal National Party coalitions.

Both major parties subscribe to the same aims. Budgets are framed to produce a surplus with the bulk of government expenditure being in areas that favour the capitalist class and private enterprise.

This leads to a minimum of finance being directed into areas that benefit the working class and less well off sections of the community.

For instance, health services and hospitals are cut back to the minimum, along with cut backs in public education and public housing programs.

All governments are standing back and allowing private enterprise an open slather in the area of charges for such vital needs as electric power, gas and water. No attempt is made to control public transport fares by privately run companies.

Political parties are elected to government to serve and look after the needs of society, which includes the working class and those sections of the community in need of assistance.

Whilst most people understand the narrow selfish attitude and approach to community needs by the Liberal National Parties which support their class interests, it is no reason for the Labor Party to go down the same tract.

Too many people are going in to the parliaments under the Labor banner only to "roll over" and support policies that favour the exploiting class.

**CHINA NOW OUR BIGGEST CUSTOMER**

Recent Trade statistics show that China has surpassed Japan as our biggest customer.

It has been recognised for sometime that our high level of economic activity and prosperity is closely linked to the booming China industrial expansion.

China has for some time been the biggest purchaser of Australian wool. Which no longer our number export is still a very important element of our export trade.

When Chinese buyers withdrew from recent wool sales the price of wool dropped 60 to 80 cents a kilo.

It is important that Australia does not jeopardise in any way the trading relations with China by joining so called security pacts, which have the appearance of being aimed at China.

**DEFEAT HOWARD BECAUSE OF WAR LIES**

If for no other reason Howard and his government must be defeated and removed for lying to the Australian people.

Howard has involved Australia in an unjust war in the Middle East, which has destroyed the infra structure of a sovereign country and brought death and untold suffering to hundreds of thousands of Iraqi and Afghani people.

**THE RISE OF A MULTIPOLAR WORLD**

When the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991, the United States stood tall. It appeared militarily invincible, economically unrivalled, diplomatically incontestable and the dominating force on information channels worldwide.

The next century was to be the true "American century" with the rest of the world moulding itself in the image of the sole superpower.

We are now witnessing the rise of a multipolar world with new powers challenging different aspects of American supremacy.

Russia and China in the forefront and with Venezuela and Iran forming a second tier.

The Cheney-Bush administration's debacle in Iraq is a major factor in this transformation. And is a classic example of an imperialist power, full of insolent pride over reaching itself.

Referring to the war in Iraq and the war on "terrorists" and "Al Qaeda", Brent Scowcroft a national security adviser to two U.S. presidents, claimed in a recent statement:

"That we are being wrestled to a draw by opponents who are not even an organized state adversary".

The scandals at Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq and Guantanamo in Cuba, along with the widely publicised murders of Iraqi civilians in Haditha, have badly tarnished America's moral self image.

A recent opinion poll, in a secular state and member of NATO like Turkey shows that support for the Cheney-Bush administration, has fallen from 52% five years ago, to 9% now.

In the U.S. itself support for Cheney-Bush has fallen from 80% a few years ago to under 30% now.

**BUSH TO CUT SHORT VISIT TO APEC**

George Bush the American President is to cut short his visit to Australia for the APEC conference and get back to America for the report of General Patraeus and U.S. Ambassador Ryan Crocker on the situation in Iraq.

General Patraeus who was appointed by Bush to the top position in Iraq is expected to argue that the number of U.S. troops should be kept at the current levels.

There are consistent signs that American top commanders at the Pentagon are split and will be making individual recommendations to the President.

Geoff Morrell, a Pentagon spokesman told reporters that the commanders will present their recommendations at the same time as General Patraeus.

Those making presentations include Marine General Peter Pace, outgoing chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Admiral William Fallon, from Central Command and responsible for the Middle East and General Casey, Army Chief of Staff. All appear to support the beginning of a phased withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq.

Robert Gates, Defence Secretary, supported a phased withdrawal when a member of the Iraq Study Group.



THE PLOD

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HOWARD & HOCKEY HATE TRADE UNIONS

So intense is the hatred of the Trade Union movement and the attempt to destroy it by the Howard government, that this hatred is now central to its 'Industrial Work Place' activities.

Howard and Hockey who have been selected to lead the charge, work themselves into a frenzy whenever asked a question in connection with the "Industrial Relations" legislation.

Inevitably they avoid answering the questions and launch into a tirade of abuse of the Trade Unions and their leaders, with the specific aim of frightening the Labor Party leaders by urging them to disassociate from the Trade Union movement.

Unfortunately they have had some success with their campaign much to the surprise and anguish of the Trade Unions and Australian people.

Because of the "class" nature of Australian society the Trade Union movement gives leadership to the Australian working class, whither they happen to be Trade Unionists or "free-loaders" and or just ordinary decent citizens looking for an honest open government.

Howard and Hockey know this, hence their frantic attempts to destroy faith in Trade Unions and their leaders.

The Trade Unions and working class are of the firm opinion that the greatest menace facing the Australia people today is any continuation of the Liberal-National coalition government led by John Howard and will continue to work for its defeat.



SENATOR WANTS POLITICAN DRUG TEST

By no stretch of the imagination can Senator Bill Heffernan be considered sympathetic to the working class or any of its organisations. In calling for the "drug testing" of politicians he raises the question as to what has inspired him to call for such testing of politicians.

Most people believe that the recent behaviour of some of his colleagues may have triggered this reaction.

There is no question that politicians such as John Howard, Joe Hockey and Peter Costello in the recent sessions of question time in Federal Parliament were acting strangely in attacking the Trade Unions and Labor Party even when the questions related to items of Liberal/National Party legislation.

The best way of dealing with people like Howard, Hockey and Costello is to ensure that the Howard government is defeated in the elections.



"You can have a democratic society or you can have a severe concentration of wealth, but you cannot have both at the same time. - Louis Brandeis.



WORKERS MUST DEFEND BASIC RIGHTS

Workers must retain the right to protect and defend their standard of living and basic human rights, and this includes the "right to strike" when these basic rights are threatened or infringed upon.

Under the Howard government's Industrial Relations legislation workers are being reduced to being an appendage of the capitalist class without any "rights" or dignity as members of society.

For this reason the Industrial Relations legislation must be defeated, ripped up and replaced by an Industrial Relations system, that recognises the basic rights of workers to strike, and organise members in unions.

It is a basic "right" of Unions to initiate, lead and conduct negotiations concerning the paid rates and working conditions of their members, which must be sacrosanct and recognised in a modern civilised society.

In a capitalist society such as exists in Australia, it must be recognised that it is the "working class" that create our material, services and spiritual values on which depends the living standards of all society.

It is to protect, retain and extend these standards that it is imperative that the government of Howard, Hockey and Costello is decisively defeated and replaced by a government in tune with the political objectives of the working class.



STATUTORY BODY & LIVING STANDARDS

The Remuneration Tribunal is a statutory authority set up to specifically monitor factors that impinge on the living standards of politicians and to then express it as a percentage, so that politicians can increase their "wages" to compensate for the rising costs of living.

These same basic factors also apply to other sections of society including workers, who keep the wheels of industry moving.

South Australian State politicians will receive the 6.7% pay increase as from 1st July and it is endorsed by the Treasurer Kevin Foley, who, as Deputy Premier will "cop" something like \$12,000 increase.

Kevin defends the increases, but, says they do not set an example for other public sector wage claims.

The Australian Nurses Association has an earlier claim for 7% wage increase which shows they were spot on in their calculations.

Other organisations with members employed in Education, Ambulance Services and the Public Services have claims for increased pay rates and there are now no valid reason for them not being settled with an offer of at least 6.7% increase.

It is unreal to believe that a Labor Government will continue to insist that workers should suffer a reduction in their "living" standards.



OUT OF IRAQ-AFGHANISTAN GROW IN U.S.

The way things are shaping up John Howard and Alexander Downer will be the only people supporting Bush and Cheney and their war in the Middle East.

George W Bush's support has now shrunk to 27% with the American people with 3560 American troops killed in Iraq.

There are growing signs that the realization that the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have been lost by the break with Bush of ranking Republican senators.

Senator Richard Lugar, the ranking Republican on the Foreign Relations Committee and a Bush supporter has "warned Bush to change strategy.

Republican Senators Voinovich and Barr have also warned Bush to change strategy and added that there are other Republicans who think along the same lines.

The indications are that the extra troops sent to Iraq have failed to halt the civil war and American troops remain holed-up in their fortified camps.

Cheney and Negroponte have been in Iraq trying to bounce the Maliki government in signing an agreement which would give Exxon-Mobil, Chevron and American oil companies access to Iraqi oil fields.

As Cheney says to justify the invasion of Iraq "the Middle East with two-thirds of the world's oil and lowest cost is still where the prize ultimately lies".

Its time Howard and Downer came clean, apologised to the Australian people for dragging us into the war in the Middle East and bought our troops home.

**WHEN MORALITY FAILS US**

There was a time in the Labor Party when there was a certain morality and convention that if a parliamentary member was doing a good job in the interests of the Party that member would not be opposed.

That convention has been thrown overboard and Senator Linda Kirk has been dumped to create a position for a person who is not prepared to oppose a Howard Government candidate in an electorate.

This despite the fact that for Labor to win the coming Federal elections it must take positions from the Howard Government.

This sort of shabby conduct does nothing to improve Labor's standing in the community, but that means nothing to these people whose only interest is to stand for positions which will ensure them being elected and qualifying for the higher government pension.

There are indications that these types of people are being inspired by a medieval political philosophy that belongs to another era, when workers were told that if they are good and behave "there will be pie in the sky when they die".



"If there is no struggle, there is no progress. Those who seek freedom but avoid agitation, want rain without thunder, a crop without ploughing up the ground, an ocean without waves".

"Power concedes nothing without demand. It never has and it never will". **Frederick Douglass**

**LET'S RID AUSTRALIA OF SHAME**

The revelation of Aboriginal living conditions in towns, camps and settlements is the real reason for the sudden action of the major political parties to right the wrongs which have existed for generations.

Whilst the action of the Howard government may be seen as opportunistic, it should be noted that it has taken it eleven (11) years to act.

The important thing now is that both major parties have given "iron clad" guarantees that the "improvements" will continue after the elections and its up to the Australian people to see it honoured.

As the drive gets underway areas will be revealed which will call for improved or a different approach to how things are handled, the important thing is that the customs and welfare of the indigenous people must at all times be paramount and respected

There can be no political advantage or gain for either of the major parties, both have been negligent in the past.

Matters that must be attended to urgently are: Housing, Health Services and Education. Not only as it applies to children, but, also to adults.

**THE MURDOCH FACTOR**

One of the first things that Kevin Rudd did after he was elected "leader" of the Federal Parliamentary Labor Party was to visit Rupert Murdoch in New York

Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation owns Fox News in America along with a string of television stations and newspapers.

In Australia "The Australian" is his national voice and guide for his state newspapers.

The problem with Mr. Murdoch isn't that he's a right wing ideologue. If that were all he was, he'd be much less dangerous.

Mr. Murdoch is an opportunist who exploits a rule free media environment, by slanting news coverage to favour whoever he thinks will serve his business interests.

In the United States, that strategy means blatant bias in favour of the Bush-Cheney administration and the Republican Party with unqualified support for the invasion and wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

In Britain, Mr. Murdoch endorsed Tony Blair and his support for the war in Iraq.

The Murdoch press rarely makes false claims, it usually conveys misinformation through innuendo. During the early months of the Iraq invasion, Murdoch papers diligently reported on possible Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) and then with little or no report when it was found to be false.

When all else fails, Mr. Murdoch's news papers simply stop covering inconvenient subjects or supporting unsuitable political parties.

It will be interesting to see how Kevin Rudd is treated by the Murdoch press in the coming months when the Federal elections will be an important issue.



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MURDOCK ENDORSES RUDD FOR TOP JOB

Rupert Murdoch, the American media mogul had no hesitation in endorsing Kevin Rudd as suitable for the position of Prime Minister of Australia.

Rudd had prepared the ground for his meeting with Murdoch in New York in his address to the Brookings Institute in Washington when he indicated his support for the policies being pursued by the American capitalist class throughout the world.

Rudd's attack on Doug Cameron, Secretary of the Australian Manufacturing Workers' Union on ABC radio in Washington would have been welcome to the ears of Murdoch and the American ruling class.

Australia is a class society, divided by the nature of the manufacturing and production process, with the class support for ideologies arising from that process.

The working class, which includes the Trade Unions and Australian Labor Party are two of the progressive organisations of the working class.

In the thinking of the Howard Government and unfortunately some Trade Union and Labor Party people too, they equate workers as an item in the economy as they do capital equipment, stock and depreciation.

This leads to a position where workers are put under continual pressure to work longer hours and harder to increase profits for the capitalist class and their hanger ons.

To further strengthen the position of the exploiting class in Australia the Howard Government has legislated a series of "laws" designed to make it illegal for workers to take any action to protect, improve living standards or working conditions.

The same legislation creates and approves means by which bosses can unilaterally decide changes to working conditions and pay rates.

The defeat of the Howard Government remains the number one priority confronting the working class and workers have every right to expect their leaders to be open and forthright as to where they stand.



WHERE HAVE ALL THE LEADERS GONE?

The above is the title of Lee Iacocca latest book in which he attacks Bush for the mess he has made in running America.

Iacocca is one of the most successful capitalists in the U.S. a former head of the Chrysler Motor Company.

Iacocca has some tough things to say about Corporate America, the press and the voters who put Bush in office. But his harshest criticism is saved for Bush.

"We've got a gang of clueless bozos steering our ship of state right over a cliff, we've got corporate gangsters stealing us blind, and we can't even clean up after a hurricane much less build a hybrid car."

"But instead of getting mad, everyone sits around, nods their heads", when Bush says "Stay the course".



WE STILL NEED TO DO IT

The ALP Conference has come and gone and whilst there is some confusion about the formulation of a final Labor Party policy, there is agreement that the Howard government is an impediment to social progress and must be thrown out of office.

The Murdoch press and Mining Companies have commenced a campaign of intimidation and bullying against the announced Labor Party changes to Howard's Industrial Relations laws.

BHP has a long history of opposition to the working class and the Trade Union movement going back over a 100 years and continues to try to use its enormous influence to bludgeon workers and governments to get its way.

Don Argus and "Chip" Goodyear of BHP know that the "sky will not fall in" when the Rudd government takes office and that BHP will continue to "invest" in the iron ore and coal mines just as long as the Chinese economy continues to expand.

The same will apply to Rio Tinto, Exxon Mobil and Qantas who are part of the big business defence of Howard's anti-social policies.

From now on the attack on the Trade Unions, the Labor Party and any opposition to Howard will become increasingly dirty and vicious, that is the nature of the "bosses party" and its "big end of town" supporters.



LABOR FACTIONS MUST FOSTER UNITY

To defeat the Howard government and its powerful supporters, Labor factions must cease squabbling among themselves and devote their energies to defeating the looming threat posed by the Howard government.

People are being attracted to the Labor Party because they sense the peril they will be confronted with if Howard is returned.

Women in particular are putting their faith in the Labor Party, including some who admit that they have been voting Liberal and are now afraid of a Howard future.

Labor parliamentarians now have a great opportunity to use their positions to get out, support and ensure the victory of Labor.

Two Senators who have been quick off the mark organising meetings and inviting prominent Labor speakers along to explain policy are Senator Linda Kirk and Senator Penny Wong.

Both have been top performers in the Senate and have been relentless in exposing the aims and objectives of Howard and his big business "supporters".



CORRUPTION ENDEMIC IN CAPITALISM

Corruption is part and parcel of the capitalist system and nowhere is corruption more rife than in the United States of America.

Under the Bush, Cheney administration corruption has reached new heights and permeates American society in government and industry to an alarming degree.

The latest example of corruption in high places involves the actions of Paul Wolfowitz, a former University Professor, Deputy Secretary of Defence and now President of the World Bank.

As a senior member of the Bush/Cheney government, Wolfowitz was one of the architects of the American invasion of Iraq and along with Rumsfeld was actively involved in devising the torture methods at Abu Ghraib and Guantanamo.

It was when he realised the failure of that invasion that he went to the World Bank. Here he claimed he was determined to "wage war on corruption" and used this as a cover to advance his "girl friend" to a new job with a \$60,000 salary increase.

Wolfowitz now finds himself under siege with world wide demands for his resignation, along with a complete loss of trust and support within the top echelons of World Bank management.

It puts Bush and Cheney in a hot spot, do they support "Wolfowitz and corruption" or do they now dump their colleague?

A FAIR GO FOR ALL

This is the year of International Women's Day and which brings the issues of vital concern to women into clearer focus.

Lets all recommit to the campaign against women, with equal rights in the workplace and against harassment and bullying.

Howard's workplace legislation has seen women in particular increasingly fall behind in wages, including through casualisation and the use of individual contracts.

In the workplace and in society generally, women remain the victims of elitism and prejudice. Sexism like racism is directed at dividing workers.

Don't cop it and let's all do something about it

WAR IN MIDDLE EAST AFFECTS EVERYONE

War in the Middle East is a serious issue and is directly related to the gravity of the crisis unfolding in Australian society.

The answer is to be found beyond media propaganda with its lies and misinformation. The formulated argument is that the US seeks control of oil from the Arabian Peninsula to Central Asia.

This fact should not cause us to forget a more decisive reality. At stake is the continuity of the dominant class leadership led by American finance capital.

Finance capital with its system of oppression and exploitation, maintains its world system by violence and state terrorism.

HOWARD DESTROYS LIVING STANDARDS

Howard and Hockey together have embarked on a deliberate campaign of deception to convince a section of the voting population that workers are better off under their "Industrial Workplace" relations legislation.

This campaign is aimed at those voters who are not affected by the legislation, but whose vote could be vital in an election.

Both Howard and Hockey know that what they are claiming is pure deception and false and that the purpose of the "Workplace Changes" is to debase workers living standards, pay rates and working conditions.

By no stretch of the imagination can longer hours, loss of overtime penalties and public holidays, loss of sick days, be considered an improvement in working conditions.

To say nothing about the loss of purchasing power of wages through uncontrolled price rises in essential goods and facilities.

The benefactors from this campaign of deception and exploitation are seen in the record profits of the corporate sector.

THE DECLINE OF AMERICAN IMPERIALISM

When historians of the future look back, they may well conclude that 2007 marked the time when the crisis of US imperialism became so obvious that even the dimmest wit in the Liberal Party could detect it.

It is now evident that US, Britain and Australia are about to suffer a staggering and transformative defeat in Iraq as this illegal and criminal invasion is at military breaking point, alienating allies and emboldening the list of their foes.

The declining prestige of Washington was revealed when the human rights watchdog of the United Nations rebuked the US for violations of international law at home and abroad, especially in connection with its so called "war on terror".

Adding to a growing cascade of criticism, singled out were the secret detention facilities where torture is the norm and the failure to provide prisoners at Guantanamo with due process of law.

This international body of experts seconded by the United Nations oversees implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and chose 2006 to examine American compliance.

Washington reacted angrily to this rebuke. Ironically, the nation that has taken it upon itself to evaluate nations near and far and the extent to which they have complied with Washington's version of "democracy" and "freedom", now calls foul when the "script is flipped".

It is difficult to over estimate the danger to the world posed by American imperialism. It could jeopardise life on earth. But, Us imperialism is discovering to its dismay that it is much to late to play King Canute seeking to stem the tides of history as the march of humanity to a peaceful future is inexorable.



THE PLOD

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HOWARD GOVERNMENT FACES DEFEAT

The most important task now facing the Australian working class and people is the defeat of the Howard government in the coming elections.

If the current newspaper polls are any guide the Rudd/Gillard led Labor Party looks like having a walk-up start. And providing no serious political errors are made between now and the elections Labor will win and become the government.

The work done by Greg Combet, the ACTU Executive and the Trade Union movement in exposing the punitive nature of Howard's Industrial Relations Legislation has paid off and alerted the Australian people to the danger of any continuation of the Howard government.

The purpose of Howard's Industrial Relations is to debase the living standards of the working class and people still further in the interests of increasing the profits of the capitalist class.

Howard and his ministers have become completely subservient to the whims and requirements of the Bush/Cheney administration in America.

This has led to Australia becoming involved in America's wars in the Middle East, in opposition to the clearly expressed will of the majority of Australian people.

The views of the Australian people are in complete accord with the views of the American people who are daily in action against the wars in the Middle East and anti-democratic policies of the Bush/Cheney clique.

The recent tour of the Pacific area by Vice-President Cheney was to shore up the cracks beginning to appear among America's allies.

The Japanese Defence Minister said the war in Iraq is a mistake, followed by Australia Defence Minister Brendan Nelson, who says the war in Iraq can't be won.

Then Tony Blair has announced 1600 troops to be withdrawn from Iraq.

No wonder Bush, Cheney and Howard are worried.



DANNATT TELLS THE TRUTH ABOUT IRAQ

The Chief of the British General Staff, General Sir Richard Dannatt has said, what every British soldier knows: "British presence in Iraq is folly".

This sentiment expressed by General Sir Richard Dannatt came as no surprise to anyone who knows him.

The General's comments came as a surprise in what was intended to be a soft feature article in the London Daily Mail.

The fact is, things are pretty dire for British forces in Iraq and in many respects Afghanistan. They are short of numbers and equipment.

Sir Richard said: "there are conspiracies, cock-ups and the truth", no matter how hard Blair's spin machine may try to pitch it now.

The head of the British Army was saying what every soldier in Iraq knows, that things cannot go on as they are, and something has to be done by the end of the year.

Britain is to withdraw 1600 troops from Iraq by May 2007.



CAN THE U.S. LEAVE IRAQ WITH HONOR?

The US Vice-President is on record as saying that the US wants to leave Iraq with "honor". But continues to support the illegal occupation of Iraq.

The Bush/Cheney administration went into Iraq to seize control of the Iraqi oil-fields and to destroy any semblance to public ownership and control of the oil industry by the Iraqi people.

From the early 1970's the representatives of the American ruling class had been trying to lure Saddam Hussein into opening Iraq up to penetration and exploitation by American oil monopolies.

The most visible was Donald Rumsfeld who made a number of trips to Baghdad with gifts for Saddam Hussein and is on record "bear-hugging" Saddam Hussein..

It was when the campaign to "win" Saddam Hussein to give the US unfettered access to Iraqi oil-fields failed that the US embarked on a campaign of "demonising" Saddam Hussein.

Saddam Hussein was no angel, but compared to the fate of the Iraqi people under the American occupation he can now be seen as a leader who bought "law and order" to Iraq.

During the period of the Saddam Hussein regime workers had worth while employment, children could safely go to school, sewerage systems were maintained and worked, water filtration plants worked and the electricity system was adequate and improving.

Under American administration Iraq is in a state of lawlessness and the Iraqi people are suffering.

If Cheney is sincere and wants to leave Iraq with "honor" now is the time and it would be welcomed by the people of the world and none more so than the Iraqi and American people.



NATIONAL AIRLINE TO BE SOLD

Australia's national airline is about to be sold off and Treasurer Peter Costello refuses to take any action to ensure that the jobs of Australian workers won't be sent offshore.

A group of local and foreign owned private equity interests have put in a bid for Qantas, which employs 37,000 Australian staff.

Qantas is the backbone of our aviation and tourism industry.

Costello says "the board and management are responsible for jobs". The Treasurer can impose strict and enforceable conditions on the take over or stop the proposed sale of Qantas.

The Howard Government needs to act to prevent aircraft maintenance services jobs going off-shore; protect airline routes and services to regional Australia; and stop Qantas customer service jobs from being sent overseas.

Howard and Costello must be stopped from turning their backs on Australian jobs, services and standards.



WILL BUSH/CHENEY CLIQUE ATTACK IRAN

In the months before the US attacked Iraq the Bush/Cheney clique moved an American Carrier Force into the area prior to the attack on Iraq.

Now this same clique has moved two Carrier Forces into the Persian Gulf area and are threatening the Iranian Government with "air" strikes if it does not abide by American wishes.



Both Bush and Cheney, without any evidence to support their assumptions are claiming that Iran is building "nuclear" weapons and constitutes a

danger to American security.

America is over 9,000 kilometres from Iran, but Bush/Cheney have this nuclear armed Carrier Force in close proximity to Iran.

Bush says the US will not attack Iran, so why mobilise and bring the Carrier Force close to Iran?

The Iranian President has said Iran does not seek to build "nuclear" weapons and is refining uranium for peaceful purposes for use in nuclear electrical power stations.

There you have it. Who do you believe George W Bush and Dick Cheney or the Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad?

**RACE A FACTOR IN ATTACK ON OBAMA**

The Prime Minister John Howard has drawn attention to himself by separating Barack Obama from all the other contenders for the American Democratic presidential nominations.

Howard is taking a long bow if he thinks that Obama is the only American critical of US policy in Iraq. Prominent Democrats such as John Kerry, Ted Kennedy and Jimmy Carter, have criticised the war in Iraq.

By his remarks Howard raises the question of "racism". And does he believe that he is the truest believer in the Iraq war next to Bush and Cheney.

It is pertinent to re-examine the Prime Minister's contribution to the use of the "race" card in Australia.

John Howard's political strategy has been to divide and rule this nation.

Howard has consistently pitted one section of the community against the other, whether it be the wharves, the unemployed, Aborigines, refugees, academics, welfare recipients or trade unionists.

By identifying a minority and telling the majority that they should fear and loathe it as a threat to the way of life of the majority.

In the past Howard has had electoral success with his splitting tactics and he has created the social division that he must now confront.

**WATER A PROBLEM FOR AUSTRALIA**

The provision of water for the people of Australia is becoming a major problem confronting all mainland states.

Whilst there has been a number of meetings of state premiers nothing really substantial has emanated from them to date.

Most of the discussion seems to involve the Murray-Darling River system and a scheme has been evolved to "buy" back water entitlements from some users.

The fundamental problem with the Murray-Darling is there is not enough water to satisfy the needs of the economic development which has been allowed to take place within the system.

It seems that within geological time Australia has been drying out in the area south of the Tropic of Cancer, with the result that most rain falls north of the Tropic of Cancer.

The Queensland Premier has come up with a plan to dam the water in North Queensland and pipe it into the head waters of Central Queensland rivers and then into the Darling river system.

This is a resurrection of a plan originally put forward in the 1930's by Dr Bradfield who designed the Sydney Harbour Bridge.

If the politicians are determined to seek a solution to the problem of water, they should set up a group of scientists and engineers to see if this plan is feasible.

They could also look into the viability of other plans that could help solve the problem of the Murray-Darling system and devise plans to solve the provision of water to the cities and towns of Australia.

**OILY TRUTH EMERGES IN IRAQ**

The puppet Iraqi Government has come up with a new "oil" law which essentially entrenches American control and privatises Iraqi oil resources.

For example, it specifies that up to two-thirds of Iraq's known reserves would be developed by multinationals, under contracts lasting 15 to 20 years.

This policy represents a u-turn for Iraq's oil industry, which has been in the public sector for more than three decades and is a break from normal practice in the Middle East.

According to Iraqi labor leaders, transferring ownership to foreign companies will give a pretext to continue US occupation on the grounds that the companies will need protection.

Union leaders have complained that they, along with other civil society groups, were left out of the drafting process, despite US claims it has created a functioning democracy in Iraq.

Control of Iraqi oil has always been the goal of American invasion and occupation of Iraq.



Prepared and issued by

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FEDERAL LABOR CHANGES LEADERSHIP

The Rudd/Gillard leadership in the Federal Labor Party has been welcomed by most Party members and Labor supporters throughout Australia and should lead to the replacement of the Howard Government by a progressive Labor Party government.

The Howard Government is in terminal trouble and an honest and transparent campaign by the Labor Party will see it defeated and consigned to the dust-bin of history.

For years Howard and his acolytes have been lying to the Australian people claiming that they were responsible for the buoyant economy and controlled bank interest rates.



We now know that Howard's optimistic claims are false and that his political and economic strategy is a shamble.

While George Bush now openly admits that the Iraq invasion is a mess, Howard and Downer continue to try and sell the line that the invasion of Iraq was to bring "freedom and democracy" to the Iraqi people.

Bush and Cheney, the Baker-Hamilton Iraq Study Group along with the disgraced Colin Powell now admit that the motivation for the invasion of Iraq is to seize control of Iraqi oil resources.

The task confronting the Leadership of the Australian Labor Party is to join with the Trade Unions and all honest Australians in exposing the fraudulent and dishonest nature of the policies of the Howard Government.

Labor should take the lead in calling for the complete cancellation of Howard's Industrial Relations Act with its unequal, unfair and "rigged" Australian Workplace Agreements negotiations.

Australia being a "class" society, the right of the working class to organise, campaign and negotiate for improved living and working standards must be upheld as an essential part of the Australian way of life.

Labor must design a proper Medicare, Dental, Health and Hospital System for the benefit of all Australians. Something along the lines of the Department of Veterans' Affairs "gold" card could be the way to go.

Other matters that Labor must come up with are credible policies about the management of river and water resources, along with a National policy for preparing and dealing with "bush fires".



THE STRUGGLE FOR REAL DEMOCRACY

"If there is no struggle, there is no progress. Those who seek freedom but avoid agitation want rain without thunder, a crop without ploughing up the ground, an ocean without waves. Power concedes nothing without demand, it never has and it never will."

Frederick Douglass



THE IRAQ STUDY GROUP FAILS AMERICA

The Iraq Study Group report has failed to live up to the expectations of the American people and many now see it as a snide exercise seeking to justify the continuation of American occupation of Iraq.

Hours after the report's release on December 6, Baker told PBS "NewsHour" host Jim Lehrer that the blue-ribbon commission was calling for a long-term US military presence. "So our commitment, when we say not open ended, that doesn't mean it's not going to be substantial. And our report makes clear that we're going to have substantial, very robust, residual troop levels in Iraq for a very long time."

Sometimes, when a snake tries to swallow a porcupine, it gets caught in its throat and the predator has no choice but to spew it out.

Under the influence of the pro-Israel Lobby the Bush-Cheney administration thought Iraq would be a "cakewalk".

Now, the Bush-Cheney administration will spend the next two years it has left attempting to extricate itself from the morass they have brought upon Iraq and upon the United States.

The departing U.N. General Secretary Kofi Annan, says the "US is trapped in Iraq and faces a no-win situation".

In a last attempt to salvage a losing and misguided enterprise and deep in his continuous state of denial, Bush will throw good money after bad and send thousands of additional troops to "secure Baghdad" and give the impression of some stability in Iraq.

Such an approach could well have the consequence of enlarging the conflict, possibly bringing Iran, Syria, Turkey and Saudi Arabia into the inferno.

This is exactly the reverse to what the American people want and will add further to the 3000 American troops who have given their lives serving in the Bush/Cheney war.

The Bush/Cheney administration invaded Iraq fraudulently and illegally with the aim of taking control of Iraqi oil and destroying the political basis of its policy of nationalisation.



SOLDIERS CALL FOR IRAQ WITHDRAWAL

For the first time since Vietnam an organised, robust movement of active-duty US military personnel has publicly surfaced to oppose a war in which they are serving. Those involved plan to petition Congress to withdraw troops from Iraq.

The Appeal for Redress, brainchild of 29 year old Navy seaman, Jonathan Hutto has already been signed by 1000 US soldiers, sailors, Marines and airmen, including officers - most of whom are on active duty.

Not since 1969, when some 1300 active duty military personnel signed an open letter in the New York Times opposing the war in Vietnam, has there been such a dramatic barometer of rising military dissent.

Eugene Fidell, president of the National Institute of Military Justice, says its "unprecedented".



BUSH FIRES THE REAL & BIGGER DANGER

Australia has just signed up for a \$55 billion deal to buy American fighter air craft, as a precaution and defence against possible attack by "terrorists" or unfriendly countries.

The Howard Government whilst blissfully prepared to spend these enormous amounts of money in case of attack by "terrorists", is very tardy about preparing to fight and or lessen the real dangers from "bush fires".

Bush fires ravage the Australian country side on a regular basis and the time has come when there should be a "National Bush Fire" response group set-up and equipped with aircraft to respond to the first reports of fire danger.

Countries like the United States and Russia have such organisations equipped with "tanker" aircraft which are able to respond at the first warning of danger and in many cases prevent more serious fires developing.

If other countries can organise and use modern methods to fight "bush fires", why can't Australia?

**WATER EVERYWHERE BUT LESS TO DRINK**

Water has become a matter of prime importance to Australia and there is not one state, with the exception of Tasmania that is not now debating what to do about it.

Whilst "climate change" may be one of the factors causing the shortages, it would be prudent to take measures to deal with the problem on a national basis..

The Murray-Darling River system is in dire straits and because of the magnitude of economic activity now based around the system little improvement can be expected in that area in the long term.

It would seem that Australia has to face the fact, that we either investigate the possibility of storing water in the northern areas of Australia and piping the water to the southern areas or Australia embarks on a program of desalination on a national scale.

As the Australian population increases, so too does the need for more water and the time to start planning for the future is "now".

**SILENCING SADDAM HUSSEIN**

It's a frightening precedent that the United States can invade a country on false pretences, depose its leader and summarily execute him without an international trial or appeal process.

The irony here is that the crimes for which Saddam Hussein was convicted occurred before the US in the form of Donald Rumsfeld embraced him. These crimes were well known and occurred 15 months before Rumsfeld visited Iraq to usher in an alliance between the US and Saddam to defeat Iran.

Saddam Hussein knew a great deal about the US role in Iraq including deals made with Bush's father.

It was the US following World War II at the Nuremberg trials that set the bar very high and declared that even the Nazis must have a fair trial.

**LAND OF THE FREE HOME OF THE BRAVE**

As people around the World continue in their amazement at the total moral and economic collapse of the American Nation, a possible clue as to why this is so was revealed in a recent news item.

The United States Department of Justice announced the staggering rate at which their government has been jailing their own citizens and which now stands at seven (7) million.

According to these reports, "A record 7 million people, or one in every 32 American adults, were behind bars.

The once great American Nation has now become the greatest jailer of human beings the World has ever known.

Just as devastating to the American people as the total loss of their freedoms is the economic nightmare they are now entering.

The slowdown in the US economy has sent the dollar into decline and if it continues will set world markets reeling.

**DON'T LOOK BEHIND THE CURTAIN**

The year 2006 was not a good year for the Bush-Cheney administration in the US.

Support for Bush and the war in Iraq slumped to an all time low, which was emphasised by the defeat of the Bush/Cheney forces in the mid-term elections in November and the call to bring the troops home from Iraq and Afghanistan. Thereby avoiding any further loss of American and Iraqi lives.

Bush is going down the same path as adopted by Hitler in World War II, when a campaign fails to achieve its objective, then blame and change the Generals. It didn't work for Hitler and in view of Iraqi resistance its hard to see it working in Iraq.



The Bush-Cheney problem in Iraq is their failure to win a credible section of the Iraqi people to support a government that will throw the country open to exploitation by American oil companies like ExxonMobil and Chevron.

That after all was the reason for the American invasion and "change of regime" from the Saddam Hussein government in the first place.



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THE PLOD

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NEW APPROACH REQUIRED IN MIDDLE EAST

How can you have democracy in a country that is invaded by military force and where all decisions of a puppet government are subject to approval by the dominant occupying military power?

There can never be democracy in occupied Iraq or Afghanistan until all foreign troops leave or are kicked out so that the national government in these lands can claim legitimacy and authority.

This is a basic truth that George Bush, Tony Blair and John Howard seem to be having trouble understanding.

They like to claim that they are waging a "war on terror", which is an empty phrase, to justify the war in Iraq and Afghanistan.



There could now be so-called "terrorists" in Iraq, but there were none before Bush and Blair invaded Iraq on 20 March 2003 and they are not the 'al Qaeda terrorists who did damage to the United States.

Those 'al Qaeda terrorists are not in Iraq, they are in Pakistan, Yemen, Saudi Arabia, the United Kingdom... etc.

The insurgents in Iraq are not terrorists, but patriots who are fighting a foreign invader. To fight an invader is not a terrorist act, but a patriotic act.

For Bush, Blair and Howard to remain in Iraq is not a policy, it is stubbornness and lack of vision.

Bush at his news conference on 21 August 2006 says the invasion and occupation of Iraq had nothing to do with the attack on the "twin towers" or terrorism, all the while mumbling and bumbling on about "democracy".

What Bush, Blair and Howard are now succeeding in doing is confirming that their interventions in Iraq and Afghanistan are nothing more than colonial and imperialistic adventures to control the natural and labour resources of these countries.

Bush, Blair and Howard should take a leaf from the 1975 Helsinki Accords, along with a productive approach to involve Russia, Syria and Iran.

The world needs a policy of "détente" in the Middle East and the West should assure the Muslims, that their countries, their culture and their religion will henceforth be respected.

That the West will assist them in their development, but will not impose on them what political systems and what institutions they must adopt.

American policy is the problem in the Middle East. The people of the world deserve better than the amateurism, improvisation and failure which is the hall mark of Bush and American "leadership".

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"Whom God would ruin he first deprives of reason".

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WATER BECOMING A SCARCE COMMODITY

Australia is a dry continent and water has always been a problem in many areas once you venture into the inland.

The Darling-Murray river system has been a main stay in western NSW, the Riverina and South Australia.

In recent times there to have been changes in the rainfall pattern, resulting in no substantial flooding or flushing of the system since 1972.

The basic problem now with the river system is that more water is being taken out for economic purposes than is coming into the system.

South Australia, as a dry state and at the tail-end of the Murray is affected more by the deterioration of the water quality than other areas along the Murray.

It is estimated that in 20 years time the salinity of the Murray which Adelaide relies on to augment its water supplies will be unfit for drinking.

Recent reports by the General Manager, Boating Industry Association, claim people are now living permanently on house boats on the Murray and are dumping their sewage, kitchen and general waste into the river. Adding to the pollution of the river.

It is time that the relevant S.A. Government Department took action, with proper policing and enforcing of the laws to eliminate this type of river pollution.

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MORE WORKERS TO LOSE THEIR JOBS

A further 100 workers have lost their jobs at Electrolux, with 40 workers at Henderson's Automotive Components and 41 at bankrupt Irons Engineering..

This follows the closing of two other Electrolux factories producing white goods with the loss of 500 jobs.

In some cases the Companies are shifting production to cheaper Asian countries and will import the goods from China or India.

This is in line with the policy of the Howard Government which is determined to reduce the standard of living of the Australian working class to increase the profits of the capitalist class.

Under the Howard Government Australia is destined to become a retailer of foreign made goods and an exporter of mineral resources, agricultural and pastoral products.

Unless there is some form of protection for Australian Industry and workers, the outlook for Australian manufacturing industry is indeed bleak.

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AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY ELECTIONS

Labor Party veteran left-wing Senator John Faulkner had an easy win in the ALP ballot for President.

This means that Senator Faulkner will preside at next year's National Convention and will then head the National Executive in the lead up to next year's crucial Federal elections.

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HOWARD'S-INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS LAWS

Howard's alterations to the Industrial Relations Legislation is an attack on the traditional working conditions and living standards of Australian workers.

Intrinsic to his alterations is the encouragement to employers to 'negotiate' pay and working conditions on the absolute minimum possible.

It is the purpose of his changes that employers present the terms and conditions of employment in such a way to each individual worker as to preclude any negotiation by the "worker" for pay rates or working conditions and devoid of any Union assistance.

By the use of this coercion, bestowed on the employer by these immoral amendments to the Legislation, many workers have been "bludgeoned" into accepting Australian Workplace Agreements (AWA) that are the "delight" of John Howard and Kevin Andrews.

This unprincipled attack on Australian workers, especially the young of both sexes and the older workers in our society is an indication of the depths to which the Liberal-National Coalition government has sunk to protect the profits of the capitalist class.

"The best thing workers can do to protect themselves and their families from the impact of these laws is to become a Union member", as advocated by ACTU Secretary, Greg Combet.

And further insure you are on the "roll" and so defeat the Howard government in the next elections.

**IRAQ NOW HAUNTS BUSH, BLAIR, HOWARD**

For months doubts over Iraq have risen along with the death toll. Last week a tipping point was reached as political leaders in Washington and London began to think the unthinkable that their war was lost.

What began as an invasion with such confidence 3½ years ago has now turned into a debacle for the ring-leaders, Bush, Blair and Howard.

With the growing failure of the entire future in Iraq of the American, British and Australian occupation forces, it is now threatening the administrations of Blair and Bush, while Howard is finding it increasingly difficult to justify Australian troops remaining in Iraq.

Despite a massive campaign by troops of the crack American 101st Airborne Division in Baghdad, the top US spokesman in Baghdad, Major General Caldwell admits they are having little success.

"We are constantly going back in to do clearing operations" confided the General.

In a few short weeks the US and British policy over Iraq has dramatically unravelled. The US slogan of "stay the course" has now come to haunt the coalition warriors. Blair is a lame-duck Prime Minister, Bush is a despised President and John Howard knows that nothing can save him from electoral defeat.

**MEDIA MOGULS SCAMBLE FOR POSITION**

No sooner had Communications Minister Helen Coonan announced changes in the regulations for companies,

than a scramble for positions developed among the top media moguls.

First cab off the rank was

James Packer, with a deal with a Hong Kong company which will give him access to \$4.5 billion. This immediately set the alarm bells ringing, a fear that Packer could establish a dominant position in the print and television areas.

Kerry Stokes, owner of Channel 7 moved in and took a 14.9% stake in West Australia Newspapers

Rupert Murdoch, now a powerful American News Tycoon, fearful that Packer would move on the Fairfax Company immediately spent \$400 million in Fairfax shares. This gives Rupert a seat at the table in any split-up of Fairfax.

Both Packer and Murdoch have each been eyeing Fairfax for years. Fairfax publishes what are probably the most influential newspapers in Australia.

"The Sydney Morning Herald - The Melbourne Age and the Australian Financial Review".

All of these players are aware of the power of the media in moulding the thinking of the "voting" population and influencing politicians.

Nothing in the changes flagged by Liberal Minister Coonan indicate any concern for the need of the public to have access to independent print or television news and entertainment sources.

With people like Packer, Murdoch and Stokes deciding what the public "hear or see" the Liberal-National Coalition feels that political influence of the Australian people remains in safe hands.

**SACKING OF OHS DELEGATE A "SHAM"**

When Mal Peters, CFMEU delegate was sacked by the employer on the Perth to Mandurah rail construction project, his 107 work mates downed tools and stopped work.

These workers immediately realised that this was "victimisation" and rejected the employers claim that it was "for operational reasons" as spurious and a blatant attempt to intimidate the work gang.

Despite being threatened by the employers' use of Howard's "Workplace Laws" these workers stood solid and their actions have been justified by the "decision of the Australian Industrial Commission that the employers reasons were indeed a "sham".

Prepared and issued by
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MASS CAMPAIGN WILL DEFEAT HOWARD

A mass campaign spearheaded by the ACTU, class conscious sections of the working class, the Trade Unions and the grass roots of the Labor Party can ensure the defeat of the Howard Government in the federal elections in 2007.

The policies of Howard and his henchmen are designed to lower the living standards of Australian workers in the interests of the profits of the capitalist class and overseas industrial and financial interests.



The Howard Government Industrial Relations legislation is the most brazen attack on workers ever attempted in Australia. From day one of the new laws workers have been sacked and re-employed on Individual contracts, with lower wages and less favourable working conditions.

The vast majority of Australian people now have a vital interest in ridding the country of this government of the corporations, big business, the banks and exploiters of labour.

Small business will suffer if people don't have as much to spend, the struggle of women workers for equal pay will be set back, young people and other groups of vulnerable workers will be open to intensified exploitation.



The tactics employed must comprise all forms of activity that will assist in defeating the Howard Government and ensure that an incoming Labor Government implements real change in the interests of the working class and people.

This means that Labor must get rid of WorkChoices not just talk about it. A determined class conscious united working class and people can ensure that it happens.

The essence of this campaign must seek to involve all sections of the community whose way of life are now under attack or threatened by the Howard Government which puts the profits of big business ahead of the people's interests and welfare.



IRAQ WAR CAUSE OF HIGH PETROL PRICES

High petrol prices at the pump are freaking people out but Howard and those who comment on the high prices are still not prepared to admit that the illegal invasion of Iraq and threat of extended war in the Middle East are the prime cause of the petrol price rises.

When Bush, Blair and Howard (the Coalition) invaded Iraq crude oil was around \$40 a barrel, today it is over \$70.

All sorts of lame excuses are being offered as the reason except the real one, for fear that if Australians are told the truth they would begin to question why we support America's war in Iraq and call on the Howard Government to join in the world wide demand for troop withdrawal and the end of the slaughter in Iraq.

UNION MOVE TO INVIGORATE LABOR

A group of Unions, known as the "Industrial Block" that traditionally have played a leading role in the struggle to protect and advance the living standards of Australian workers has come together with the aim of re-storing the Labor Party as the pre-eminent party of the working class.

In recent years Labor's first preference vote has been steadily eroded to such an extent that people are saying that there is now little difference between the policies of Labor and the Coalition parties. It is the intention of the Industrial Block to change this.

The change in Labor Party and voting patterns has been bought about as a result of the activities of the "grouper" inspired element getting control of some unions and then using their delegate numbers at Labor Party conferences to foster policies which are in conflict with the traditions of the Labor Party.

This section of the Trade Unions have been influenced by the writings of pope Leo XIII in his Encyclical Letter "Rerum Novarum" which is sub-headed "On the Condition of the Working Classes".

The central theme of Rerum Novarum is to down play the exploitative nature of capitalist society and the resultant class struggle which is inherent in it.

Leo makes a pious plea for employers to treat workers humanly and that their needs be speedily and fittingly cared for, which is very good.

The problem arises when capitalism fails to maintain workers living standards with employers cutting wages, laying off workers and throwing them on the scrap heap so as to protect profits..

It is then that the workers are urged to accept their "miserable and wretched" living conditions and meekly and without protest recognise the right of employers to act this way.

Those workers who take this advice and act in a meek and docile manner are promised better in the "here-after", with "pie in the sky when they die".

In the meantime the capitalist class and their lackeys continue to enjoy their "pie" here on earth.



BUSH MUST NEGOTIATE, SAY GENERALS

Twenty-one former generals and high ranking national security officials have called on President George W Bush to reverse course and embrace a new area of negotiation with Iran, Iraq and North Korea.

They have declared that Bush's 'hardline' policies have undermined national security and made America less safe.

An attack on Iran would have disastrous consequences for security in the region and U.S. forces in Iraq.

It is the Bush Administration's invasion of Iraq that is at least partially responsible for Iran's drive to research and develop a nuclear program.

North Korea wants to talk directly to America without any prior conditions. The generals say "Bush is a poor student of history".



WAR HANGS BY A THREAD

Whilst the war in Lebanon has ceased for the present the peace is uneasy with Israel straining at the leash as it seeks an excuse to resume the bombing of the Lebanese people.

The war was initiated by the intrusion of an Israeli patrol into Lebanon, which was engaged by Hezbollah patriots, who took two Israeli soldiers prisoners, killed eight soldiers and destroyed an Israeli tank.

These are the facts as reported in the first and original news items, which was subsequently changed to claim that the Hezbollah had invaded Israeli held territory and with Hezbollah cited as a "terrorist" organization.

Hezbollah was the Lebanese people's answer to the illegal occupation of their country for six years by Israel and during which time Israel sanctioned the murder of thousands of Arab and Lebanese people.

For the present Zionist rulers of Israel to brand Hezbollah as terrorists is a bit rich considering Israel's history and foundation.

Israel is a "terrorist" state which came into existence following a terrorist campaign against the British mandate of Palestine by Irgun Zvai Leumi and the Stern Gang.

These "terrorists" waged war against the British mandate and the Arab people in Palestine. During this campaign they murdered British soldiers they had taken prisoners and massacred the entire population of 254 people in the Arab village of Deir Yassui.

Their campaign of terror against the Arab people continued, with over 1,000,000 being driven from Palestine, who sought refuge in neighbouring countries.

Britain relinquished the United Nations mandate of Palestine in 1947.

In early 1948 the Zionist's proclaimed the Jewish state of Israel. In September 1948 the terrorist gangs were disbanded and incorporated into the Israel Defense Forces (ADF)

Now with the active support of the Bush-Cheney administration of America, Israel has become a danger to peace not only in the Middle East, but could set off a world war.

**SALE OF PUBLIC OWNERSHIP OF TELSTRA**

The real reason for the fire sale of Telstra is that Howard senses that the Coalition will be defeated in the next Federal elections and that with a change of Government Telstra will be retained publicly owned.

Howard along with Tony Blair and George Bush are dedicated to the elimination of any vestige of public ownership which they see as a danger to capitalism.

The first acts of the Bush/Blair invasion of Iraq was to replace the socialised industries by private enterprise and capitalist ownership.

Howard knows he will earn "brownie" points and approval from Blair and Bush for this wanton act.

Whilst some people who bought shares in Telstra earlier on now stand to lose out by the flooding of market with Telstra shares, Howard justifies this by claiming it's the market at work.

**BHP AGREES TO MINERS WAGE CLAIMS**

BHP has agreed to a wage increase of 5% plus a \$17000 bonus payment to the miners and truck drivers employed at the "Escondida" copper mine in Chile.

The workers stopped work on 7th August when negotiations for wage increases and a share in the fantastic "windfall" profits broke down.

The mine management closed the mine down and then attempted to engage "scabs" to replace the striking toilers.

This proved to be a dismal failure and despite an intense campaign throughout South America succeeded in recruiting 50 "scabs"

BHP then decided to reopen talks with the striking miners. For a start BHP offered a 4% wage rise with a \$15000 bonus, the miners submitted their claim which the company decided to accept.

The victorious miners are now back at work.

**IRAN TO CONTINUE ENRICHING URANIUM**

It would be a good idea if the Bush administration could clean up its act and let the world know just what is its policy on "uranium enrichment".

As it stands at present some countries are allowed by Bush to proceed with enrichment, but, Iran is not.

This seems to have Alexander Downer bamboozled also, for after advocating that Australia should "enrich" uranium here and then sell the finished product, he remembered the American ban on Iran and apparently will have to have his proposition cleared by Bush.

The sheer stupidity of the American objection to Iran enriching uranium is highlighted by the glut of enrichment facilities in France, Germany, Holland, Britain, China, United States, Russia and Japan.

There is a shortage of uranium ore supplies for power generation.

The Iranian President Ahmadinejad has repeatedly emphasised that Iranian enrichment is solely for use in the generation of electrical energy.

In the fetid mind of Bush this is not sufficient and the world is expected to believe what Bush says and we all know his reputation for honesty and truth.

The continuing attack on Iran by Bush, Cheney and Rumsfeld with a call for "regime change" raises the question as to whether they see Iran and its present leadership as an obstacle to their strategic plan for the Middle East.

American meddling in the Middle East is centred around gaining control of the "oil and gas" resources of the whole region.

Iran has extensive oil and gas reserves and to resource strapped American oil corporations is a glittering prize.

IS THAT WHY BUSH ACTS BIZZARRELY

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COSTELLO BUDGET SUITS BIG BUSINESS

The main benefactors from the Costello budget are big business and the upper echelons of the middle class. These are traditionally solid supporters of the conservative Liberal Party.

This becomes clear when the budget is examined, for instance a single income family on \$40,000 per year with no children receive a tax cut of \$9.80 per week.

A similar family on \$150,000 per year receive \$119.20 per week tax cut and on \$200,000 per year gets a tax break of \$138 per week.

Of the \$9.5 billion for schools over \$6 billion goes to private schools.

The Federal Government is awash with money, not because of any special economic expertise on the part of the Liberal Government, but because of the growth of the Chinese economy and its phenomenal demand for iron ore, coal, natural gas, uranium, wool, aluminium and a host of other commodities from Australia.

When Kim Beazley gave his reply address on the budget he found the going heavy with regard to any serious criticism of the Liberal Government handling of the economy.

This is because Kim is largely in agreement with the direction of the Howard policies and budget and refuses to examine the core problems which effect the working class and which have their genesis in Howard's subservience to the policies of the Bush administration in the United States.

The most positive aspect of Kim's address was his undertaking that a Labor Government will tear up the Industrial Relations legislation and put an end to the unfair dismissal laws.

Up to date Kim appears to be restricting the use by Labor members of the Parliamentary forum as a means of exposing the real nature of Howard's policies and our involvement in America's brutal, immoral and fraudulent war in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Six months ago the Iraqi people elected a government. It is now time for all invasion forces to be withdrawn from Iraq to allow this government to function in the interests of the Iraqi people, completely free of American/British overlordship and dictate.

The United Nations could then offer to assist the government rebuild the country, so ruthlessly destroyed by the invasion of Bush, Blair and Howard



STATE LABOR NOW HAS THE NUMBERS

The Rann Government now has the numbers in the Assembly to initiate policies to rectify the evils of privatisation left behind by the previous Liberal government of John Olsen.

Olsen privatised public institutions and utilities which had played a major part in the living standards and well being of working people.

Public ownership and control of enterprises like electricity and gas, public transport, banking and education are areas where public control and ownership are in the best interests of the people of South Australia.

The Rann Government now that it has the numbers and popular support should lose no time in restoring these utilities and facilities to the South Australian people.

Rann Labor should not be seen to be putting its imprimatur on the actions of the Olsen Liberals by doing nothing to restore important utilities to public ownership.

From time to time leading members of the Rann Government draw attention to the need to return to the "grass roots" policies of the Labor Party. Now is the time to do just that.

The public ownership and control of utilities and services is a fundamental objective of the Labor Party and were set out in the aims of the Party at its foundation.

If the Labor Party wants to play its part in solving the problems confronting the people of South Australia its should be thinking and acting along traditional working class lines.



HANSON SAYS "GAOL NEGLIGENT BOSSES"

Wayne Hanson the secretary of the Australian Workers' Union is critical of the "kid glove" manner in which employers are treated with regard to deaths of workers, where employers are in breach of the "Occupation, Health, Safety and Welfare Act.

Hanson says present penalties are a "joke" and wants the Rann government to get active and update the act.



The \$100,000 maximum fine is less than some firms pay to conduct their monthly meetings.

Too many workers lose their lives because of employers taking "short cuts" in work practices and disregarding the safety of workers.

Where employers are found to be "negligent", bosses should face a prison term besides being "fined".

Independent MLC Nick Xenophon supports a Parliamentary inquiry into such deaths.

Michael Wright, Industrial Relations Minister is calling on the recently created "Advisory Committee" to lift its game and review the penalties.



WORKERS' HAVE A RIGHT TO WORK

Every worker has the right to work under safe and congenial conditions and so provide for his or her maintenance and that of their families.

This is what the Howard Government is setting out to limit and then destroy by its changes to the Industrial Relations Laws, which are being resisted by the Unions and working community.

One of the features of Howard's attack on wages and conditions is his bogus claim that he improves workers living standards and that his government has the workers interests at heart.

The lying nature of this assertion is becoming clear to workers with each passing day.

When Kim Beazley, responding to pressure from the Unions and the community, announced that a Labor Government would abolish AWA individual contracts the reaction from Howard and the bosses was immediate and vicious.

This exposed that real purpose of Howard's changes to Australian working conditions is to strengthen the position of the capitalist class bosses by imposing a "No Rights at Work" policy on the Australian working class.

The immediate task confronting the Trade Unions, Labor Party and all other sections of the working class is to unite around a policy of an "attack on one is an attack on all" and respond by taking to the streets in protest.

Labor members of State and Federal Parliaments should use that forum to attack and expose the sleazy, dishonest nature of the Howard Government's plot against the Australian people.



HOWARD GOVERNMENT FACES DEFEAT

The Howard Government will be defeated at the next Federal elections provided that the Unions, Labor Party and concerned working people maintain their rage at the anti-people actions of the Howard government.

The way to defeat Howard and his cohorts is by opposing them in their electorates. Unfortunately there are some "ambitious types" in Victoria who take the view that Labor can win elections by stacking branches and taking sitting Labor members positions.

To defeat Howard there must be an increase in the number of Labor and anti-Howard members elected to the Federal Parliament.

It would have been of more value to the labor movement if these "ambitious types" had stood against Liberals in liberal held seats, where a "win" will increase Labor numbers in the Parliament.

It is the policy of the Liberal Party to destroy the Trade Unions and to reduce the Labor Party to a position of irrelevance, which by their actions these "ambitious types" are assisting Howard in doing.

No one knows where these "ambitious types" stand on the vital issues of the day that effect the working class. Even though they have had plenty of publicity in the TV and printed media.



SHEARERS' CELEBRATE 40 HOUR WEEK

Sixty years ago in 1946 shearers in Queensland took the first steps to institute the 40 hour week in Australia by refusing to shear the four hours on Saturday as from the 16th February 1946.

This action was taken following a "rank and file" shearers conference held in Blackall at the beginning of February 1946 and made the decision to take this action.



In the years before the outbreak of war in 1939 shearers had been urging AWU officials to support action for a shorter working week, only to be "fobbed" off with the claims by officials that now was not the "time".

During the campaign AWU officials endeavoured to confuse the issue by claiming cooks, woolpressers and weekly wage shedhands should be involved in the campaign.

This line was rejected by the shearers, who advised these workers to continue to report for work on the Saturday mornings, with an undertaking from the shearers of support should there be any attempt to dock their pay for the Saturday.

So successful was the shearers campaign that the Queensland Industrial Commission had no hesitation in approving the 40 hour week for Queensland shearing employees as from the end of June 1946.

Coupled with this was an increase in pay rates for all shearing shed employees to compensate for the loss of the four (4) hours earning time on the Saturday morning.

Following from the success of the Queensland shearers the 40 hour campaign spread to northern New South Wales, where initially Graziers endeavoured to intimidate shearers by instituting court action for refusing to shear on a Saturday morning.

With the influx of shearers from Queensland the graziers tactics were short lived, when they realised if they wanted their sheep shorn it would be on the 40 hour system.

From northern NSW the campaign spread south to the Riverina and then into Victoria, when the shearing season finished at the end of 1946, 90% of sheep in the key states of NSW and Victoria had been shorn on the 40 hours conditions.

Faced with the success of the 40 hour campaign the Graziers Association conceded that all shearing as from the start of 1947 would be in accordance with a 40 hour week.

The Australian Arbitration Court handed down its decision in October 1947 making the 40 hour week universal in Australia.



MAY DAY CELEBRATIONS 2006

This year will be the 116th celebration of May Day in Australia and is an opportunity for the Trade Unions and working class to demonstrate their unity and opposition to the Howard Government's Industrial Relations Act Amendments.

Whilst there had been previous marches by Australian workers in support of improved pay rates and the eight-hour day, it is accepted that the first May Day celebrations in Australia was carried out by the striking shearers in Barcaldine and Charleville in Queensland on May 1st 1891.

May 1st as a world wide workers day was born out of tragic events in the heartland of capitalism - the USA.

In 1886 a peaceful march and meeting of workers in Chicago in support of an eight-hour day and protesting at the shooting of workers at the McCormack Reaper Works the day before was set upon by police in Haymarket Square in what is now known to history as the "Haymarket Affair".

At a meeting in Paris on 14th July 1889 to celebrate the fall of the Bastille a 100 years earlier and following a report from American delegates on the nature of the "class struggle" in America, it was decided to make May 1st 1890 an International Day of Working Class demonstration and protest.

To-day Australian workers are caught up in a struggle to retain the right to live as free men and women and to enjoy the fruits of their labour.

Democracy has been fought for by the Australian working class and won step by step over years and years of struggle.

The Howard Government's "Industrial Relations Act Amendments" is an attack on the democratic rights of Australian workers and people.

This is a fight for democracy - for freedom of thought and speech, of association and assembly - and the right to retain and improve the place of the working class in Australian society.



WORKING CLASS SOLIDARITY REQUIRED

The Howard Government has set out to destroy the Trade Union movement and its leadership of the working class. That is the ultimate purpose of the changes in the Industrial Relations Act.

Working Class solidarity is the answer and the building of that solidarity is the urgent and immediate task of the Trade Unions.

It is the strategy of the Howard Government to deal with the Unions one at a time by attacking the most active and best organized for a start.

It's no accident that the CFMEU and AMIEU are under attack, for actively on the job, supporting and defending the working conditions of their members.

"An attack on one is an attack on all must become the policy of the Trade Unions and working class".



LABOR MUST STAND BY ELECTION PROMISE

During the election campaign Mike Rann and Kevin Foley were most outspoken and determined that there would be no loss of jobs in the Public Service, as was being advocated by the Liberal Party.

Now according to "The Advertiser" the treasurer Kevin Foley is toying with the idea of adopting part of the Liberal plan for some Public Service job losses.

Kevin Foley is now indicating that to increase the job numbers in health, education and police, job numbers in the Public Service might have to be slashed.

That is not what was said during the election campaign. There was a clear understanding that the Public Service was secure and that additional workers would be recruited for health, education and police.

If the Treasurer persists with this ruse it will be seen as a "flip-flop" from a solemn election promise.



LABOR AND CAPITALIST GLOBALISATION

The process of capitalist globalisation is important context for understanding the working class in Australia to-day.

How did we get here? Why such a decline in union membership in the last 20 years? What is behind all these debates within the working class and Labor movement?

The election of the Howard Government signalled a sharpening of the employers and government attack on the Trade Unions and working class.

This coincided with some plant closings and downsizing in the manufacturing section. There were also increased outsourcing of jobs and work overseas.

During this period company mergers have accelerated creating new manufacturing and financial empires with subsequent downsizing of the work forces.

This growth and concentration of transnational and local capital has fuelled far-right political trends in Australia.

For awhile the Howard Government attempted to channel anti-capitalist sentiment into right-wing and jingoistic directions.

Capitalist competitiveness was sold as worker-against-worker, with Australian workers being required to sacrifice wage rates and conditions to "beat the competition".

This could lead the workers into "a race to the bottom" a kind of competition to see in which country workers attain the lower standard of living.



Justice Louis Brandeis: American Supreme Court

"You can have a huge accumulation of wealth or have democracy, but you can't have both at the same time".



MAKING THE WORLD SAFE FOR BIG OIL

The rising price of oil is proving a bonanza for the oil companies throughout the world and none more so than the American companies led by Exxon Mobil.

Exxon Mobil has announced a profit of US\$36 billion dollars, the highest ever of any company anywhere at any time.

Pious calls by governments and civilian organizations for restraint in price-gouging has fallen on deaf ears as the oil companies continue on their merry way.

Only one country as done anything about curbing the profit appetite of these rapacious oil companies and that is Venezuela led by Hugo Chavez.

For starters Venezuela has taken a 51% share in all oil companies operating in that country and to help the suffering people of the United States during the "cold" winter with heating oil at reduced prices.

Here was a foreigner using his resources to undercut "patriotic" American companies which were exercising their Cheney-Bush-given, price-gouging rights.

The most embarrassing part of this episode is that some states, Massachusetts, for one, actually took Chavez up on his offer.

But as Cheney would have it what else could you expect from a state that elects Ted Kennedy to the U. S. Senate time after time.

With democracy in full bloom in Iraq and the insurgents on their last legs and civil war a figment of the "cut-and-run" crowd's imagination, now is the time for Bush, Blair and Howard to announce "Mission Accomplished II" and bring the troops home and attend to their mounting domestic problems.

**IRAN AND THE USE OF NUCLEAR EMERGY**

By any stretch of the imagination Iran does not constitute a threat to the security of continental USA by its desire to develop "nuclear energy" for peaceful purposes.

This is the view of a growing number of US Congressmen led by Texan Right-wing Republican Ron Paul.

Instead of planning an attack, the Texan Republican argues, "there are many reasons not to do so"

- (1) Iran does not have a nuclear weapon and there's no evidence that it is working on one - only conjecture.
- (2) If Iran had a nuclear weapon, why would this be different from Pakistan, India, North Korea or Israel having one? Why does Iran have less right to a defensive weapon than these other countries?
- (3) America needlessly and foolishly threatens Iran even though they have no nuclear weapons. Take note - what a leading Israeli historian, Martin Van Creveld, has to say about this:
- (4) "Obviously, we don't want Iran to have a nuclear weapon and I don't know if they're developing them, but if they're not developing them, they're crazy".

The distortion of the truth is being used to pump up support and justification of an American attack on Iran.

**A NICE COZY ARRANGEMENT**

Everything has been set up for a nice cozy deal with regard to taxation "relief" for the wealthy capitalist class and their supporters.

The Liberal Treasurer Peter Costello appointed two representatives of this class to prepare a set of recommendations to help him frame his 2005/06 budget.

It should be noted that no one from the working class or Trade Unions, participated in the preparation of the recommendations.

Peter Hendy, a former Liberal Ministerial adviser and now chief executive of the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry was one of the reports authors along with Dick Warburton, director of a number of Australia's bigger companies.

Taxation is a method of distributing a country's wealth, which is created by the working class.

This wealth is made up of both the tangible and service components which make up a country's "gross national product or GDP."

It is the aim of people like Peter Hendy, Dick Warburton and the Liberal Party to maintain and increase the share of the GDP going to the capitalist class, who contribute nothing in its production.

Depending on the amount accruing to this class, will be the amount remaining for distribution to the working class, either in the form of health and hospital facilities, educational facilities, public transport, energy, water and wages.

The purpose of Howard's changes to the Industrial Relations Act is to "whip" workers into a position where they accept what's handed out as wages by the bosses, with no say in deciding their working conditions.

**RETRAINING LAID-OFF WORKERS**

Layoffs and redundancies has disrupted the lives of hundreds if not thousands of Australian workers over the past 10 years.

It is claimed that the cure for these displaced workers is retraining and more education, heralded as a sure path to new and better paying careers.

Most often that policy prescription does not work and many of these workers are finding that they have to take unskilled jobs at lower rates of pay.

There is a presumption, promoted by economists, business executives and nearly all the political leaders from both the Liberal and Labor Parties that Australia is a vibrant and flexible economy that there is work at good pay and conditions.

These sort of people seem to think that if the unemployed get themselves educated and skilled that the work will materialize. Education and training create the jobs, according to this way of thinking.

Put another way, an appropriate job at decent pay materializes for every trained or educated worker.

This is a myth. Those workers who lose their jobs when enterprises go bankrupt or move off shore to China, India or Thailand find that no matter what their skills they end up in lower paid unskilled jobs.



Prepared and issued by
Jim Doyle JP

- Life member of The Australian Workers' Union

LABOR MUST TACKLE VITAL ISSUES

With the State elections approaching the Labor Party must give clear and determined undertakings to deal with the prime issues troubling the people of South Australia.

There must be some restructuring of the "electric power" industry. Privatisation has failed the people of South Australia.

The generation and distribution of electric energy should be conceived as a whole, with the production side of the industry being responsible for the maintenance and distribution of the product.

At the present time the "generators" rip off the people for the maximum profit and then leave the "distributor" (ETSA) to levy with additional imposts.

Its not good enough for the Minister to blame Lew Owens and threaten him with "what for" for "blackouts", when the real cause of the problem lies in the structure and administration of the electricity industry in South Australia and that is where changes must be made.

Public hospitals have recently received some attention but more has to be done, along with the setting up of a qualified advisory body to supervise the correct handling of mentally disturbed people.

It is important that there be greater attention paid to the conditions, under which equipment will be required to operate when purchasing gear from overseas.

It is obvious that whoever was responsible for authorising the purchase of the trams for the Glenelg service was unaware of local conditions.

It would have been just as easy for the German manufacturer to incorporate the needed changes at the time of building the trams if they had been given the required specifications.

Water is looming as a growing problem for Australia and South Australia as probably the driest state, Labor should place water high on its action agenda. According to experts, in twenty years Murray River water will be too saline for human consumption.

This coupled with the diminishing flow in the river, poses an urgent problem for the government of South Australia, whether Labor or alternative.

In New South Wales some consideration is now being given to constructing a desalination plant to augment Sydney's water supply.

With the development of the Roxby Downs copper and uranium complex the demand for water will increase. At present BHP is pumping 35 megalitres a day from two bores on "Dulkaninna" station.

BHP is now talking about requiring and increasing the amount to 150 megalitres a day.

Graziers in the north who rely on artisan bores for stock water, claim that at BHP's present rate of extraction the water levels are falling and if continued, will entail them in equipping bores with new pumping equipment.

There is plenty of water at Port Bonython and it is the duty of the Government to see that BHP proceeds with the construction of a desalination plant there.



WHAT IS VICTORIAN LABOR UP TO?

Changes underway in some of the factions in the Victorian Labor Party will have an effect on the Federal Labor Party and are a cause of concern to "grass roots" Labor Party members Australia wide.

Instead of targeting Liberal and National Party held seats, these people are opposing Labor Party members in Labor held seats and are splitting the Party. There is widespread belief that Steve Brack is intent on recruiting millionaire and high profile "right wingers" to join him.

The other group is believed to be inspired by Federal Labor member Senator Stephen Conroy, with two of the star candidates being Bill Shorten from the AWU and Martin Pakula from the National Union of Workers.

Shorten is to oppose the sitting Labor member in Maribynong, Bob Sercombe. Shorten has the support and the encouragement of well known Liberals, such as billionaire Richard Pratt and millionaire Sir Julian Beale, Liberal king-maker Michael Kroger, and disgraced former WA Labor premier Brian Burke, the *Murdock Press* and *The Bulletin*.

Shorten uses Pratt's mansion for fund raising dinners and to entertain people who he believes will be supportive and useful in his campaign.

When Shorten addressed the Canberra Press Club in 2002, Pratt and Beale made a special trip to Canberra in Pratt's jet to hear Shorten speak.

Martin Pakula is to challenge Simon Crean for Hotham and has the support of millionaires, the anti Labor press and right wing conservative elements in the Labor Party.

Crean, has an impeccable record of service to the Trade Unions, Labor Party and working class, the endorsement of Greg Combet and Sharon Burrows from the ACTU and class conscious Labor Party members.

There is a growing belief that the Brack and Conroy factions are guided by a philosophical line which motivated the "National Civic Council" when it was rampant in Victorian politics and which did so much harm to the Labor Party in the 1950-1960 period.



HOWARD SUBSIDES WEALTHY FAMILIES

Research by the parliamentary library reveals that that more than 2000 families in NSW 10 wealthiest postcodes receive family payments, as do more than 1500 families in Victoria's top 10 wealth postcodes.

Last year 76 millionaire families across the nation received welfare payments, as did 38,000 families on incomes above \$100,000. Australia wide 12,690 families living in the 10 wealthiest postcodes in each state receive family payments.

Howard pays Family Tax Benefit to millionaire families so long as the mother agrees to stay at home. Yet he expects poor single mothers to work for less than \$3 an hour after taking account of lost benefits, taxes paid, childcare, travel and work costs.

The above information is contained in advice obtained by Federal Labor member Craig Emerson.



COLE INQUIRY "NOT POWERFUL ENOUGH"

There is a general belief in political circles that a government never sets up a Royal Commission or any sort of Legal Inquiry unless it feels that the "findings" will be to its advantage.

As evidence unfolds before the Cole Inquiry into the Australian Wheat Board "kickbacks" and other unusual behaviour by the AWB, there's a growing belief that Commissioner Cole's terms of reference need extending.

It is important to view the back ground against which the AWB operated. Australia is involved in Iraq as the result of a conspiracy and fraudulent claims that Iraq had "weapons of mass destruction", WMD.

BHP hankered after some of the spoils and made a "donation" to Hussein of a ship load of wheat, hoping to gain access to a lease on the Iraqi oil fields. When this failed it connived with the AWB to get its money back.

When America invaded Iraq, Museums and Art Galleries were plundered along with destruction of the Iraqi infrastructure. AWB made its own arrangements with regard to wheat sales to the stricken country.

America sees itself as the main player in Iraq and by selling wheat to Iraq and raiding the "oil for food" kitty the AWB was helping itself to what America regards as its special prerogative.

The big question is to what extent John Howard and Alexander Downer were a where of the deals being 'hatched'. They both deny any involvement or knowledge of the deals, but people remember the "children overboard" episode.

Kym Beazley and Kevin Rudd have done a good job in exposing the facts of this whole sordid scheme, but have failed to expose and exploit the sleazy background and unlawful reason as to why Australia is involved in occupying Iraq.

**HALLIBURTON'S TREACHEROUS TACTICS**

The revelation in "The Advertiser" that Halliburton is importing labourers from Indonesia and exploiting them in the Australian gas fields by paying sub-standard wages and working conditions is in accord with what Halliburton is doing world wide.

Halliburton has close connections with the US Vice-President Dick Cheney and has developed into one of the most powerful corporations in America.

The Chicago Tribune exposed an incredible story detailing how unsuspecting young men from poor countries are tricked into working in dangerous jobs for KBR a Halliburton subsidiary in Iraq.

Poor workers from Asian countries are being lured to the Mideast with fraudulent paper work by promising them jobs at luxury hotels in Amman, Jordan, but are finding themselves working for Halliburton KBR in Iraq.

One group of 12 young Nepalese men was kidnapped and were publicly slaughtered. Another Nepalese rang his brother and said he was being sent to Iraq against his will. He blurted out "I'm done for" and the phone went dead.

The next time this young Nepalese was seen was on a TV screen two weeks later, his hands tied behind his back and a gun pointed at his head.

The US Defense Dept., pays the contractors for finding workers to do the cleanup work in Iraq.

**RELIGIOUS RIGHT FACES ITS PURGATORY**

There are growing signs of a backlash against those anti-labor parties, which use emotive titles designed to hoodwink and deceive ordinary decent church going people in the community.

The principal objective of these modern day religious charlatans is primarily to get into Parliament by promising their supporters "pie in the sky".

From time to time they latch on to issues and advocate harsher penalties, without making any attempt to understand the social background of the offender and for the multitude of petty crimes that plague society these people have no solution.

Invariably they are anti working class and support the conservatives on any vital questions before the Parliament.

The recent debate in the Federal Parliament is a case in point. The issue was whether a politician or the "Therapeutic Goods Administration" of experts should decide whether a drug should be available for use, under "medical" advice and proscriptio.

"Family First" and "Hillsong" representatives voted with John Howard and Tony Abbott who fudged and deliberately confused the issue.

Fortunately for the Australian people common sense prevailed and the conservatives were defeated.

**AUSTRALIAN WORKERS PAY HEAVY PRICE**

Australian workers are paying a heavy price for the "Free trade agreement" signed by the Howard Government with America.

Skilled workers in the manufacturing industries are losing their jobs by the thousand and when they do find work, in most cases in a part time non skill job with a lower rate of pay.

It is part of Howard's policy of opening Australia up to trade from low wage countries and to reduce Australian workers to a lower standard of living.

Until workers get the message and begin to protest by refusing to be sacked and with street marches the Howard campaign will continue.

To protect Australian industries tariffs need to be increased in some areas and not reduced.

**CAN SOL SAVE TELSTRA?**

There was a time when Telstra was the pride of Australia, providing a communication and postal service for the Australian people that was the envy of the Western world.

But then the politicians stepped in and like the "King" who killed the hen that laid the "golden eggs" they began privatising Telstra.

As the work force was reduced by thousands to get greater profits, so too did Telstra's service to the community suffer.

To-day Telstra is more like a country store selling everything from "knickknacks" to various types of merchandise.

Sol Trujillo, the Mexican communication wizard has been brought in to try and retrieve Telstra's lost value but to date has only laid off more workers.



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LAWS NOW IN PLACE TO ATTACK UNIONS

The Howard Government now has the necessary legislation in place to launch an all out attack on the Trade Unions and any organised resistance to the plans to reduce wages and working conditions.

Howard knows that the present level of economic activity in Australia is largely dependent on the continuing expansion of China's economic development and America's deficit rearmament.

Any slow-down in either of these areas will have a reflection in Australian economic activity and result in moves by the employing class to preserve their 'profits' by reducing wages and working conditions.

This is where Howard's changes to Industrial Relations Legislation and his anti-terrorist Legislation will come in.

The changes to the Industrial Relation Act is designed specifically to reduce wages and worsen working conditions, which is in accord with the plans of the capitalist class organisations.

The sweep of the anti-terrorist legislation and amendments are so ambiguous that workers struggling to preserve or improve working conditions can be arrested and charged with sedition.

The purpose and tenor of these two pieces of legislation are very similar to the enabling legislation which Hitler had enacted prior to his attacks on the German Trade Unions and working class in 1933 in the lead up to the Second World war.



AMERICAN WAR LORD VISITS ADELAIDE

Donald Rumsfeld is the American Secretary of Defense and one of the big three in the Bush administration, he recently made a visit to Adelaide.

The purpose of his visit was to check-up as to how rearmament was proceeding and to ensure that American compatible equipment is installed in the proposed destroyers to be built here.

Whilst here he was able to secure 'bombing' rights to use a bombing site used by Australian RAAF in the Northern Australia.

America has squadrons of long rang bombers stationed on Guam for use should any Asian country fail to bend the knee to American wishes.

By using the Australian bombing range this will give the American bombing crews practical experience in long range bombing sorties.

Just why, you might wonder doesn't America use areas in its own country for such exercises.

The answer is that the American people are opposed to such activities and the Bush administration is in enough trouble over its involvement in Iraq.

So it uses what few friends it has to involve them in its preparations for a possible war in Asia.



GUEST WORKERS ARRIVE BY STEALTH

As part of the plot to destroy the Trade Unions and working class organisations, the Howard Government is running a campaign in conjunction with the corporations claiming there is a "shortage of skilled workers".

This then serves as the reason to allow the big companies to import "workers" from low wage countries as a buffer against Australian workers taking any action to protect or improve living standards.

The lurk is to bring these workers into Australia under what's known as Section 457 visas.

In some cases these workers have received some rudimentary training in their own countries and are then able to hone and be trained to do a particular job by special supervisors on Australian projects.

The State Secretary of the AMWU in West Australia says these workers are open to exploitation and in many case are not properly qualified.

Another area being used by mining companies to undermine working conditions is the employment of "diamond drill" teams.

These workers are given some preliminary training in their own country and then bought to Australia where they complete their training on the job.

Operating diamond drilling gear is hard dirty work and long hours. A competent crew of Australian workers would expect to earn \$80,000 plus per year.

The imported crews are paid less than \$60,000 per year a considerable saving to a mining company employing 6 or 7 diamond drilling teams.

Workers allowed into Australia under the Section 457 visa scheme can be sent home at any time and are urged to stay away from or seek information from a union.



NOBEL PRIZE WINNER SLATES BUSH BLAIR

Nobel Prize winner Harold Pinter launched a scathing attack on George W Bush, Tony Blair and US and UK politicians in his lecture as winner of the 2005 Nobel for literature.

Most politicians "are interested not in truth but in power and the maintenance of that power", the 75 year old said.

His speech was pre-recorded as Pinter was admitted to hospital. His lecture entitled "Art, Truth and Politics" studied the importance of truth in art and politics.

Pinter said that politicians feel it is "essential that people remain in ignorance, that they live in ignorance of the truth, even the truth of their own lives".

Pinter asserted the US justification for invading Iraq - that Saddam Hussein possessed weapons of mass destruction - "was not true". George W Bush and Tony Blair must be held to account for feeding the public "a vast tapestry of lies" about the Iraq war.



PROBLEMS OF THE WORKING CLASS

It was a fact of life that during the period of the so called "cold war" that the bourgeoisie, was more or less united in their hostility to the socialist world.

By making concessions to the working class they were able to stave off the development of a revolutionary consciousness in the western working class.

Now that the European socialist bloc no longer exists, the bourgeoisie is reverting to its normal mode of activity and the internal contradictions of capitalism are forcing their way into the consciousness of working people.

During this period the Labor Parties in Australia have done much more than adopt "middle class" attitudes, they have actually become servitors of big capitalist interests in their respective states and see their role as one of pure class collaboration and their primary function to "domesticate" the working class in the interests of the capitalist class.

Recent developments present a great opportunity for the Left elements in the Labor Party, Communist Party and other left leaning Parties to once again take the leading role of the working people to strengthen their democratic rights and to lead them towards a "socialist consciousness".

As we continue along in the 21st century, confronted by the universal structural crises of the increasing violent and decaying capitalist system, it will be a Left Labor Party, Communist Party and other Left leaning Parties that will offer the most democratic alternatives to the contradictions of capitalism..

Only if they are successful in implementing their programs and we see a solidification and reconstitution of a new socialist leaning world camp, will the working people escape from capitalist exploitation and the prospect of a world war.

**RANN GOVERNMENT HAS EARLY LEAD**

Early polls show that the Rann Government has a handy lead in the run up to the State elections on March 18 and should win.

Now is the time to break with the policies of privatisation left by the Olsen Government and which has blighted Labor over the past 3 years..

It is imperative that Labor sets out clearly the steps it will take to regain public confidence and eventual ownership of the power and gas industries, and the reestablishment of a government owned and controlled bank.

Public transport and public hospitals are also in urgent need of positive action by a Labor Government to rectify the unsatisfactory position that these important bodies are now in.

Instead of appointing egg-heads and people from the "big end" of town as government consultants it will be a good time to appoint men and women from the working class, who have practical experience to advise and help the government get things right.

Admittedly there are some skeletons in the cupboard, particularly concerning the cover-up surrounding the sacking of Randall Ashbourne.

Who for and for what reason is this matter being kept secret? Its bound to be part of the Liberal attack on Labor during the election campaign.

**OIL MONOPOLIES DEFY ANY CONTROL**

The oil monopolies' average cost per barrel of oil produced is an estimated US\$2.20 (based on figures published in Business Week, Fortune and elsewhere).

The cost of production has been reported as declining about 4% per year. In recent months one barrel of oil has been selling for between US\$50 and US\$65.

By coincidence US\$2.20 is also about the average cost of producing a kilogram of coffee, the second most traded international commodity after oil. Coffee has been selling for an average US\$1.45 a kilo.

Coffee is selling below the average cost of production, ruining tens of thousands of small producers. 125 million people are economically dependent on coffee production world wide.

The relative selling prices of oil and coffee is just one example of the plunder and unequal exchange that prevails under monopoly capitalism.

Expensive oil above all cheapens labor by raising workers cost of transport, cooking and heating fuel etc.

Whilst the major oil companies are making extraordinary profits, (Exxon-Mobil estimates US\$30 billion last year)

Wall Street banks are also in for their cut by seizing the oil revenues of indebted countries like the African West Coast and Mexico.

**IRAQ AN AMERICAN QUADMIRE**

When FBI officers asked American bank robber Willie Sutton why he continued to rob banks, Willie replied "that's where the money is".

A similar question to the Bush Cabal as to why they invaded Iraq if truthfully answered would be "that's where the oil is".

Now that the spurious reasons advanced by Bush and Blair for invading Iraq have been exposed, "oil", emerges as the real reason.

Both Bush and Blair are anxious to gain control of Iraqi oil and to bring this about are endeavouring to set up a docile and obedient government prepared to allow Iraqi oil resources to be plundered by American and British oil companies.

There are two causes that will lead to American and British withdrawal from Iraq. (1) they are forced to withdraw through the combined activity of Iraqi people and domestic activity in America and Britain.

Or (2) they succeed in installing their pliant government.

NEW BLOOD REQUIRED IN CABINET

An infusion of new blood into the Rann administration is now required to meet the problems emerging.

There are far too many Ministers who owe their allegiance to the Machine Faction. Its time for Mike to look for people who are practical and competent and completely free of the conservative Machine Faction.



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THE PLOD

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LIBERALS POLICY CONFUSES WORKERS

One of the ploys that Howard and his henchmen are employing to confuse workers with regard to the proposed changes to Industrial Relations is the continual harping on the 12% increase in wage rates since his government came to office.

These increases were achieved by the Trade Unions, despite the frantic opposition from Howard and his government.

Now despite these increases in wages, workers and their families are finding they are no better off than they were before the Howard government came to office and in some cases workers are worse off.

What the Howard government is really concerned about is to preserve and consolidate that portion of the "gross national product" that is appropriated by the capitalist class and is known as "profit" and they have done a remarkably good job in looking after the capitalist section of society.

Workers generally are working 38 to 40 hours a week, what they are able to purchase with the money they receive as wages is buying less, due to consistently rising prices and over which the Howard government makes no attempt to control.

There are two ways in which Howard and his cohorts aim to aid the "capitalist class" to increase their profit.

One is to increase the hours of work for the workers and the other is by permitting the "manipulation" of prices of the items which workers must pay for necessities.

State Labor governments have announced that they will be taking the Howard government to the High Court in an effort to defeat Howard's anti-working class Industrial Relations amendments.

Whilst this initiative is welcomed and supported by the Trade Unions and the people of Australia, it will still be necessary to give material support by the holding of mass rallies and marches.



KARL MARX IS MAN OF THE MOMENT

The London Daily Mail recently took two pages to vilify a penniless asylum seeker. No surprises there, perhaps, except that the villain in question had been dead since 1883.

That was the Daily Mail's reaction to the news that thousands of Radio 4 listeners had voted Karl Marx as their "favorite thinker".

As a prophet of socialism Karl Marx may have been a bit premature, but as a prophet of the universal interdependence of nations as he called globalisation, he can still seem startlingly relevant.

The more successful globalisation becomes the more it seems to whip up its own backlash, or as Marx said "that modern industry produces its own gravediggers". Karl Marx could yet become the most influential thinker of the 21st century



FALLACIES ABOUT TERRORISM

One of the claims made by Bush, Blair and Howard is that their invasion of Iraq is bringing "freedom and democracy" to the Middle East.

Because of their activity, 100,000 Iraqis are dead and has led to an upsurge of "violent reaction" throughout the M.E. and which has spilled over into America, Britain and according to Howard could reach Australia.

The prime cause of the problem is American and British meddling in the M.E. which began in Afghanistan and has spread to Iraq.

With the election of the progressive government of Dr. Najibullah in Afghanistan the U.S. set about training and equipping the "Mujaheddin" which was then unleashed against the Najabullah government and the Soviet forces which had come to its aid.

Now a decade after the Soviet forces have gone, Washington is learning what happens when you spit into the wind.

The people of America, Britain and Australia now have less "freedom and democracy" than before and are facing further restrictions.

Being opposed to and critical of Bush, Blair and Howard for their wars in Afghanistan and Iraq does not mean it is justifiable to support the "terrorists".

It is totally unacceptable that people cannot go about their daily lives for fear of being blasted to pieces, be it in New York, London, Madrid, Baghdad or Bali. Nothing can justify that. Two wrongs do not make a right.

Before the situation becomes any worse, it is time for the international community to come together, through the United Nations to help Bush, Blair and Howard extricate themselves from the quagmire they have created and got themselves into.

It is time for "right and reason" to come to the fore so that ordinary people can go about their daily lives in safety and free from the trauma of the warped "liberty and democracy" that Bush, Blair and Howard want to impose on the world.



FLOUTING INTERNATIONAL LAW RULES

Now that the Howard government has the numbers in the Senate it intends to implement radical right-wing "industrial relations" policies.

Under International Labour Organisation standards workers have a "right to strike" to defend their living standards and working conditions.

It is the intention of the Howard government to trample this "right" underfoot and leave the workers without any effective way of defending themselves from the attacks by employers.

The Howard government is blatantly supportive of corporate interests and the business industrial lobby.

Government ministers embrace the ideology of the radical New Right and are beholden to the demands and policies of the H.R. Nicholls society.



HOWARD TO WAGE WAR ON WORKERS

The Howard changes to the Industrial Relations Act will constitute the beginning of an all out attack on the Trade Unions and the working class.

The intention of the changes to the Act is to set the stage so that paid rates and conditions will be decided by the employer and the "Australian Fair Pay Commission".

In recent times there has been a disturbing growth in the number of government agencies with extensive powers to impinge on the basic rights and freedoms of Australian workers.

The Howard government has already set up the "Building Industry Taskforce", which exposes Unions to hefty financial penalties, uncapped orders for compensation and sequestration of assets.

The Building Industry Taskforce (BIT) is the blueprint for the type of "improvements" that Howard and Andrews have in mind for the rest of the Australian working class and which is the "blue-print" for the proposed changes to the Industrial Relations Act.

Howard and Andrews are being assisted and urged to hasten the changes to the IRA by employer organisations and their bosses like Hugh Morgan, from the Business Council of Australia, Peter Hendy, from Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Heather Ridout, from Australian Industry Group.

**SACKING OF ASHBOURNE WAS WRONG?**

It is the belief of the Auditor-General that Randall Ashbourne should not have been sacked from his position as Mike Rann's senior political advisor.

This can be coupled to growing evidence of a "power struggle" within the dominant "machine faction" in the Parliamentary Labor Party and Ashbourne is a victim of this inner power struggle.

Ashbourne was accused of fixing a deal, whereby former LP member Ralph Clarke would withdraw his defamation case against Attorney General Michael Atkinson on the promise of a "board position".

This upset the Treasurer Kevin Foley so much that he brought it to the attention of the Premier Mike Rann, who according to Foley "exploded like a volcano".

Such reaction is out of character with Mike Rann who usually acts calmly whatever the news.

Kevin Foley referred the matter to the police and at a subsequent hearing in the District Court the jury, in near record time, found Ashbourne not guilty of any corruption with regard to Ralph Clarke.

To allay the gathering storm that there was something that some ministers had not disclosed it was announced that there would be a parliamentary inquiry into the whole matter.

This was subsequently abandoned when it became known it was to be closed to the public.

Since then there have been claims that the Attorney General Michael Atkinson has refused to hand over to the police, information which would be helpful in clearing up this sordid affair.

**BUSH WAGES WAR ON EVERYONE**

Bush is now waging war on two fronts. The front in Iraq is a direct consequence of his total disregard of the advice of his own American Intelligence Services and his lust for the Iraqis "oil resources".

It has been conservatively estimated that upwards of 100,000 Iraqis have been blown to smithereens as result of the Bush sponsored invasion and destruction of a sovereign country against the wishes and advice of the United Nations.

Now with over 1900 American dead in Iraq and thousands of American soldiers blinded and maimed the American people are demanding the withdrawal of American forces and an end to this carnage.

On the "home" front support for Bush and his war in Iraq is now down to 34% in the United States and falling.

To add to the torment of the American people now has come the disaster from hurricane "Katrina" in the Gulf States of America with the virtual drowning of New Orleans, a city of 600,000 people.

The whole world has been horrified at the plight of these unfortunate people and the lackadaisical manner in which Bush and his cohorts went about organising any transport out and help.

It now transpires that finance that had been allocated to strengthen and raise the levees around New Orleans was diverted to pay for the war in Iraq.

In both cases, the war in Iraq and the disaster in the Gulf States it is the poor, the old, sick and feeble and the working people who are the main victims of Bush's war and ineptitude.

**HOWARD TRIES TO PULL A FAST ONE**

It now looks as though the "amigos" have lifted the lid on what is an attempt by the Liberal/National coalition to mislead Australian investors in Telstra.

Whilst it may or may not be illegal to use Telstra's cash flow as profits and then borrow money to meet Telstra's running expenses, it is certainly unorthodox and creates a false impression as to the correct financial standing of Telstra.

Howard claims that in exposing this snide tactic the "amigos" have acted "disgustingly". Investors would say that by trying to cover it up Howard and his cohorts are deliberately misleading the investing public as to the true value of Telstra shares.

The Australian Securities and Investments Commission has started an inquiry into Telstra at the request of the Australian Stock Exchange.

It is still fresh in the minds of most Australian voters the false claim of "children overboard" by Howard and his "advisers" during a Federal election, despite being told on the highest intelligence authority that it was not so.

Howard is primarily responsible for Australian involvement in the American invasion of Iraq, again, on the basis of fraudulent assumptions and misleading information.



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HOWARD SEEKS TO SMASH AWARDS

The Howard Government is set to smash the award system of wages and to institute a system where by workers wages and conditions will be set by employers and Howard's "bogus" "Australian Fair Pay Commission".

Because of this action it is evident that the Howard Government is apprehensive about its ability to maintain the present level of economic activity and the profits of the capitalist class and other exploiters of the working class.

Howard and his supporters know that it is the working class that creates the values that make up the "gross national product".

After allowing for unavoidable costs, it is the division of the remainder between profit and wages that decides the profits of the capitalist class and the living standards of the working class.

Howard is determined to maintain or increase the profit for the capitalist class, which means that Australian workers will have their living standards and working conditions reduced.

This is the grand aim of Howard's "Workplace Relations" legislation and the only force capable of defeating the scheme will be the opposition of the organised working class.

Howard and Kevin Andrews, the Workplace Relations Minister falsely claim that workers will be better off with increased wages and improved conditions, which is contrary to the intention and purpose of the proposed changes to the Act.

Workers and Trade Unionists should remember the record of the Howard Government, which has opposed every claim made by workers' and their Unions over the past 10 years which has sought to mitigate declining living standards.



SOUTH AUSTRALIA A LOW WAGE STATE

South Australia is becoming known as the low wage state of Australia and it seems that the Labor Government is determined to keep it that way.

No doubt this suits the objectives of the Howard Government in Canberra as they can quote the government here as an example to other states.

An average worker in South Australia gets something like \$678 a week, compared with Tasmania where the rate is \$710 a week, in Queensland \$733, with \$798 in Victoria and \$818 in New South Wales.

Is it any wonder that South Australia is short of skilled workers.

Now the Government is denying the "Public School Teachers" their wage claims and by this action could precipitate a walk out by teachers.

South Australian teachers claim they are the lowest paid teachers in the nation and are determined to right this manifest injustice.



CAPITALISM'S FUTURE ON TRAIL

While corporate profits are soaring around the world, the working class in most countries find themselves worse off economically.

In the case of Australia workers are bracing themselves for an onslaught on pay rates and working conditions by the anti-working class Liberal government of Howard, Costello and Co..

Capitalism promised that globalisation would narrow the gap between rich and poor. Instead the divide has widened.

The 356 richest families on the planet enjoy a combined wealth that now exceeds the annual income of 40% of the human race.

Two-thirds of the worlds population have never made a phone call and one-third have no access to electricity.

The champions of capitalism pledged to promote sustainable economic development, yet we continue to squander our remaining fossil-fuel reserves.

The spewing of increasing amounts of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere is destroying the world's ecosystems and habitats, with the prospect of catastrophic climate change.

The central tenet of capitalism is found in the words of the Scottish Enlightenment economist Adam Smith, he believed that an invisible hand ruled over the market place and that everyone would eventually benefit.

Neoconservative economists and politicians of both Labor and Liberal persuasion still believe this.

In reality, the invisible hand is nonexistent. The unfettered market leads not to a bigger share of the economic pie for all, but a "winner takes all" game.



GUANTANAMO: AMERICA'S SHAME

American Vice-President Dick Cheney and Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld are busy trying to down play claims of "torture and prisoner abuse" not only at Guantanamo, but all American army prisons.

FBI agents observed what went on in Guantanamo. One reported on July 29, 2004: "On a couple of occasions, I entered interview rooms to find a detainee chained hand and foot in a fetal position to the floor, with no chair, food or water".

Most times they had urinated or defecated on themselves and had been left there for 18, 24 hours or more.

Since the world wide outrage over the photographs from Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq, Bush, Cheney and Rumsfeld have become aware of the fall in American moral authority throughout the world.

The mistreatment of prisoners makes the world see American moral claims as hollow and hypocritical as civilised people believe that morality is the essential role of law in a democracy.



ASHBORNE INQUIRY MUST BE OPEN

It took the jury in the District Court less than an hour to dismiss the charges of corruption against Randall Ashborne, the former senior adviser to the Premier Mike Rann.

These charges arose out of the 'jumping to conclusions' by the treasurer Kevin Foley who was unable to convince the jury as a witness in the Court.

There is now a widespread demand that the Parliamentary inquiry, promised by Mike Rann proceed and that it be open to the public.

Only by such an open inquiry can the Labor Party be cleared and the behaviour of some individuals be exposed.

The dominant faction in the SA Labor Party is the "machine faction" led by Kevin Foley, Michael Atkinson and Pat Conlon.

When the Labor Party was in opposition and with Mike Rann's support Ralph Clarke was elected Deputy Leader of the Labor Party.

This led to Clyde Cameron, acting as a 'cockatoo' for the Machine faction, calling for Mike Rann's dumping as Leader and to be replaced by Foley.

Whilst some sort of a compromise was reached with Rann, the Machine faction served noticed on Clarke and Murray DeLaine that they had to join the Machine faction.

This meant they would be under the dictate of the Machine and told when and what inner Party positions they could stand for.

When they refused, a campaign was instituted against them both, the Machine was able to scratch around and found individuals prepared to accept the Machine's endorsement and bow to its dictate.

During this time Clarke was the Party's most impressive performer on the floor of the Parliament and had the advantage of being able to "think" whilst standing up.

He also had a clearer grasp of the traditional aims and objectives of the Labor Party, which is in contrast to the thinking of the Machine bosses and who now carry on with the policy and aims initiated by the former Liberal Party Leader John Olsen.

Now is the time for the Premier Mike Rann to step in and see to it that the inquiry is open to the public and ensure that any corrupt practices by factions will be eliminated from the Labor Party and the perpetrators dealt with.

**U.S HAS 480 NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN EUROPE**

More than 12 years after the collapse of the Soviet Union, America still keeps 480 nuclear weapons in Europe, twice as many as previously believed.

The weapons are all gravity bombs, 300 to be dropped by US planes and 180 by local air forces.

In the meantime America accuses Iran of seeking to build a nuclear weapon, because Iran is developing a nuclear industry for electrical power generation.

Meanwhile America continues to develop nuclear weapons for the express purpose of intimidating any country that does not "bend the knee" to America's wishes and allow US economic penetration of their economy.

**BEAZLEY CAUGHT ASLEEP AT THE WHEEL**

One of the positive attributes of a smart leader is to anticipate the future moves of an adversary and take action to counter it.

Beazley and his economic advisers are now waging a campaign in support of "doubling" the six (6) dollar tax benefit to the four (4) million lower paid workers, but the advantage is with Costello and the campaign is running out of appeal.

Beazley should have unveiled his program before Costello brought down his budget. Labor would then have had the initiative and would have built the expectation and support of that section of workers that he aims to benefit.

**HALLIBURTON BIG WINNER IN IRAQ**

According to the American Democrats, Vice-President Dick Cheney old company is the big winner in the war in Iraq.

The Democrats released a report in the US House of Representatives alleging that low quality service, overbilling and questionable contracts were among Halliburton's many abuses.

It goes without saying that "wars" are always a time when graft and corruption flourish and the war in Iraq is a bonanza for Halliburton.

The report documents more than one billion dollars in "questioned" Halliburton costs and additional 442 million in "unsupported charges", Democrat Henry Waxman told the House on Monday, June 27.

Rory Mayberry, a former employee of Halliburton subsidiary KRB, who was in charge of the canteen of Camp Anaconda, 90 kilometres north-west of Baghdad, said his company bosses did their utmost to avoid Pentagon auditors.

Mayberry told lawmakers in videotaped testimony that the auditors' questions were reasonable since KRB produced 20,000 meals per day when only 10,000 were actually served.

The Bush administration is in deep trouble with the war in Iraq and Bush's rating has sunk to 32%, with 7 out of 10 Americans now opposed to the war in Iraq and calling for the troops to be brought home.

**BUSH BEATING THE "DEMOCRACY" DRUM**

About the only thing working well in Iraq these days is the full blown American propaganda, that democracy is on a roll there.

This is to prove the sagacity of the illegal invasion and colonial occupation, and also the genius of George W Bush in killing thousands of Iraqis and bombing Iraqi infrastructure to smithereens.

The endless repetition of such presidential lies is to justify the claim that Iraq is "central to the war on terror".

There is little reconstruction, Falluja, levelled five months ago, remains in ruins.



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THE ERA OF EXPLOITATION

The Howard Government and the press are finding it difficult to run issues to divert peoples attention away from the pending budget proposals that will be scandalously unfair and which reflect the kind of country Howard and Costello intend to make Australia.

The Howard Government believes in an "ownership" society, which means that except for the wealthy, you're on your own.

The priorities emerging as the aims of the Costello Budget is to further starve hospitals and public health care of finance, along with cuts in education, public transportation and child care assistance.

All sacrifices in this budget will be made by the working people and the poor and the benefits will accrue to the wealthy.

One of the spin-offs of the present Howard-Costello campaign is to pressure the State Governments to also give hefty tax concessions to the wealthy by claiming its part of the General Service Tax (GST) deal.

The State Treasurers to date have resisted this demand of Costello and any slide backward by the States will add to the problems of working people.

The Howard-Costello desire is to siphon off the maximum amount of funds from any programs that benefit the working class and hand the gains over as tax cuts to the wealthy.

As Jack Wright, a former AWU secretary use to say: "You know, the only trouble with capitalism is capitalists. They're too damn greedy".



S.A. GOVERNMENT ASLEEP AT THE WHEEL

The recent black-out of a large part of the State electricity system because of a break down in what should be normal maintenance procedure, once again focuses attention on the failure of private enterprise to provide a reliable electricity system.

The Torrens Island Power Station recently changed hands and the Rann Government missed a golden opportunity to snap it up and begin the return of the power industry to public ownership.

Its no great achievement having a triple A rating if the vital state utilities such as electricity and gas, water, public transport, education, hospital, health services and housing are on the blink for lack of finance.

The primary function of private enterprise is to maximize profit and to achieve this workers are sacked, maintenance neglected and corners are cut.

The privatisation of South Australian vital public enterprises was initiated by the Olsen Liberal Government. The Labor Party opposed it at the time.

Now is the time to begin the return of these utilities to public ownership, which after all is in complete accord with basic Labor Party policy as understood by the grass roots membership.

CHENEY & RUMSFELD FLIP-FLOP ON IRAN

Lacking any credible evidence, the Bush administration officials, led by Cheney, Wolfowitz and Rumsfeld are now claiming that Iran's nuclear program "must be a cover for bomb-making".

All of these Bush officials, held key national security posts in the administration when Gerald Ford was the American President.

Then they endorsed Iranian plans to build a massive nuclear energy industry and also worked hard to complete a multi billion dollar deal that would have given Tehran control of large quantities of plutonium and enriched uranium.

Iran, a U.S. ally then, had deep pockets and close ties to Washington. U. S. companies like Westinghouse and General Electric, were scrambling to do business with the Iranians.

In 1976 the U.S. President offered Tehran the opportunity to buy and operate a U.S. built reprocessing plant for extracting plutonium from nuclear fuel, this is precisely what the Iranians are doing now.

Except that the facility is being built and set up by Russian companies.

Back in 1976 the reason given by the Shah for wanting a nuclear based energy source, was fear that their "oil and gas" resources were finite and they required to have an alternate source of energy for such a time when they were depleted.

This is exactly the same reasons that the present Iranian government gives for its building the present facility.

Charles Naas, who was U.S. Deputy ambassador to Iran at the time says, Cheney, Wolfowitz and Rumsfeld were all in positions to play significant roles in Iran policy then.

Requests by the "Washington Post" to the offices of Cheney, Wolfowitz and Rumsfeld for comment have gone unanswered..



AWU LEADERSHIP RETURNED UNOPPOSED

Under the stewardship of the Branch Secretary Wayne Hanson, all officers of the South Australian Branch of the Australian Workers' Union have been returned unopposed in the recent Union ballot.

The Dunnery-Tinson clique of disgruntled "blow-ins", who in the last elections in 2001 had the support of an influential Labor politician and a right-wing union, didn't nominate this time round.

They are believed to be still licking their wounds from the walloping they received on that occasion, when the Hanson led officials and Union members administered what was the most severe humiliation ever delivered to a mob trying to take over a Union.



CAPITALISM - THE UNSTABLE SYSTEM

The Ion Corporation has commenced laying off its workers at the Wingfield plant.

Sixty (60) workers have lost their jobs immediately and the balance of three hundred and forty (340) by the end of July. Making an all up total of four hundred (400) workers to join the unemployed ranks.

There have been many reasons given for this action by Ion, ranging from poor administration to bad factory design and machine installation.

The real reason is that "Holden" part of the American General Motors Corporation and Bosch a subsidiary of Germany's Bosch have cut back on purchases from the Australian manufacturer.

Components manufactured by Ion will be imported from low wage oversea companies, thereby increasing the profits of the two (2) transnational corporations.

This raises the question that it is about time that the South Australian government done something about using some of that AAA credit on capital works and thereby lower the unemployed list and increase the purchasing power of the working class.

Wayne Hanson, Secretary of The Australian Workers' Union described the "sackings" as a "black day for manufacturing in South Australia".

He then went on to accuse the government of "sitting on its hands, saying nothing and doing nothing as jobs were being lost".

Part of the problem is that Labor now has too many people in parliament who are more concerned with protecting the interests of the capitalist class and their own positions to be worried about the problems of the working people.

**HOUSING PROBLEM WONT GO AWAY**

Providing low cost housing for the working people in a capitalist state is an on going problem, which will not go away. Successive governments now leave the problem for the next government to deal with.

Homelessness and shortage of low rent housing is an embarrassment to the Rann Government.

Some of the proposals for solving the problem are just plain "pathetic", like the plea of a government Minister for private developers to make 10% of their projects available for low income workers.

This is like putting Dracula in charge of a blood bank and expecting to find the stock left in tack.

Developers are not interested in providing housing for low income workers and expect to obtain the absolute maximum on their investment.

This is leading to the position that when land becomes available in the more convenient areas, developers snap it up build for the wealthier section of society and workers are being pushed further and further away from their work places.

The Government should retain and obtain land in the near city areas on which to build houses for workers.

Architects should be invited to submit designs for houses on which the government should place a price "cap". All such houses to be sold or made available to occupiers only.

**LYING PART OF LIBERAL PARTY CULTURE**

The Liberal National Party leadership holds the Australian people in contempt and believes that it is entitled to promise and then renege on any undertakings in order to hold on to office. To understand the development of this culture it is necessary to look at Liberal National Party policy in its entirety.

There is a close relationship between the Liberal National Party domestic and foreign policy to the policies of the Bush Administration in America.

With the changed political, military and strategic position now existing in the Asian area the American policy is out of date and poses great dangers for Australia.

Its time for the Liberal National Coalition to put Australia's interests first and put a stop to supporting "preemption" and other aspects of American policy in relation to the Asian countries.

As a result of fitting in with American desires, Australia is purchasing huge quantities of American armaments, which some experts believe are more suited to "offense" than defending Australia.

With such enormous spending on so called "defense" to satisfy America's wishes, it is necessary to cut back and renege on vital promises made to the Australia people.

This has led to the renegeing on, so soon after the last election of the "iron clad rock solid" safety net with regard to Medicare expenses of doctors and specialists and which weighs heavily on working families.

A cut back in the purchase of "clapped out" and "unsuitable" armaments from America would release money to honour the Medicare promises.

**NICK MINCHIN'S LATEST "BRIGHT IDEA"**

Within the Liberal Party Nick Minchin is regarded as something of a "whiz kid" and a source of great "ideas".

Nick's latest idea is for the Liberal's to start a campaign for the elimination of the present system of voting in elections and replace it with a voluntary system and in this he has the support of Howard and other heavies in the Liberal-National coalition.

At present there is no compulsion on anyone to vote in an election, but if you don't there is a penalty.

The same position prevails with regard to the provision of an "income tax" return or to the matter of a "driver's" license, failure to observe the law in both these cases also attracts a penalty.

It seems that Nick's desire is to rid the system of "the blight of compulsion" is based on the "informal" votes recorded in elections.

A better idea would be for Nick to support the progressive elements in society for an on going campaign to educate the community of the importance in casting a valid vote.

Nick's fear is that they would be Labor voters.



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CAN KIM REVITALISE THE LABOR PARTY

The defeat of the Labor Party in the recent Federal elections and the resignation of Mark Latham as Leader, due to ill health, has contributed to the present low morale within the Party.

From the moment Mark Latham branded George W Bush "as the most incompetent and dangerous President in American history", Mark Latham came under attack by the anti-working class and conservative forces in Australia.

This attack was further compounded when he condemned Australian involvement in the American war in Iraq and promised to "bring Australian troops home by Christmas".

Both of these statements are in accord with the best interests of Australia and have wide approval.

But he had stirred up a frenzy among the ruling class who with their control of the media and the Howard Government, it was decided that Latham had to go no matter the cost.

The coalition Latched on to the "interest" issue as an area where Labor was weak in explaining the facts about "interest" in the economy. This panicked a lot of new home buyers into believing that the Liberals could control "interest" rates.

Unfortunately these people now look like learning the hard way that you should never believe anything that the Liberal-National coalition says especially during an election campaign.

Kim will need to break with some of his ideas from the past and embrace the traditional values which led to the formation of the Labor Party.

Australia is a class society and any move further to the right will alienate more sections of the working class, who are questioning the similarity of the basic policy of the two main political parties

It is in Australia's interest that we have a foreign policy based on a mutual understanding and respect of all countries but subordinate to none.

This is an area that could prove "tricky" for Kim and could lead to his failure as Labor Party Leader.



SANTOS BOSS GETS BIG PAY INCREASE

Santos boss John Ellice-Flint picked up a nice little pay for 2004. A total of \$4,258,826, made up with a salary of \$1.05 million, \$1.3 million bonus, \$514,500 in superannuation and \$1,394,326 in shares and options.



BUSH GETS COOL RECEPTION IN EUROPE

President Bush received a courteous and restrained welcome on his visit to Europe which is an indication of the dead end that his foreign policy now faces.

Britain, France and Germany are in negotiations with Iran to ensure that Iran does not go down the path of developing nuclear weapons, Bush who has been invited to join them has instead continues to threaten Iran with military action.

If his visit to Europe was to mend bridges because of his undemocratic and fraudulent behaviour with regard to his invasion of Iraq he went about it in an arrogant and condescending manner.

The problem of Iran is in many ways the opposite of Iraq. The Europeans have committed their credibility to these negotiations, which gives the Iranians the diplomatic means to preclude unilateral American action.

Bush, has lost the initiative and with no sense of what to do - is boxed in - whether he understands it or not.

Bush is now faced with the reality of failure of his policies. Rather than curtailing the proliferation of nuclear weapons, his crusade has served as an accelerant in placing such weapons in the hands of the very countries he has backed into a corner.

"Freedom is on the march" says Bush, unfortunately after observing the "freedom" Bush has brought to Iraq, the rest of the world and including Iran, North Korea and the Middle East don't see it that way.

If America under Bush keeps "marching", it could very well be in the direction of a nuclear apocalypse.



TORTURE IS PART OF OCCUPIED IRAQ

Torture of prisoners in Iraq is now the hallmark of the American occupation of Iraq as photos of the abuses at Abu Ghraib and Guantanamo confirm, along with the interrogations at Camp Cropper and Bagram.

The use of slippery language by Bush, Blair, Howard and Downer is just further evidence of their disrespect for the truth.

Insisting that words mean what we know them to mean is part of the struggle for justice, peace and real compassion.



BUSH FIRES AND LOCUST PLAGUES

Australia is periodically ravaged by bush fires and locust plagues, which cause tremendous loss and hardship not only to the people immediately concerned but also to the nation as a whole.

What is needed is a special section of the armed forces equipped with "tanker aircraft and helicopters" which can be trained and on permanent standby for action against these occurrences.

At the present time fighting bush fires and locust plagues is left to local organisations which in most cases are ill equipped to fight such matters when it get out of hand.

The type of equipment required is available in America and Russia, but the costs are beyond the finances of local Services.

It is about time that something along these lines is set up on standby to deal with such "threats" to Australia on a National level.

**COSTELLO IN NASTY MOOD**

In what looks like a desperate attempt to divert attention from his dismal failure to handle the economy in a period of rising "interest" charges and economic down turn. Costello has launched an attack on State Labor governments.

Costello wants State Governments to cut "taxes" and says it must do this by using the GST receipts to make up the lost revenue.

The Coalition gave all sorts of wild promises during the election campaign and now find that with rising "interest" charges and an economy poised on the edge, the Howard Government will have trouble meeting its obligations.

What is adding to Costello's frustrations is Howard's renegeing on a belief that he should stand down on his 64th birthday and support Costello for Prime Minister.

Costello knows that with every day that Howard clings on to the job his chances of becoming Prime Minister fades a little more.

Also as a result of the recent elections there are now some "new" boys on the Liberal Party back bench and they are very ambitious and have no regard for the usual conventions or undertakings.

And to make matters worse for Peter Costello there are signs that the State Labor Governments are not prepared to tolerate his blatant interference in the way they spend the GST.

**HOWARD DECLARES WAR ON WORKERS**

The Howard Government plans to lower the living standards of Australian workers, through the implementation of what it styles as Industrial Relations Amendments.

The purpose of the proposed amendments is to increase the profits of the corporations and employers generally.

Howard knows that it is the workers that produce the values in society and that it is the distribution of that part of production constituted by profit and wages that he is anxious to amend.

Any reduction in working conditions, such as longer hours, increase in work tempo, cut back on sick leave and holidays, abolition of redundancy payments etc, increases profit and all of these things will be under threat when Howard assumes control of the Senate in July.

Howard's tactic will be to try and split the workers' and the Trade Unions and then proceed to carve them up one by one.

Now is the time for the Unions to come together and stand by the slogan, "an injury to one is an injury to all".

**ELECTRICITY CHARGES ON THE RISE**

Electricity charges are on the rise and are scheduled to come into operation in a few weeks time.

It is another example of the failure of private enterprise to reduce prices by competition.

This was the catch cry of the Olsen Government when it disposed of the publicly owned utilities.

Whilst Ministers in the Rann Government continue to support the principle of "private enterprise", this will preclude all hope that anything will be done to curb the voracious appetites of the present operators of these vital utilities.

Despite glaring examples of the failure of "private enterprise" in the electricity and gas industries, public transport and water to provide anything like efficient services for the community there is no indication of a move to restore them to public ownership.



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LABOR MUST FACE REALITY:

There continues to be much speculation as to the reason for Labor's loss in the October elections.

At this stage the anti-labor forces, supported by the Murdoch Press, along with disgruntled individuals within the Party are seeking to blame Mark Latham for the loss of working class support.

The Labor Party which grew out of the early struggles of the working class and reflects the class nature of the capitalist society in which we live.

Originally the ruling class attacked the concept of the working class having a political party, but have now changed their tactics and attacks the bona-fides of any Labor leader who does not meet with their approval.

The prime reason for Labor's poor showing in the recent elections is the continuous retreat by Labor Party policy making conferences, from what used to be referred to as "grass-roots" policy.

Labor now has no theoretical or independent concept of the position of the working class in a capitalist society and as a result is being seen by sections of the community as no different to other political parties.

Labor has lost its preeminent position in the thinking of strategic sections of the working class and community and unless there is a return to traditional policy and a lift in the quality and capacity of candidates presented for election to Parliament the Labor Party will become increasingly irrelevant.



SINGAPORE POWER SELLS TORRENS ISLAND

Singapore Power, the giant electricity conglomerate has made a deal with the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission, whereby to strengthen its position in Victoria in the transmission and distribution of electricity it has agreed to sell its power generation plant at Torrens Island in South Australia.

Following the failure of the State Bank during the Bannon Government, it was replaced by a Liberal Government which privatised power generation in South Australia.

This has led to massive increases in the cost of electricity and caused dire hardship to some families, the poor and pensioners.

The Rann Government now has a chance to begin to correct this abuse of government prerogative by the Olsen Liberal Government and at the same time commence the road back to placing an important utility back in public ownership.

From time to time leading ministers in the Rann Government have correctively blamed the privatisation of the power industry as the major cause of the continual increases in electricity and power costs.

The Rann Government is at present sitting on a cash surplus and enjoys AAA credit ratings with both Standard & Poor and Moody's. It will have no problem raising the necessary cash to buy back this important and strategic public utility.



TIME FOR THE TRUTH TO BE TOLD

One of the most persisting falsehoods perpetrated by the "Coalition of the Willing" is that the invasion of Iraq was in the cause of "liberty" and to free the Iraqi people from a dictatorship.

The truth is that the invasion, destruction and continuing torment of Iraq was systematically planned and orchestrated by the United States of America to get control of Iraqi oil.

Blair and Howard have been promised a share of the "spoils" if they participate in the rape.

Howard, Downer and Tony Blair know that they were deliberately supporting a fraud that had not a vestige of truth in support.

The rest of the world now understands and knows the invasion of Iraq is to get control of Iraq's oil reserves and enslave its skilled work-force.

Despite this widespread knowledge by people of the world the media continues to pedal the line that Bush, Howard and Blair were motivated by a desire to assist the Iraqi people.

Its about time that a stop was put to this travesty and the people told the real truth and facts.

By its silence the Labor Party is going along with this fiction and it about time Labor plays its proper role and exposes this gigantic fraud.

There are people in the Labor Party, both in and out of Parliament who know the truth and they should be encouraged and allowed to tell the Australian people the truth.



TIME FOR COALITION TO LEAVE IRAQ

It is time for America to leave Iraq and Britain and Australia as best friends should advise it to.

This is not a rhetorical question, but one that goes deeply into the notions of who we are and how we wish to be seen, militarily, diplomatically, politically and morally.

Many people thought the American Administration made a hideous moral and military blunder in launching the war in the first place and some no doubt now feel some sympathy for the mess America now finds itself in.

You can argue all day that Saddam Hussein was a tyrant whose humiliation evokes no sympathy. But he did have a functioning country. There was a government in place. People went to work and to the market and children went to school in relative safety.

Can anyone believe that the U.S.-spawned anarchy has left the Iraqi people better off?, as Colin Powell, the U.S. Secretary of State has said "you break it-you own it".

Now is a good time for President Bush to ponder the advice given by Vermont Senator George Aiken to another president presiding over a quagmire called Vietnam.

Senator Aiken's advice was simple.

"Just leave" "Just declare victory and go home"



TSUNAMI WRECKS AREA OF ASIA

A massive earthquake off the coast of Sumatra, followed by an enormous tsunami has wiped out 150,000 lives and destroyed cities, towns and fishing villages over a wide area.

With their social structure destroyed millions of people are now dependent on receiving aid from the rest of the world.

Ordinary people from all walks of life in all countries have responded generously with the result that one of the problems is getting the aid to the victims.

The United Nations is the organisation best suited to organise and distribute this aid and then to supervise and direct the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the destroyed areas and economies.

Most countries have no contradiction in their approach and behaviour in dealing with this calamity, but it does raise some for the "Coalition of the Willing".

In Iraq for instance the American morale of the troops is low, because in many cases they are being recycled having served out their original contracts and also there is a latent disquiet as to why they are there.

The American government is spending \$5 billion a month in Iraq on killing people.

Off the coast of Sumatra, in the area laid waste by the tsunami America has an aircraft carrier stationed and the helicopter pilots and crew are willingly working long hours to assist in rescuing and getting food to the people of the stricken areas.

**RANN GOVERNMENT BREAKS RANKS**

The Rann Labor government has broken ranks with the other State Labor governments and bowed to the blackmail of the Federal Minister of Workplace Relations by accepting his conditions to gain access to funds for road building and maintenance.

Kevin Andrews, the Federal Minister for Workplace Relations is jubilant and hailed the agreement as a break through.

Not only does it break the unity of the State Labor governments around this issue, but the SA government has also agreed to put the claspers on Unions in other areas of construction by adopting Andrew's draconian "code for construction workers employed on federal projects in S.A".

It has always been a concept that award wages are a minimum and that workers have a right to bargain and negotiate for extra payments on different jobs.

Workers have always exercised the right to decide who they work with and under what conditions, but this is now in jeopardy as a result of this "conditions" shattering agreement by the Labor Party.

Labor Party members and Trade Unionists have a right to know who was the Minister who authorised and signed this "shabby" agreement.

**WHO IS TELLING THE TRUTH?**

The on going saga about the depositing of surplus cash in the "Crown Solicitor's Trust Account" will be a hot issue when SA parliament resumes and will probably come down to the public having to decide who they believe. It is not doing the Labor Party any good.

**CAPITALISM IS AN UNSTABLE SYSTEM**

There is no such thing as job security for workers under the capitalist system as the workers at the Ion Ltd factory at North Plympton are learning.

The main motive of the private enterprise system is the making of profit and the security and well-being of workers counts for little in the thinking of company owners and bosses.

Under the system of globalisation and the free trade agreements the big manufacturing corporations encourage the setting up of factories in low wage countries to supply the parent companies with their requirements.

One of the weaknesses in the present set-up in Australia is that whilst workers have succeeded in winning long service entitlements, many companies make a book entry crediting a worker with an entitlement but then proceed to use the money for company purposes.

When a crisis occurs like the situation at North Plympton, workers find that the employer pleads no cash and workers are in danger of losing their entitlements or face a long delay in receiving their dues, whilst the company assets are sold.

This sort of happening is not new and is bound to be repeated in other areas as production reaches saturation point and workers have not sufficient purchasing power to "buy" the goods they have produced.

The time is coming when the working class must face the fact that the problems confronting society arise from the private enterprise nature of the "capitalist" system and unless we change the system the position of the working class will get continually worse.

**ARTHUR RAE—AN AWU LEGEND**

Arthur Rae was a New Zealander who moved to Australia in 1889 and worked in various jobs including shearing.

Rae had joined the Amalgamated Shearer's Union in 1888 in N.Z. and on moving to Australia was actively associated with W.G. Spence in consolidating, what became The Australian Workers' Union.

Rae was one of the Union's foundation organisers which in those early days was an arduous and dangerous position.

Many are the stories about Rae's experience as a Union organiser. On one occasion at a property not far from Adelaide, the station boss and his brother hunted an ASU organiser off the property at revolver point and then tried to ride a horse over him.

In 1891 Rae was elected to the NSW Legislative Assembly, winning the seat of Murrumbidgee. In 1898 Rae was General Secretary of the AWU.

In 1910 Rae was elected to the Senate and served as a member of the Fisher Labor Government until 1913, Rae lost his Senate seat in 1914.

Arthur Rae has set a magnificent example for AWU members both within the Union and those who use the Union to get into Parliament. Some have not lived up to expectations.



THE PLOD

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THE DILEMMA OF LABOR

The election on the 9th October is the cause of much soul searching on the part of Labor Party supporters as they seek the reasons for the desertion of Labor and the return of the Coalition Government.

One of the disturbing factors of the election is the fall in the first preference vote of the Labor Party. There was a time when Labor consistently outpolled the anti-labor forces in this area.

Whilst the policy outlined by Mark Latham had a number of positive features, the Party always appeared to be on the defensive and failed to expose the class nature of the policy hammered by Howard.

Howard was able to claim that low interest rates were a result of Coalition policy. In fact it was a result of past actions of previous Labor Governments and the current development of the capitalist system.

An area that Labor failed to mobilise was the hostility of the Australian people to our involvement in the American war in Iraq.

When earlier on, Mark Latham criticised our involvement in this unjust war and branded George W Bush as the most incompetent and dangerous President of recent times, he received wide spread support throughout the Australian community.

This was an "Achilles" heal for Howard, who has implicated Australia in a war in Iraq by fraudulent assertions and continues to support the American slaughter of the Iraqi people.

Unless there is a change in the direction of the Labor Party and a return to the grass roots class position from which the Party had its genesis it is probable that the Australia Labor Party will never again govern Australia as a free standing political party.

There is no future for a Labor Party adopting the line of thinking that it can retain working peoples support by "sucking up" to the capitalist class.



COMMON SENSE EXPOSES A BUSH LIE

In response to yet another Bush administration claim that Iraq had obtained uranium from Niger in July Proliferation News (www.carnegieendowment.org/npp) tried using something all too rare about Iraq in the "Weapons of Mass Destruction" story and that was "common sense".

It takes approximately one metric ton of good ore from a Niger mine to produce 3 kilograms of yellow cake (uranium oxide concentrate).

It then takes about 215 kilograms of yellow cake to produce 1 kilogram of highly enriched uranium for a bomb.

It takes about 25 kilograms of highly enriched uranium to make a bomb.

In other words, just to get enough material for a single nuclear device, the operation would have had to avoid detection while smuggling 4 million pounds (1786 tons) of ore from Niger.



GET READY FOR AN INTEREST RISE.

No sooner had the Liberal/National coalition been declared winners in the Federal Election, than Peter Costello was back in the news, warning that a rise in interest rates was inevitable.

This is in complete contradiction to the claim by Howard and Costello during the "election" campaign that the Liberal/National Party was in control and responsible for "low" interest rates.

Costello knows that they have no control over "interest" rates and that the low interest rates were a reflection of the expansion of the Chinese economy and the export of Australian "iron ore, coal and liquefied gas" to that country.

Now with the fantastic increase in the price of "oil" there is every reason to believe that if it continues and exports to China falters, then "interests" rates will rise.

During the "election" campaign Howard made much of the "interest" aspect of the economy and succeeded in putting the "frighteners" on the young families in the "mortgage" belt areas by claiming that their "interest" rates would rise under Labor.

Unfortunately there was no one on the Labor side who was able to expose this mischievous claim by Howard and Costello that they controlled "interest" rates and that a vote for Labor would mean higher "interest" rates for struggling households.



THE MILITARY SIDE OF GLOBALISATION

There is now an increased likelihood that the Bush/Cheney administration will extend their war in the Middle East to include Syria and Iran.

It has become clear that besides seeking to control Iraqi oil another reason for the attack on Iraq is to destroy the social ownership of the oil industry and the public ownership of the "means of production".

Both Syria and Iran have areas of social ownership.

The government of Saddam Hussein was an economy structured on socialist lines. For years various American Governments had tried to change Saddam to a private enterprise economy and allow the economic penetration of Iraq by American capital.

When approached by people like Remsfeld and others failed to woo him and then the 12 years of sanctions also failed to change things Bush and Cheney arrived on the scene.

It was then that the United States felt obliged to revert to cruder forms of intervention. What the IMF and World Bank could not achieve by persuasion, Bush and Cheney, aided by Tony Blair and John Howard decided to impose "privatisation" by military means.

Under Paul Bremer radical changes have been imposed upon the Iraqi economy which is in accord with the designs of the infamous structural adjustment programs imposed by the IMF on indebted nations.

Globalisation and "privatisation" of public enterprises, have followed with 100% foreign ownership of Iraqi companies. Key sectors of the Iraqi economy are now in the hands of American corporations. Tony Blair and John Howard are hoping America will let them have some concessions for their support.

RORY & KARLENE DUMP BENEFACTORS

Rory McEwen and Karlene Maywald have the Machine Faction heavies, Kevin Foley, Pat Conlon and Michael Atkinson to thank for the extra salary, white cars, chauffeurs and additional office staff that they enjoy as Ministers in the Rann "Labor" Government.

To show their gratitude in which they hold their "benefactors" these anti-working class Ministers have told the Premier Mike Rann, that they will not support any major changes in industrial law.

This has left the Machine heavies in an awful position and grass roots Labor members now wonder whose side the "heavies" are on and where they stand in the "class" struggle.

The actions as adopted by the Machine heavies are confusing and blurring the traditional ideology of the Labor Party and its members.

The Labor Party does not belong to these people, who regard the Party as a career path for themselves, jobs for family members and close friends, with scant regard for the real objectives and needs of the working class.



ULTRA RIGHT WINS AMERICAN ELECTIONS

The world is now a more dangerous place than at any time in the past 60 years.

Supported by the most extreme right of American Corporations and religious fanatics, George W Bush and Richard Cheney have been returned to the White House.

Bush and Cheney didn't waste any time getting stuck into the Iraqi partisans in Fullujah. US war planes launched a continuous attack using their most powerful bombs against mosques, houses, women and children. This has been followed up with powerful artillery barrages.

It is reported 20,000 American troops are now poised to enter the city, looking for the mythical and shadowy figure "Abu Musab al-Zarqawi". No one knows him, have ever seen him, nor are there any photos of him.

This is a ploy the Americans use. Invent a "bogey-man" and then use that as the excuse for their "genocidal" acts against the population.

Bush and Cheney originally went into Iraq on the pretext of looking for "weapons of mass destruction", WMD, but none have ever been found.

It is obvious that Saddam Hussein had told the truth "when he told the United Nations that Iraq had no "WMD".

George W Bush, Richard Cheney, Tony Blair and John Howard like to talk about "freedom and democracy" and to claim that Iraqis back their invasion armies.

To date it is conservatively estimated that over 100,000 Iraqis have been killed by the invaders.

In a desperate spin to try and convince the world that they have been welcomed, America has now installed Iyad Allawi a former CIA agent as Leader of a bogus Iraqi Government and want the world to believe that it is he that ordered the attack on Fullujah.

Americans in Washington ordered this murderous act of terror against the partisans and people in Fullujah for the express purpose of forcing them to "accept the American invasion and occupation of their country".



SALE OF CHELTENHAM RACECOURSE

The proposed sale of Cheltenham Racecourse is an opportunity for the Labor Party Leaders to put into action some of those "grass root" policies about which they glibly speak from time to time.

The Cheltenham Racecourse is in the centre of a working class area and this land when available should be taken over by the Rann Labor Government and made available to working families on which to build their homes.

If "developers" are allowed to get their claws on to this prime piece of land, prices will hit the roof and working class families will be forced to seek land on which to build a home on the outskirts of the city.

Private enterprise can never solve the housing problem for the working class. Here is an opportunity for the Rann Labor government to put its "footprint" on a public enterprise for the benefit of their most steadfast supporters.



ACTU TO SEEK RISE FOR LOW PAID WORKERS

The ACTU is to seek a rise of \$26.60 in the minimum weekly wage of full-time workers at present on \$12.35 an hour or \$467.40 per week.

The new rate would be \$13 an hour or \$494 for a full week.

This is well within the ability of the economy to pay and will be opposed by the Howard Government.

Howard is preparing to re-submit to the Senate his draconian legislation aimed at destroying the Trade Union movement and preventing any organised resistance by the workers to the further lowering of their living standards and working conditions.

If Howard has his way this could be the last time that the ACTU will be able to "run a national wage case of this character".

Sooner or later Trade Unions and their members are going to have to fight to preserve their living standards and that time is now.



RISE OF THE CORPORATE PLUTOCRATS

While CEOs and second and third tier executives in Australian companies are getting enormous salaries, the wages and benefits for Australian workers stagnate or fall.

CEOs and others in these categories are now receiving salaries of millions of dollars, plus fantastic expense allowances.

These executives have no incentive to create jobs, well paid or otherwise, their brief is to generate profits and in many cases this leads to "down loading" of workers and increasing unemployment.

While it is the workers who create the "values" in our society it is the "CEOs and non-working capitalist class that enjoy the benefits.

As income of the wealthy has grown, the taxes they pay on it has shrunk. Top Federal tax is less to-day than when the Howard Government gained office.

Howard and his cohorts justify this by claiming that the "rich" need publicly funded resources less than the rest of us. Why pay for public parks when they do their relaxing at a country club or beach house?



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THE HAND-OVER THAT WASN'T

Officially, the American occupation of Iraq ended on 28 June, 2004. Not only do 140,000 troops remain to control the streets, but the "100 orders" of Paul Bremer remain to control the economy.

These orders enacted by Bremer, the now departed boss of the defunct Coalition Provisional Authority, goes to the heart of the Bush, Blair, Howard plans for Iraq.

They lock in sweeping advantages to American firms and to a lesser degree for Britain. Howard, has some vague promises for Australia.

The Bremer orders control every aspect of Iraqi life from the control of car horns to the privatisation of state owned enterprises.

On his last day as Iraqi boss, Bremer transferred authority for the orders to Prime Minister Iyad Allawi-a 30 year exile with close ties to the C.I.A. and British intelligence.

These orders demonstrate the economic policy of the Bush, Blair clique. Order No. 39 allows for (1) privatisation of Iraq's 200 state-owned enterprises. (2) 100% foreign ownership of Iraqi businesses. (3) no preference for locals over foreign business. (4) unrestricted, tax free remittance of all profits and other funds. (5) 40 year ownership licenses.

Iraqis receive no preference in reconstructing the economy, this allows foreign corporations like Halliburton and Bechtel to buy up Iraqi businesses, carry out the re-construction and send the profit to the U.S.A.

Provision is made in the orders for American auditors and inspector generals to be appointed to every government ministry with 5 year terms and with sweeping authority over all contracts, programs, employees and regulations.

All foreign contractors, including security firms have total immunity from Iraqi laws. If a worker is killed or injured they cannot turn to Iraqi law, but must proceed under American law.

Transformation of an occupied country's laws violates the Hague regulations of 1907/9 (ratified by the U.S.A.) and the U.S. Army's Law of Land Warfare.

The British attorney general, Lord Goldsmith, warned Prime Minister Tony Blair that "major structural economic reforms would not be authorised by international law".



DATE SET FOR FEDERAL ELECTIONS

Australians will go to the polls on Saturday 9th October in what is the most important elections since Federation.

Electors will have the opportunity of deciding to uphold a devious and habitual liar as Prime Minister or electing a change of government, dedicated to transparency and honesty in the interests of the Australian people.



AUSTRALIA NEEDS A NEW LEADER

The war in Iraq has intensified the hatred of America around the world and because of the Howard government's association with Bush, some of that hatred is being directed at Australia.

The invasion and occupation of Iraq has resulted in an upsurge in Al Qaeda type resistance in the countries that America threatens, resulting in Australia now being less safe than it was prior to Howard's boneheaded support for Bush's imperial adventures.

No one now knows how and when the slaughter and madness in Iraq will end. In the meantime Howard and the Liberal Party are devoting national resources to meet the dangers they themselves have created.

Howard has now lost any credibility he might have once had and stands exposed as an habitual liar and fabricator of fictitious events and who will say and do anything to earn the approval of George W Bush.

One of the immediately noticeable negative effects of Howard's support for the American attack on Iraq is the higher price Australians now pay for petrol.

Mark Latham, Leader of the Labor Party has declared that when Labor wins the forthcoming Federal election, Australian troops and support for the war in Iraq will be withdrawn.

This is in complete accord with the desires of the Australian people, including sections of the community which in other times might be expected to support the Liberal/National Party coalition.



AUSTRALIA'S FAILING HEALTH SYSTEM

Clearly, health care and creation of jobs is an urgent social issue in which the Howard government has failed the people of Australia.

Working Australians have two great and immediate concerns, the growing difficulty of gaining access to public hospitals and the cost of a visit to a doctor.

Workers also have the continuing problem of becoming unemployed, accentuated by the growing loss of full time jobs in the community.

John Anderson, the deputy Prime Minister has let the cat out of the bag when he confirmed support for the two tiered system of public health.

What this means is that the wealthy people who have "government subsidised" health insurance have access to top quality medical and hospital services.

It is the workers, the poor and unemployed who are compelled to avoid visits to doctors, because of costs and have long waits to get into public hospitals and care centres.

Under the Howard/Anderson Liberal-National Party government the public health system has been neglected and severely down graded.

Labor Party leader Mark Latham and has undertaken to restore Medicare to its previous position of pre-eminence, which will be in the interests of the majority of Australians and the medical profession.

Australia should no longer tolerate the "two-class" health system favoured by Howard and his cohorts.



REINVENTING DEMOCRACY

Elections are due soon in Australia, the United States, Afghanistan, Iraq and Indonesia. Democracy, is the creation of the Greeks and remains the preferred political system.

But it has to work properly, it must remain accountable to ordinary people and not suborn power.

While the rich may legitimately participate in the democratic government of the country, the unchallengeable principle of proportionality means they will always be in the minority.

As Aristotle said "the rich have never been more numerous than the poor". However, they have always governed the world or pulled the strings of those who govern.

Democratic power is temporary. It depends on electoral stability, ideological flux and class interests. It is obvious that there have been many apparently radical political upheavals resulting in changes of government that have not been followed by the fundamental social, economic and cultural transformations that government change has led us to expect.

What we call democracy looks more and more like government by the rich and less and less like government by the people.

We must stop considering the present concept of democracy as an immutable value and must question it at every opportunity.

Unless we discover a way to re-invent it, we shall lose not only democracy but all hope of seeing human rights respected on earth some day.

That will be the greatest failure of our time, a betrayal that would mark humanity for ever.

**BLAIR AND HOWARD STAND BY BUSH**

Both Tony Blair and John Howard continue to stand by George Bush despite widespread opposition to Bush in America.

The latest and more serious defection from the Republican camp of George Bush is the family of the late Republican President Ronald Reagan.

Nancy Reagan the former first lady let it be known that she would not be campaigning for the re-election of George Bush—and would not be attending the Republican national convention in New York.

For good measure Nancy Reagan won't allow any of her late husband's words or images to be used in election campaigning.

Daughter Patty and son Ron, who recently spoke at the Democratic convention in Boston, share their mother's fulsome stand.

Ron Reagan says Bush has destroyed the Republican Party.

"My father's Republican party seems a far cry from the current model, with its cringing obeisance to the religious right", he writes in Esquire magazine, and quoted by Mark Seddon a member of the British Labor Party's national executive committee.

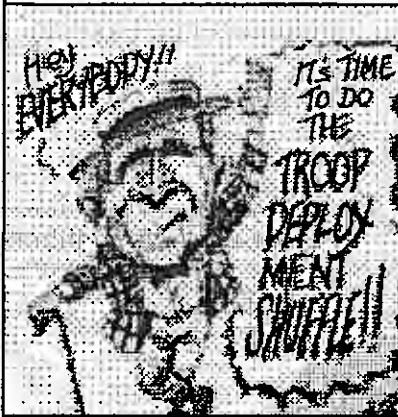


ON ELECTION DAY—VOTE HOWARD OUT

AMERICAN TROOP DEPLOYMENTS

As part of his election promises to the American people and servicemen George W Bush says he will be reducing the numbers of servicemen in overseas bases.

America has thousands of servicemen in overseas bases and because of the reluctance of Americans to volunteer for overseas service, the Pentagon has began re-cycling servicemen from bases and extending their period of service.



This is meeting with a lot of resentment resulting in a lowering of morale and a growing number of suicides in the forces.

No country has as many troops scattered around the world as America and no country has attracted so much hatred as the present American administration of George W Bush.

With 140,000 troops in Iraq, American generals have began a campaign of systematically destroying the Iraqi infra-structure and decimating the civilian population.

As part of the American policy of establishing bases in other countries America now seeks to set up a base here in Australia.

The establishing of such a base in Australia, would be seen by our neighbours and trading partners in Asia as an unfriendly act and should be rejected by the Australia people.

**STRANGE BEHAVIOUR BY ALP MINISTERS**

Grass roots Labor Party members are finding it hard to understand the action of the Machine faction bosses responsible for the promotion to the cabinet of well known National Party member Karlene A Maywald, who campaigned against the Labor Party during the last state elections.

There are now two non Labor members of the cabinet and ALP members are beginning to wonder why competent Labor members are being overlooked by these inexperienced leaders of the Machine faction, which is the dominant faction in the Parliamentary Labor Party.

Ms Maywald was prominent in calling for a judicial inquiry into the sacking of Mike Rann's top adviser, Randal Ashborne. This case is now scheduled to go to the District Court in January or February 2005.

What the Machine faction which orchestrated and pushed for the admittance of Karlene A Waywald to the cabinet doesn't understand, is that the end result of this action has split the Labor movement as shown by the re-action of The Australian Workers' Union, Secretary, Wayne Hanson.

The AWU has traditionally been a most steadfast and reliable supporter of the Labor Party. Many of the Labor Party's aims and objectives have their origin in the early struggles of The Australian Workers' Union.



12 JUL 2004

THE PLOD

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RULING CLASS UNITES BEHIND LIBERALS

The Australian "ruling" class is backing Howard and the Liberal/National Party in an all out attack on Mark Latham and the Labor Party, the Trade Unions and the working class that do not support the Bush/Howard policies and the war in Iraq.

The Labor Party has been under constant attack for not supporting the Bush, Blair, Howard invasion of Iraq and the slaughter of the Iraqi people.

Howard and Downer have become completely discredited and have been exposed as liars and cheats under the influence of Bush and Blair, the instigators of the war on Iraq.

Despite their sordid record, Howard, Downer and sections of the media has launched an on going campaign to discredit Mark Latham.

This campaign is being orchestrated in the main by the Murdoch press and is in accord with the expressed instructions of Rupert Murdoch the boss of News Limited who supports a Bush victory in the U.S. elections.

People should be alerted to the "lurks" that the Murdoch press will get up to. Murdoch's press is busy conducting "polls" of voters intentions and is trying hard to keep Howard close to Latham.

In a desperate attempt to influence Bush that Howard was popular in Australia, Murdoch's "Australian" on the eve of Howard's visit to Bush jumped his support in a "poll" by six (6%) per cent, which was patently false.

Latham's declaration that Labor will bring Australian troops home from Iraq by Christmas, if elected, is in accord with the desires of the majority of Australian people and has Bush and Howard jumping up and down.

The greatest threat to the security of the Australian people would be the return of the Howard government in the forthcoming elections with a continuation of support for the Bush policy of occupation of Iraq.

THE HOWARD GOVERNMENT MUST GO

GENERAL SAYS "TREAT PRISONERS LIKE DOGS"

General Karpinski in charge of Abu Ghraib prison was advised by Major General Miller from Guantanamo prison on Cuba to "treat prisoners like dogs".

General Miller had been bought especially from Guantanamo to Iraq following the exposure of the abuse of prisoners at Abu Ghraib.

The photographs of the abuse shocked the world when the photos were flashed around the world. General Karpinski who has been stood down, claims that her police officers were carrying out orders from higher up.

General Miller's task is to introduce "Gitmo-ise" treatment into Abu Ghraib, whereby prisoners are "treated like dogs"

At Guantanamo Miller has 800 Military Police to guard 640 prisoners. "When moved from a cell, two MPs would accompany them. They have ankle chains on, they have wrist chains on and they have a belly chain on".

BORN UNDER A CLOUD OF IRONY?

On instructions from the Bush Administration in Washington, Paul Bremer the American pro-consul in Iraq has turned over nominal control of the country to a select group, while leaving real power in the hands of U.S. military commanders.

This is what Bush, Blair and Howard claim is an exercise in democracy.

The interim Prime Minister Iyad Allawi is a former member of Saddam Hussein's Baath Party, who later conducted terrorist operations on behalf of the CIA.

According to intelligence officers interviewed by the New York Times, Iyad Allawi, financed by the CIA, "used car bombs and other explosive devices smuggled into Iraq" in a campaign to destabilize Hussein's regime.

With such a record, it is perhaps not strange that Allawi wants to delay the elections scheduled for January and the imposition of martial law, enforced by American troops.

In 1996 one of Allawi's top officers and proclaimed its chief bomb maker detailed the mechanics behind Allawi's murderous actions in a videotape, obtained by a British newspaper, the "Independent". In the tape he complains about being shortchanged by the CIA for one job, a car bombing, alleging the CIA paid him half the agreed amount.

When Allawi was first picked as the prime minister through the opaque selection process, former CIA Iran-Iraq analyst Kenneth Pollack justified the agency's earlier use of Allawi as a terrorist with the comment "send a thief to catch a thief".

The question now is : Do you send a thief to build a democracy? George W Bush must think so.

The Bush administration has handed Hussein over to the Allawi clique which will be responsible for trying Hussein for war crimes.

In an open and unbiased trial the old dictator, could talk about his cooperation with the Reagan and Bush administrations during the 1980s, when he committed many of the alleged crimes. He might even discuss his two visits back then with Donald H Rumsfeld.

Hussein should be tried under International law, the same as Slobodan Milosevic. A fair public trial would reveal the crimes of Hussein as well as the machinations of those American officials and agencies that encouraged him.

THE PLAIN TRUTH

An American Congressional Commission investigating the 2001 terrorist attacks has declared that there was never any evidence of a link between Iraq and Al Qaeda or between Saddam Hussein and Sept. 11.

Despite this finding of the Commission, which is in accord with advice of CIA ex-chief George Tenet, both George W Bush and his Vice-President Dick Cheney continue to pedal the false line that there is.

Bush and Cheney with Blair and Howard took their countries into a war for which there was no justification.

PUBLIC SERVICE WORKERS PAY RISE IN DOUBT!

While Public Service workers are having one hell of a battle to get a reasonable pay rise, there is no restrictions or hold up on a claim by the politicians for an additional "perk" to their already bulging "sack" of "goodies".

Now with petrol and other expenses on the rise the new "lurk" is that politicians be provided with a new car each year for the payment of \$15.00 per week or \$750.00 per year.

This token payment will include all maintenance on the car that may be required from time to time, plus petrol and oil.

To help meet this "charge" of \$15.00 per week the politicians have awarded themselves an additional \$4000.00 per year or \$77.00 per week.

Its obvious that the Public Service workers are in the wrong section of the public service where they are expected to accept a lower scale of payment so that the "elite" can enjoy the good life.

**ELECTRIC POWER STILL AN UNSOLVED ISSUE**

The decision of the Rann Government to carry on and support the privatisation of the power industry as originally began by the Olsen Government is having a jaundiced effect on South Australian development.

The high cost of electric power was one of the reasons for losing interest given by the company that had planned to establish a magnesium refinery at Port Pirie.

Now as a further continuation of the privatisation policy householders are being urged to "shop around" for a electricity deal, by the State's energy regulator.

There is now three or four suppliers vying for a share of the electric power market. There government will pay a bonus of \$50.00 to householders who change their supplier.

If the people of South Australia are to get an efficient, reliable and reasonably priced electric power supply then the Rann Government should revoke it support for a privatised set up and return to a "publicly owned" and operated electric power industry.

**AUSTRALIA-US FREE TRADE AGREEMENT.**

The Australia/US Free Trade Agreement is supposed to lead to economic growth and to the advantage of both parties.

An examination of the text of the agreement reveals that the agreement is framed to the advantage of America and any advantages for Australia are well down the track and in the case of beef and dairy products the US will phase these in over a period of 18 years.

The Australian sugar industry is being decimated and completely excluded from the US market.

It is estimated that 30,000 children, some as young as 8 years old work in the El Salvador sugar plantations from where America imports cheap sugar.

A review of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme can be sought by American drug companies and which will lead to higher costs of PBS proscriptions.

It is in Australia's best interests that we reject the US-FTA and concentrate on trade with China and Asia.

**POLITICAL BRIBERY CASE TO GO TO COURT**

After a number of preliminary hearings, in some of which the court was cleared and evidence taken in secret, the circumstances of the sacking of Mike Rann's number one adviser Randall Ashbourne, is to be heard in the District Court in January or February 2005.

Ashbourne is accused of offering a position on a parliamentary board to Ralph Clarke on condition that he drop a legal action against Attorney-General Michael Atkinson.

Up to this point the big winner has been Michael Atkinson, who originally resigned his position when the details of the deal broke in Parliament, but has subsequently regained the position..

There is considerable interest in this case, which has its genesis in the scramble for Party endorsement in some seats in the last State elections, when Party conventions were abandoned and loyal sitting members lost their endorsement.

Michael Atkinson is believed to have played an active part in Ralph Clarke losing his Labor Party endorsement. Clarke was a former Deputy Leader and the most effective voice on the Labor side.

This case in the District Court could shed some light on the conniving and conspiring which now seems to be the main activity of some people within the Grand Old Party.

**SMEAR CAMPAIGN UNLEASHED ON LABOR PARTY**

A frenzied rumour and smear campaign has been unleashed against the Labor Party and the Leader Mark Latham.

Inspired by News Limited and its boss Rupert Murdoch the campaign has the active support of the Liberal/National Party and the conservative and anti-working class elements in Australia.

To put the campaign in context, it should be seen as part of the world wide attack on the working class, being led by Bush, Blair and Howard under the umbrella of American military power.

It would not matter who is leading the Labor Party, the attack is basically to stop and prevent the development of any policies that are opposed to those supported by the Bush, Blair and Howard clique.

What particularly worries Bush and Howard is the decision of the Labor Party to withdraw Australian troops from Iraq, if Labor wins the elections.

Such a withdrawal will lead to the collapse of the "Coalition of the Willing". Hence the frenzied reaction of the supporters of the war and destruction of Iraq.

The invasion of Iraq and the control of its natural resources was to lift the sagging economies of America and Britain.

To justify this invasion of Iraq, Bush, Blair and Howard resorted to lies and fraudulent claims, which are rejected by the people who are opposed to the war.

War is endemic to the capitalist system and there is a growing world wide opposition to war and a belief that changes in the structure of society must proceed peacefully.



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HOWARD AND NELSON LAUNCH ATTACK ON PUBLIC EDUCATION

With an election looming the Howard Government has launched a vicious attack on the public school system and the Australian Education Union (AEU).

"The Howard Government has been starving the public education system of funds for schools, TAFE and universities while giving billions of dollars to private schools" said AEU Federal Secretary Rob Durbidge.

Some elite schools have had over 200 percent increases in funding from the Howard Government. The Government is putting two thirds of federal funding for schools into the coffers of private schools, including elite schools such as Geelong Grammar \$4 million and Trinity Grammar \$5.5 million. Public schools with 70 percent of the students, receive \$1.7 billion, while private schools with 30 percent of the students receive \$2.9 billion.

This action is entrenching inequalities and creating a two tier education system. If re-elected Howard and Nelson will pursue and consolidate their privatisation of education over the next four years.

Howard and Nelson reject the secular nature of public schools, where multiculturalism, tolerance, anti-racist values prevail in both the acceptance of students and the curriculum.

These are the values that Howard abhors and rejects when he says teachers in public schools enforce "political correctness" and teach "neutral values".

Public schools willingly and enthusiastically educate every child who comes to their door, regardless of race, religion, ability to pay fees or academic ability.

The majority of indigenous students attend public schools, as do the majority of physically and intellectually disabled students.

Private schools cater for the more "advantaged students" in circumstances that by its every nature are "exclusive" and anti "egalitarian".

It is in the national interest that secular education be paramount in Australia and paid from government funds. Private schools and education should be the total financial responsibility of that section of the community which hankers for "exclusiveness".

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TELSTRA ADDS TO UNEMPLOYMENT POOL

There was a time when a corporation of Telstra's size and standing had a "social conscious" and saw itself as primarily a service provider and a worker could feel relatively secure in his or her job.

But no longer. Telstra has sold this aspect of its activity to IBM along with the workers. Telstra has now pressured IBM to sack these Australian workers and transfer their jobs to Bangalore in India.

Australian customers of Telstra ringing Telstra with a complaint or problem with regard to service, may think they are speaking to someone in Australia, but in reality are dealing with a person in Bangalore.

Of course the Indian worker is paid a lot less than an Australian worker.

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NOT EVERYONE GOT IT WRONG ON IRAQ'S WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION

In a bid to shield President George W Bush and Prime Minister Tony Blair from the stigma of being branded as unmitigated liars and falsifiers of "intelligence reports". David Kay, Bush's top weapons sleuth in Iraq, now says "everyone got it wrong".

The decision of Bush and Blair to unleash war on Iraq was a political decision, driven by the deteriorating economic situation in both their countries.

The US in particular is racked with widespread corporate fraud, bankruptcies and falling jobs. Something like 2.5 million workers in industry have lost their jobs during Bush's watch. In Britain, Blair has a similar type of situation.

Both Bush and Blair are well aware that from 1991 to 1998, a team of United Nations WMD hunters were busily destroying and deposing of the any WMD and were also blowing-up and destroying the infrastructure by which WMD could be manufactured and replaced.

Scott Ritter was the United Nations chief weapons Inspector in Iraq from 1991 to 1998 and his reports that Iraq was effectively disarmed of WMD was freely available to the CIA and M6.

Rolf Ekeus also a UN weapons inspector says Iraq was "fundamentally disarmed" as early as 1996.

Hans Blix, who headed the UN weapons inspections in Iraq in the months before the "invasion" in March 2003, stated his inspectors had found no evidence of WMD or WMD-related programs in Iraq.

Bush, Blair and their little helper John Howard were so intent on invasion of Iraq that they deliberately ignored the essence of the intelligence reports and read into them only those aspects which they used to justify war.

The three of them now stand before history as liars and cheats condemned by the honest decent people of all countries.

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FREE TRADE AGREEMENT FAVOURS USA

Now that the "Free Trade Agreement" made with the US has become available for scrutiny it appears to be worse for Australia than originally thought.

No wonder the US is in raptures about it. It is 99.9% their way. It is hard to find anything in Australia's favour or something that wasn't available in our previous trading relations with the US.

It is the opinion of Labor trade spokesman Stephen Conroy that Australian farmers have been "duded" and the Australian sugar farmers hung out to dry.

Dr Patricia Ranald, policy manager at the Public Interest Advocacy Centre in NSW, said the agreement gave US drug companies the power to push for higher prices.

This places the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme in mortal danger despite claims to the contrary by discredited people such as Prime Minister John Howard and National Party Trade Minister Mark Vaile.

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MACHINE FACTION UP TO ITS OLD CAPERS

The machine faction in the ALP has been caught out up to its old caper of trying to enforce their dictatorial will on the Party.

On this occasion their tactic was to impose their choice of a candidate for the seat of Makin on the SA Labor Left faction without any reference to the collective members of that faction or others with an interest in ensuring that Makin be won for Labor.

One of the "machine" faction is reported to have even contacted an Advertiser reporter and assured him that the deal was "cut and dried".

Their whole conspiracy unraveled when the nominations for Makin closed.

This revealed that there were three candidates including Tony Zappia, the popular Mayor of Salisbury and easily the preeminent candidate, the Member for Florey Ms Frances Bedford and a strong supporter of Tony Zappia, plus Ms Dana Wortley, Secretary of the Media Union.

Wayne Hanson, Secretary of the Australian Workers' Union, and a long time supporter of Tony Zappia for Makin, literally tore strips off the "god-fathers" of the "anti Zappia machine faction", in an item in the "Advertiser".

Wayne Hanson and AWU officials are a full wake-up to the anti-working class and anti Labor antics of the "god-fathers" in the machine faction.

It is to the credit of Dana Wortley that when she realised what the "god-fathers" in the machine faction were up to she withdrew her nomination for Makin.

This then led to Frances Bedford withdrawing her nomination and cleared the way for Tony Zappia to be endorsed as the Labor Party candidate for Makin, which had been Frances Bedford's strategy all along.

The continued existence of the "machine faction" within the SA Branch Australian Labor Party poses a danger to the future of the Party and its high time that a stop be put to its Party wrecking activities.

The "machine faction" has no basic political policy and exists solely to use the Party to shore up the position of their leading "god-fathers".

A few years ago the "god-fathers" used their numbers to dis-enfranchise the sitting Labor members for Enfield and Cheltenham who had refused to buckle under to their dictatorial demands.

The "machine faction" is now anxious to preserve two Federal positions which will become available in the future.

Senator Nick Bolkus has become discredited over his "raffle ticket sales" and many believe that he should stand down now. It is believed this position is to be held in reserve in case a well known "god-father" minister is defeated in the state elections.

Port Adelaide is firmly held by popular Rod Sawford and it is known the "machine" tried to unseat him a few years ago.

The wide-spread belief is that Mark Butler has been promised this seat when it becomes vacant. Dana Wortley would be an excellent candidate for either of these positions and it is a test of the "machine's" sincerity which of the positions it supports her having.

**BARON ACTON LETTER TO BISHOP CREIGHTON 1887**

"Power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely. Great men are almost always bad men. There is no worse heresy than that the office sanctifies the holder of it".

**SA AUST MAY DAY SATURDAY MAY 1ST**

Advance notice of SA May Day Activities.

As you may be aware in 2004 the United Trades and Labor Council (UTLC) celebrates 120 years of Activism. The SA May Day Committee has been working in conjunction with UTLC representatives to provide a coordinated programme of events over the May Day weekend. As a result, instead of our usual march from Victoria Square followed by activities at Rymill Park, the plan is on Saturday May 1st to:-

March from Victoria Square to Parliament House accompanied by the Irish Pipe Band.

Rally outside Parliament House with the Union Choir and a key speaker (TBA)

March with the Band to Adelaide Railway Station and board a booked train to Bowden.

Disembark and proceed to the Governor Hindmarsh Hotel to join the planned UTLC activities.

May Day dinner at the above hotel in the evening.

**JOHN HOWARD BEGINS TO LOSE HIS GRIP**

Ever since the change of Leadership in the Federal Parliamentary Labor Party, Howard and his top cohorts have been unsettled and worried people.

Totally discredited by his stance in following Bush and Blair into invading Iraq and against the wishes of the Australian people, it now transpires it was contrary to the advice and views of Australian top military and naval experts.

Because these experts have opposed involvement in Iraq, Howard is trying to imply they must be supportive of Saddam Hussein.

Air Chief Marshal Ray Funnell, chief of the air-staff 1987/92 says "I find it deeply offensive that I am categorised as someone who wished Saddam to remain in power, when there were alternatives to going to war".

General Peter Gration, chief of the Australian Defence Force 1987/1993 said it was absurd and silly to argue that those who opposed the war wanted Saddam to remain in power. "I opposed the war because the Government's case for going to war, based principally on WMD was unconvincing and weak"

General Gration said it was still unclear whether the threat of terrorism had been reduced. He believes WMD were just a pretext for war and that the real reason was to consolidate US control of, or access to oil.

Admiral Mike Hudson, chief of the Naval Staff from 1985/91, said there was insufficient evidence to justify war. Admiral Hudson took issue with Alexander Downer's assertion that Australia's alliance with the US would have been substantially weakened if the Government had refused to go to war.

"I cannot believe that relationships between the two countries were so sensitive that we had to acquiesce in a pre-emptive attack on Iraq when there was so little obvious reason to do so".

**HOWARD GOVERNMENT MUST BE DEFEATED**

The Howard Coalition Government must be removed for the safety and well being of all Australians.



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BUSH, BLAIR AND HOWARD EXPOSED AS DANGEROUS CHARLATANS

When Mark Latham described George W Bush as the "most incompetent and dangerous President in American history" he was doing no more than expressing the beliefs of the majority of Australian people and indeed of most people of the world.

Bush, Blair and Howard ignored the advice of their respective intelligence agencies and deliberately invented the fraudulent and false claim that Iraq had "weapons of mass destruction" (WMD) which it could unleash on its "neighbours" in a matter of 45 minutes.

It is now clear to everyone that the attack on Iraq by Bush, Blair and Howard attracted no WMD and was the most blatant example of total disrespect for world opinion, the rule of law and the norms of diplomacy, when every fibre of human decency was torn apart by the shocking act of butchery perpetrated by BBH.

BBH insulted the United Nations and Nobel Peace Prize-winner Kofi Annan, along with Hans Blix's and Mohammed El-Baradei's inspection teams. Bush, Blair and Howard the perpetrators of the outrage, which was an illegal attack against Iraq used belligerence, bullying and blackmail as tools in their policies, instead of the founding principles of democracy and discussion, debate and dialogue.

"Democracy is a word that Bush, Blair and Howard like to cite and preach, but evidently not to practice".

In flagrant disregard of the UN Charter and breaching the terms of the Geneva Convention, an act of mass murder on an unprecedented scale in recent history was launched by Bush, Blair and Howard, which shakes the cornerstone of civilization and breaks the fabric of decency and flouts international law.

The international community is still reeling from the Bush, Blair and Howard crusade of self-righteous savagery. It is to be hoped that 2004 will see civilization re-established, with fundamental principles of democracy respected and not reviled.



BUSH'S NUCLEAR HYPOCRISY

It is ironic and hypocritical that the Bush Administration has condemned North Korea and Iran for their apparent efforts to develop nuclear weapons. The Bush administration itself is undermining the international nuclear nonproliferation regime.

The main provision of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) is the promise by the nuclear weapon states, including the United States, to move towards nuclear disarmament.

Nevertheless, the Bush Administration is proceeding with the upgrading, modification and replacement of portions of its existing nuclear force.

It further proposes the development of new, low yield, more usable nuclear weapons, along with a new earth penetrating nuclear weapon.

If the Bush Administration were serious about halting the proliferation of nuclear weapons, it would accept the same standards of behavior that it is attempting to impose on other states.

DEFEAT THE HOWARD GOVERNMENT IN THE 2004 ELECTIONS

The Howard Government is on the nose and can be defeated in the 2004 elections later this year.

A recent media poll shows the Labor Party leading the Howard Government despite an obvious bias against Labor which comes through in the media reporting of Australian politics.

There is no question that Mark Latham's criticism and description of George W Bush and John Howard has the endorsement of the Australian people.

The Howard Government's total acceptance of the United States leadership is placing the Australia people in danger of becoming involved in a US initiated war, with the continuing plundering of Australian social services and a worsening of living standards.

The economy is going great guns we are told, but six percent of workers are unemployed, while the real tally of jobless is much higher.

While Howard and the media celebrate the blossoming of statistics supposedly showing how well we are going, the lines of people seeking help from Saint Vincent de Pauls, Salvation Army, Smith Family and other charities are lengthening.

Mark Latham has pledged that under his Leadership the Labor Party will restore Medicare to its original concept as a "health service" available to each and every citizen, with universal "bulk billing".

Labor will also modernise the education system at all levels and make the higher areas of education available to the working class.

Trade agreements and tax policies will be examined and upgraded to encourage the creation of employment that will enhance the quality of life here in Australia.

The best thing that blue-collar, white-collar, professional workers, Labor Party members, small business people and working farmers can do is to organise and work to ensure that the Howard Government is defeated in 2004



SADDAM IN AN INTERNATIONAL COURT

Nine months after invading Iraq, US Special Forces have finally apprehended Saddam Hussein.

Violent opposition to the occupation of Iraq continues, the reasons for the invasion are as murky as ever, and where Saddam should be tried for his crimes and by what judicial authority is up in the air.

If the people of the United States and the world are to be made fully aware of the 44 year relationship between the US and Saddam Hussein leading up to the war, an international trial is a must.

In 1959 as an up and coming thug Saddam was involved with the CIA in a plot to assassinate the Iraq Prime Minister Gen Abdullah al-Karim Qasim. Qasim had withdrawn from the Baghdad Pact and was buying arms from the Soviet Union.

Saddam botched the job of assassinating Qasim and with CIA help fled to Egypt. He returned to Iraq after Qasim was killed in a Baath Party coup and continued his contact with the CIA. There are people in the US that have reason to fear an International trial.

END POVERTY - SUPPORT A LIVING WAGE

Unemployment remains at around six per cent in Australia and has a tendency to rise along with an increase in poverty and homelessness.

Even those in employment on the minimum wage are not able to maintain anything like a dignified life style and have been forced to seek help from social charitable organisations.

The bread-winner in many families is regarded as employed, even through working part time only.

World wide experience shows that private enterprise cannot solve the "employment" problem and that government involvement is necessary.

Private enterprise is primarily concerned with "profit" and to maximise profit seeks to obtain the maximum production with the minimum work force.

While society continues to be organised on capitalist methods, there should to be a "make-up" in the purchasing power of the community to assimilate the excess production over and above the employed workers ability to use and assimilate.

This requires the government to continually plan for a system of "capital" works commensurate with the short-coming provided by private enterprise between the value of their production and the amount distributed in wages.

It is a fundamental natural right that every healthy person has the right to a job and thereby provide for their own and their families maintenance at a level consistent with the living standards of the time.

Under the capitalist system of society this is denied to an increasing section of the community, unless there is some profit to be gained by the capitalist class.

In the past the capitalist classes have sought to solve the problem of over-production and unemployment by engaging in wars, which resulted in massive destruction of property and millions of human beings.

Recent events have shown that the people of all countries are not going to be led to any further "slaughters" and are fighting back.

This increases the pressure on governments to face up to their responsibility and to govern in the interests of the of the people and not for the benefit of a small privileged section of the country.

**LABOR MUST ACT ON POWER CRISIS**

The power crisis is getting out of hand and is proving too big a problem for the present minister. Its time for Mike to step in and take charge of the situation.

Earlier on the public was told by the minister that with more companies providing the power, the competition would lead to a drop in the price of electricity.

This was a figment of the minister's imagination and instead, what has occurred is a substantial price increase.

Now the position is that the "power" companies are seeking still higher prices and the minister appears to be leaning more the companies way than the public.

There is a growing belief in the community that the public is being over-charged so as to subsidise power to the corporate sector.

This is something that Mike should look into immediately and make public the cost of power to both the community and the corporate sector.

Labor's future could depend on how it handles this crisis.

**LIBERALS TRY TO RESTRICT UNION RIGHTS**

Its no secret that the capitalist system is in crisis throughout the world.

The governments in all countries are involved in campaigns to restrict the rights of Trade Unions, to reduce wages and working conditions.

World wide the campaign is being encouraged by the Bush Administration in America and has been taken up enthusiastically by the Howard Government in Australia.

The Liberals have before the Parliament a number of "Bills" which have their genesis in the decisions of Terry Cole and his Royal Commission.

The legislation imposes severe limitations on industrial action, while giving the employers greater power to avoid negotiations with workers and their unions.

The legislation makes it almost impossible for workers and their union to collectively bargain for better wages and conditions or to even defend existing wages and conditions.

There are at present 12 anti-trade union and anti-worker Bills before the Federal Parliament.

It is imperative that the trade unions and the working class wage a massive and determined campaign against these Bills as part of a campaign to destroy the Liberal Howard government.

The Labor Party along with the Greens have indicated their opposition to the legislation, but the Trade Unions should have deputations to the Labor Party and the Greens, along with a deputation to the Democrats in the States and in Canberra.

**LIBYA RENOUNCES WMD.**

Undoing a weapons program is one of the rarest of decisions for the Leader of any country.

Libya's important decision to abandon its unconventional weapons programs is all the more interesting since the same government that got Libya into the business of developing WMD now ordered the change of course.

If weapons of mass destruction are a menace in unstable regions such as the Middle East, if their availability must be reduced, then logic begins to move closer to the confrontation with the nuclear power that Bush and Blair never mention: Israel.

From a compote of usually reliable sources such as: The Federation of American Scientists, Jane's Intelligence Review and the Stockholm Institute, a tolerably clear picture emerges.

Israel has at least 200 nuclear warheads right now, along with missiles, delivery systems, gases and germs. Israel is the world's fifth largest nuclear power.

The big question is have Bush and Blair the "guts" to call Ariel Sharon to account?

**DEATH OF ALLAN BEGG**

AWU members throughout Australia were sadden to learn of the death of Allan Begg, a former Secretary of the SA Branch and Federal President of the Union.

Allan passed away in a nursing home at Yeppoon Qld on the 10th December 2003.

Allan was 81 years of age at the end.

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CUTBACKS TO HOSPITALS, HEALTH, EDUCATION AND WELFARE SERVICES NOT JUSTIFIED

The disclosure of a \$7.5 billion surplus in the Howard Government Budget is positive proof that the savage cuts to hospitals, health, education and welfare services are not justified and are part of the Howard Government's attack on the living standards of Australian people.

The values expressed by this budget surplus were created by the Australian working class and should be expended in providing the above welfare services for the benefit of the Australian people.

The Howard Government now proposes to give the bulk of this massive surplus to the corporate sector and their wealthy supporters in the form of "tax cuts".

On the other hand workers will get a "sandwich and a milk-shake" as their share of the budget surplus and tax cuts.

Hospital, health, education and welfare services are part of the social wage of the working class and should stand in a level of importance ahead of the pay rates and "perks" of politicians when budgets are framed.



HOWARD RESHUFFLES HIS CABINET

As part of the on going attack on the Public Hospital system used by the Trade Unions and working class the Howard Government has reshuffled the cabinet and promoted the top head kickers to the key posts in the cabinet.

The transfer of Tony Abbott to the Health portfolio will do nothing to stem the threatened resignations of doctors and surgeons from providing their services in the Public Hospital system.

The strategy of the Howard Government is to undermine the public health service and Medicare and force doctors and specialists into the private hospital service.

Howard and his cohorts are great admirers of the American system, where a first class hospital and medical system is available to the rich and those able to afford the service.

It is estimated that 40 million American citizens have no medical insurance and find it almost impossible to obtain any sort of hospital treatment.

This is the kind of situation that will develop in Australia if the Howard Government is not defeated and replaced by a Crean Labor Government.

It is obvious that the Howard Government is anxious to get some sort of agreement with the AMA and have for starters offered a moratorium on their Insurance levies of over \$1000.

The catch is it is for 18 months and the Doctors in public hospitals want a system where the governments pick up the "tab" for indemnity insurance.

Simon Crean, the Leader of the Federal Parliamentary Labor Party has pledged that when elected to restore the Medicare system as it was originally set up and functioned by the Labor Party.



BUSH - BLAIR AND HOWARD WIELDERS OF MASS DECEPTION

The road to war with Iraq was paved with the fraudulent claim that Saddam Hussein was armed with "weapons of mass destruction" (WMD) and that he was ready to use them on his neighbours.

United Nations Inspectors had destroyed most of his WMD following the first Gulf War and it is apparent that the Iraqis destroyed any that were left after the departure of the UN Inspectors in 1998.

Bush, Blair and Howard were so intent on invading Iraq that they ignored the United Nations Security Council and embarked on an illegal invasion and occupation of a sovereign state.

Now 6 months after George Bush declared the "war" was over, we find Bush, Blair and Howard calling on the United Nations to come to their aid and help them out of the "quagmire" they have got themselves bogged down in.

In the eyes of the world, especially the Arab world, the flimsiness of some of the claims about Saddam's arsenal has helped to expose that real aims of Bush, Blair and Howard that was to gain control of Iraqi oil.

There is now the danger of making WMD seem more rhetorical and less real than they are and may jeopardise future efforts to deal with the danger of WMD.

It is now abundantly evident that Bush, Blair and Howard cannot be trusted. Tony Blair has lost considerable support in Britain and George Bush's support in the US has plummeted. Howard is hanging on by going quietly, but knows Crean has him in his sights.



BUSH WOULD USE MINI NUKES !

George Bush is the most dangerous president in U.S. history, says Professor John Swomley.

Swomley, who teaches Christian ethics at the St Paul School of Theology in Kansas City, has authored an indictment of the Bush administration's foreign policy that includes actual plans to use nuclear bombs as pre-emptive weapons.

It is essential, he says for Americans to understand that the administration has directed the military to prepare plans to use nuclear weapons against seven countries - China, Russia, North Korea, Syria, Iran, Libya and Iraq.



LONG SPOON DIPLOMACY

There is an old proverb that says, 'If you are going to sup with the devil, use a long spoon.'

It is advice that Prime Minister John Howard could follow in his dealings with the American President George W Bush.

Following Bush, has inveigled Australia in the despicable American invasion and occupation of Iraq a sovereign country and in opposition to the United Nations Security Council.

Bush is now trying to have Australia accept a "free trade agreement" that is to the advantage of American multi-nationals.



WHERE ARE THE JOBS?

The Treasurer Peter Costello and Prime Minister John Howard tell us the economy is accelerating, and the statistics seem to bear that out.

But no one should hold their breath waiting for their standard of living to improve. Howard and Costello are not supportive of working people and their families.

It is in the real world where families are trying to pay their mortgages, meet health costs and get their children a decent education, that the economy remains troubled.

While commentators of the comfortable class are assuring us that tax cuts and millions being spent on Iraq have been good for the "gross domestic product" ordinary working people are locked into reality.

Howard and Costello can spin their "recovery" any way they wish, but working families can't pay bills with data about the "gross domestic product". They need income from steady employment.

The jobs picture is far more harrowing than is usually presented by the media. Despite modest wage increases for those who are working, the unemployment rate hovers around 6 percent.

Meanwhile, these are some of the things working and jobless Australians continue to face:

- Sharply increasing taxes
- Steep increases in health care costs
- Soaring increases in electricity, gas, water

Families are now living very close to the edge economically and the situation is compounded, made even more precarious by the mountains of debt some families are carrying, mortgages and credit cards.

When it comes to jobs, taxes, health, education and entitlement programs like "Social Security" the message from the Howard Government couldn't be clearer:

"YOU'RE ON YOUR OWN"

**PRIVATE FIRMS PREPARE TO CARVE UP IRAQ**

About 100 private companies, mainly from Britain and the US gathered in London at the beginning of October to discuss investment opportunities in Iraq.

The companies mainly oil and banking were invited by the US and British governments to move in as soon as security is restored.

A neo-liberal economy is to be imposed on the impoverished country with unprecedented haste and with absolutely no democratic process.

Instead of a reconstruction process that involves Iraqi companies, who have the necessary experience to do the job properly, foreign companies will be buying up sectors of the Iraqi economy for a quick profit.

Among the Americans attending were the energy giant, ExxonMobil along with Delta Airlines and the American Hospital Group.

The fast food chain McDonalds, which has a branch in most parts of the world, was predicted by the conference organisers to open in Baghdad next year.

The American companies Bechtel and Halliburton are already operating in Iraq. Halliburton has close connections with Vice-President Cheney and neither was required to tender for their contacts.

**ENERGY DEBATE NEEDS FRESH AIR**

It is no secret that South Australians want a new energy policy and are disappointed by the action of the Rann Government in continuing on with the "energy policy" left behind by John Olsen.

The Olsen Government privatised the production of electricity in South Australia, which has left the South Australian public open to the ruthless exploitation by the private owners.

There are some areas of social needs such as electricity, gas, water, transportation and communication that should be in public ownership for the benefit of the common good.

The lethargic manner by which the Rann Government is handling these essential service areas has now become clear to all.

It should not be the function of Labor Party ministers to square off and try to justify the policies and behaviour of the private owners of these utilities.

Restoring these essential utilities and services to public ownership must be the prime objective of the Labor Party.

**STEVENS INDUSTRIAL REPORT!**

It is now over 12 months since Greg Stevens, a former Deputy President of the South Australian Industrial Commission presented his report and it seems that nothing has been done about any of the findings which he has made.

What the government should now do is establish a committee, chaired by a politician with Trade Union affiliations and comprised of representatives from the various Trade Unions to make recommendations to the government as to which specific findings of Greg Stevens should be incorporated into the Industrial Relations System.

**HYDRAULIC FRACTURING ? IS IT HARMLESS**

Hydraulic fracturing is the method used to facilitate the extraction of uranium at the Honeymoon and Beverley plants and involves injecting chemical solutions into the ground. It is claimed that the solutions do not contaminate the "ground water".

A recent court decision in Alabama, where hydraulic fracturing is widely used could upset that belief. The owner of a "water well" won a case when he proved that his water had been polluted.

**VALE JIM CAIRNS**

The death of Jim Cairns signified the passing of an era, the era of protest as it is known.

Jim Cairns will always be remembered for his inspiration and leadership of the Vietnam Moratorium Campaign. His call to "occupy the streets" was answered by the massive protests in all Australian capital cities and paved the way for Gough Whitlam to withdraw Australian forces from Vietnam in 1972.

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ACTION NEEDED TO SAVE MEDICARE

The history of the Australian working class and Trade Union movement shows that only when workers take action around issues have they achieved satisfaction and worthwhile results.

Every improvement in working and living conditions, since the first fleet landed at Sydney Cove in 1788 has been obtained and won in struggle.

Whither it be wages or living standards, safe working conditions or the need for legislative action, all have been achieved because of the struggle and determination of the workers and the Trade Unions.

In these periods of struggle workers have been united by a high level of ideological understanding which inspired the working class around the issues of concern.

Following the class struggles of the 1890's the Trade Unions took the lead in forming and establishing the Australian Labor Party.

The thinking was that if the Labor Party could win government and then legislate progressive social reforms that this would ensure its use for the benefit of the working people.

History has shown that unless the Trade Unions, Labor Party and the working class remain "alert and active" the conservative forces in society "scheme and connive" to deny the working people in society the benefits of their labour.

A recent example is the action of the Howard Government with regard to Medicare.

Medicare was introduced in 1984 by the Labor Government and comprised three main components, public hospitals, the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) and funding for General Practitioners (GP) and specialist services for the community.

The aim of Medicare is to provide access to quality health care for everyone, whither a millionaire or a pauper, black or white, young or old.

Medicare was legislated and funded from consolidated revenue and was met from taxes and the Medicare levy, which was approved and supported by the overwhelming majority of the Australian people.

What the Howard Government is now doing is to siphon off and strip Medicare, Hospitals, Health Care, families, the aged and disadvantaged of the funds and resources.

The Howard Government is deliberately down grading all social service that serves the interests and well being of the people and diverting resources into areas for the advantage of the private sector.

Simon Crean the Federal Parliamentary Leader of the Australian Labor Party has declared that if Labor is elected to government at the next elections, that Labor will install Medicare in its entirety.

Under Crean's leadership Labor can win the next elections. But he needs the active ongoing support of the Labor Party, Trade Unions and working class.

The "achilles' heel" of the Howard/Costello Liberal Party is the deteriorating economy and the worsening position of most sections of the Australian people.

The position is made worse by Howard's spineless subservience to George W Bush and Tony Blair and their policies of perpetual war.

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AMERICA AND BRITAIN IN A MESS IN IRAQ

Bush and Blair continue to react to the deteriorating situation in Iraq with shock and denial. Denial is expected from the intellectual authors of the war, such as Richard Perle, Donald Rumsfeld, Paul Wolfowitz and not forgetting the sinister vice-president Richard Cheney.

Bush and Blair have fell for their own propaganda with its illusions about how cheap and easy it would be to take over Iraq, which was promoted as self financing and profitable because of Iraq's oil.

Now Bush and his henchmen are appealing to the United Nations to come in and get them off the hook.

US Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage is pedaling the proposal in Europe but is meeting stiff opposition from France and Germany in particular, both of whom are key players if any deal is to be stitched up.

The American proposal is that the United Nations sanction countries coming to Bush and Blair's aid by assisting with finance and reconstruction while also providing troops, but with total control remaining with the American pro-consul.

While some sort of a deal could eventually be effected it is necessary that the US gets off its high horse and fall in line with the more civilised ideas of the United Nation countries.

America must surrender full and complete control of Iraq to the United Nations, which should then set in train a process to hand the sovereign control of Iraq to a democratically elected Iraqi government.

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WHY THE SECRECY?

Michael Atkinson has been restored to his position as the State's No 1 lawman, but no one is any the wiser as to the reasons why he stood down in the first place.

Mr Atkinson resigned his position following questions in Parliament about whither Mr Atkinson and Mr Ashbourne had been involved in offering inducements to Mr Ralph Clarke to drop a legal case against Mr Atkinson.

To date Mr Atkinson appears to be the winner, Clarke dropped the case against Atkinson and now Ashbourne, who was Mike Rann's personal assistant has been "sacked". And Ralph Clarke has not been "induced".

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HANSON'S SHADOW

The spectre of Pauline Hanson continues to intrigue and haunt the Liberal Party.

Hanson has been sentenced to 3 years goal, along with her colleague for defrauding the Australian Electoral Commission.

John Howard adopted many of the proposals advocated by Hanson, especially with regard to asylum seekers.

During the last Federal elections, Howard claimed to be anti Hanson and One Nation, but allowed support for Hanson in some areas.

Howard and Abbott now express sympathy for Hanson and say 3 years in goal is too long for her crime.

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The War on Terrorism is Bogus.

"The 9/11 attacks gave the US an ideal pretext to use force to secure its global domination" this is the claim of Michael Meacher, British Labor MP and a Minister from May 1997 to June 2003.

Massive attention is now being given as to the reasons why Britain went to war against Iraq. Along with attention now being focused as to why the US went to war, it throws further light on British motives too.

The conventional explanation is that it was natural retaliation against al-Qaida in Afghanistan. Then, because Saddam Hussein was alleged by Bush and Blair to have "weapons of mass destruction" (WMD) the war was extended to Iraq as well.

However this explanation does not fit the now known facts and the truth is a great deal murkier.

It is now known that a blueprint for the creation of a global Pax Americana was drawn up for Dick Cheney (now vice-president), Donald Rumsfeld (defense secretary), Paul Wolfowitz (Rumsfeld's deputy), Jeb Bush (George Bush's younger brother) and Lewis Libby (Cheney's chief of staff).

This document 'Rebuilding America's Defenses', was written in September 2000 by the neoconservative think tank, Project for the New American Century (PNAC).

This plan shows the Bush Cabinet intended to take military control of the Gulf region whether or not Saddam Hussein was in power.

There is evidence that US authorities were warned that 9/11 type attacks were planned, but no action of any kind was taken of the warnings.

Given this background, it is not surprising that some have seen the US failure to take any preventive action as creating an invaluable pretext for attacking Afghanistan and Iraq in a war that had already been planned in advance.

The overriding motivation for this political smoke-screen is that the US and the UK are beginning to run out of secure hydrocarbon energy supplies.

This is leading to increasing dependence on foreign oil supplies for both the US and the UK. In 1990 the US produced 57% of its energy demand, it will be 39% in 2010.

The UK could be facing severe gas shortages by 2005. In the UK it is estimated that 70% of electric energy will come from gas by 2020. In this context it should be noted that Iraq has 110 trillion cubic feet of gas reserves in addition to its oil.

It is becoming clear that the invasion and occupation of Afghanistan and Iraq has nothing to do with the welfare of the people. It is to take control of the oil and gas and reduce the people to being a source of cheap labour for the foreign oil monopolies.

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BLAIR, BUSH, HOWARD RUNNING SCARED.

Bush, Blair and Howard have been caught out lying about there being weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, to justify their war, even resorting to forgery.

History will judge Bush, Blair and Howard as callous murderers who demonstrated a total lack of responsibility, disregard for human life, derision for international law and insulted the international community, mankind and civilisation in one full swoop.

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Why a Free Trade Agreement?

Both the US and Australian governments have linked the Australia-US Free Trade Agreement (AUSFTA) with the post-September 11 security alliance. The Australian government's recent White Paper on Trade and Foreign Affairs (DFAT) said it would "put our economic relationship on a parallel footing with our political relationship".

The Howard government hopes that its commitment of Australian troops to Iraq will make the US give concessions in the trade negotiations.

This ignores the long history of US trade policy which shows that domestic US lobby groups have much more influence in trade negotiations than small military allies.

Some trade commentators see the linking of trade and defence policy as a serious mistake likely to create perceptions of Australia as an American satellite, which could damage trade and diplomatic relationships with other countries, especially in our region.

The Howard government argues that integration with the US economy will be beneficial. The US has far fewer social safety nets than Australia.

The US has a privatised health system which leaves many uninsured and without access to health care and the price of basic medicines is three times the price of those in Australia.

Australia has a public health insurance system which has strong public support, despite the Howard government promotion of private health insurance and proposed changes to Medicare.

Perhaps integration with the US economy is a way of achieving further privatisation of health and other essential services despite public opposition.

The claim that the influence of US business culture would bring benefits to Australia, ignores the negative aspects of US business culture as illustrated by the collapses of Enron, WorldCom and others.

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BUSH SEEKS STRATEGY TO SAVE CAREER

There are growing indications that the Bush Administration is in trouble, not only in Iraq and Afghanistan, but more threateningly in America itself, where Bush's popularity has fallen from 75% to 55% in the past few weeks.

There are reports of discontent among the troops in Iraq and growing numbers of suicides.

With their sons and daughters dying daily in guerrilla attacks, American's are now becoming more frightened of being bogged down in a hostile country than of the terrorist threat against which Bush has pledged to defend them.

A rapid revision of the pecking order in the White House is going on, with the hawks wrong footed by the unraveling of their thesis on Iraq. They were true believers, and are stunned by the fact that it has not worked out.

Meanwhile in London, MPs have returned to Westminster and are in no mood to be generous. Tony Blair faces fresh scrutiny of Britain's role in the rapidly souring peace.

One key mistake both Bush and Blair made was to assume that once Baghdad fell France and Germany would relent and offer peacekeeping troops.

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THE PLOD

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file

Volume 6 Issue 4 July/August 2003

CREAN'S WIN POSES A DILEMMA FOR HOWARD

Now that Simon Crean has been confirmed as Leader of the Labor Party by an impressive majority it is imperative that the core principles of Labor Policy be released to the Australian people as soon as possible.



Crean's victory was all the more important as he was opposed by most sections of the press and elec-

tronic media, which had campaigned strenuously for Kim Beazley.

It is the desire of the anti Labor forces to retain the Liberal/National government of Howard in office and will do everything in their power to do so.

However, it is clear that if Howard is defeated, which is now most likely in view of his anti-people record, then the Australian ruling class prefers Beazley as leader of the Labor Party.

As Barry Jones, a former Federal President of the Labor Party commented, Kim Beazley is closer to the Liberal Party and John Howard than he is to me as President of the Labor Party.

Howard's record puts him off side with ever growing sections of the Australian people.

He introduced the General Services Tax (GST), which he said he would not do, to tax the working people on their every

day essentials, including food, and then used it to give fantastic tax reductions to the rich and corporate section of society.

In the recent Budget the Howard government continues its attack on the working class and sections of small business and working farmers.

The Howard government is out to destroy Medibank and to force families into high cost private medical schemes.

It is the policy of the Howard government to put tertiary education beyond the reach of working class and poor families.

In the area of foreign affairs the Howard government is taking Australia into a quagmire led by Bush and Blair.

Howard and the Liberal/National Government took Australia into the war in Iraq on the false and fraudulent claim that Iraq had "weapons of mass destruction" (WMD) and against world opinion and the United Nations Security Council.

Iraq has never at anytime posed a threat to Australian security and has been a stable market for our wheat, meat and other products and there has never any problem of payment.

This market is now being lost to our "American ally", who with their heavily subsidised agriculture and rural industry is able to under-cut Australia's wheat and meat trade.

With Crean undertaking to restore Medibank, make tertiary education accessible to all, plus the clean-up of the Murray River Labor is almost a certainty to win the next elections.

AMERICAN BOSS TO SELL OFF IRAQI STATE PROPERTY

The real purpose of the Bush, Blair and Howard invasion and occupation of Iraq is now beginning to emerge. It has nothing to do with any altruistic motives on the part of the invaders as they have tried to have the people of the world believe.

It now transpires that Iraq has a very wide government owned industrial base which make products ranging from packaged foods, steel and oil.

When George W Bush and his cohorts called for a change of regime in Iraq it was to seize control of the Iraqi economy and prevent any further development of publicly owned "means of production" and to take control of Iraqi oil resources.

Iraq is a glittering prize for the moribund American economy and Bush had no difficulty in inveigling the support of Blair and Howard, both of whom are opposed to publicly owned industry and are privatising such assets in Britain and Australia.

L. Paul Bremer III, America's boss in Iraq has announced his intention to dismantle that country's publicly owned economy by selling off government run enterprises and introducing new laws to encourage private capitalist investment.

American oil companies led by Exxon Mobil and Chevron-Texaco are the front runners to get control of Iraqi oil resources.

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NICK IN DEEP TROUBLE

Nick Bollkus must be the greatest raffle-ticket salesman the Labor Party has ever had.



When Nick flogged \$9880 worth of "tickets" to Filipino fugitive Dante Tan's company,

Nick considered he had pulled off a master stroke. It being under \$10,000 he would not have to report raffle ticket sales to the inquisitive Australia Electoral Commission.

Nick handed in the cheque along with his extra "ticket" money making a total of \$11,000 to the ALP office.

It seems Nick forgot to tell the ALP how the amount was made up, which has now led to the ALP being accused of "money laundering" by Liberal Party muck-raker Tony Abbott.

As leaders of the Bollkus group of the Machine faction which runs the SA ALP, Nick's supporters Ministers Pat Conlon and Jay Weatherill are having a hard time trying to justify and lessen Nick's damaging impact on the Labor Party.

Its now looks as through Nick Bollkus can say good-bye to any hope of being endorsed for a further six (6) years as a Labor Party senator.

Nick has now done enough harm to the Party and certainly has not helped to make Simon Crean's leadership any easier.

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MACHINE IN TURMOIL

There are increasing signs that cracks are beginning to appear in the Machine faction in the SA ALP.

Pat Conlon leader of the Bollkus aligned segment is angry at losing the Police portfolio to Kevin Foley top honshu of the right wing group.

Conlon's attempt to justify the increased electricity rates has not helped his standing.

With Mike away overseas a new time "bomb" has exploded in the Machine's midst.

The Libs began with pesky questions in the House concerning the behaviour of the Attorney General Michael Atkinson.

The Acting Premier Kevin Foley fumbled his replies and is counting his "sleeps", so as to hand the "hot potato" to Mike on his return.

BUSH - BLAIR - HOWARD MASTERS OF DECEPTION

With the "coalition of the willing", made up of Bush, Blair and Howard in nominal control of Iraq the perpetrators of the invasion are becoming concerned about their credibility.

Having waged an unjustified war against a sovereign country and then welshing on their own sponsored Security Council resolution 1441, they have every reason to be concerned.

Bush and his cohorts, along with Blair and Howard lied to the people by claiming that Iraq had "weapons of mass destruction" (WMD) and was a threat to world peace.

As a result of their murderous assault on Iraq, thousands of innocent people were killed.

Now having been in occupation of Iraq for 3 months and despite 1400 specialists looking for WMD no such weapons have been found.

One former member of the American Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) has said if WMD are to be found they will have to plant them.

It is no wonder that Bush, Powell, Cheney and Rumsfeld along with Blair, Straw, Howard and Downer have absolutely no credibility and stand exposed as charlatans and liars of the worst type.

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AMWU MEMBERS WANT IMPROVED CONDITIONS

Members of the Australian Manufacturing Workers Union in Victoria have taken the first steps in support of a "Log of Claims" which they are presenting to their employers.

The "Log of Claims" which are well within the capacity of industry to meet include:

A 13% increase in pay rates over the life of the new enterprise agreement, a 36 hour week, paid maternity leave, a scheme to safeguard entitlements, regulation of casual employment and other long overdue improvements in their working lives.

As anticipated Tony Abbott, Federal Workplace Relations Minister is trying to inflame the position by encouraging the bosses to oppose the claims.

Union members in other states will be adopting similar claims and tactics.

SOCIAL SECURITY - MEANS FIGHTING FOR JOBS

As Howard and the Liberal/National Party continues to follow Bush along the path to war, the poorest and most disadvantaged sections of the Australian people are being neglected. And it is spreading.

Unemployment, lack of jobs is critical across Australia and despite promises to do something about creating jobs nothing is done.

Hopelessness is growing in wide sections of the community as they seek for jobs that are not there.

Every able bodied person is entitled to a worthwhile job as a right, along with a proper medical service and shelter.

Society is at a crossroads. For the first time in human history, we have the technology to feed, clothe, house and provide medical care to every human being across the whole world.

Instead of being used to provide a better life for the people, technology is being used for the enrichment of the capitalist class and their lackeys, whilst the gap between the rich and poor is growing.

The "safety net" is disappearing, the health care system is in a state of crisis and good paying jobs are leaving Australia only to be replaced with minimum wage work, and in many cases with no jobs at all.

We are in a new time. A new class of poor is emerging today. Due to globalisation, the structure of the Australian economy has changed.

Industries that used to provide working people with a decent living are now surviving by cheapening labour and replacing human labour with technology.

Australia no longer needs many of its workers. This is resulting in prolonged unemployment, layoffs, lack of quality health care, homelessness and unaffordable child care.

How do we address this huge and growing problem?

The working class must strengthen their democratic organisations such as the trade unions and political parties and then be vigilant and determined in insuring that their representatives carry out their decisions.

**AN EARLY ELECTION?**

There could be a Federal election before Xmas. All the necessary requirements are in place.

Howard and his cohorts have been busily piling up legislation which can serve as a "trigger".

With the position of Howard and the Liberal Party eroding by the day as more and more people realise that Australia's economic state is on the slide.

Howard knows that he is caught between a "rock and a hard place". If he waits until the middle of next year the position will most likely be worse as the economy continues to slide and people experience the full effects of his budget.

This means there is a very real chance that Howard could go for an election in November and which might be his best chance of winning.

Howard is a cunning politician and knows the longer Crean and his supporters have to develop and canvas their policies the surer it will be that he will be defeated.

Howard and his henchmen are playing up the line that there will no election before the middle of next year.

Any statement from Howard and Co with regard to elections must be treated with caution as Howard is unreliable and without any credibility.

Labor should prepare and be ready for any announcements about early elections.

**THE QUIET ACHIEVERS**

Even with the turmoil and disruption being wrought on the Rann Government and Labor by the Machine faction, most Ministers are diligently running their departments, despite having their funds cut.

Two such portfolios are the Dept of Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation administered by Terry Roberts and the Dept of Social Justice, Housing, Youth and Status of Women administered by Ms Stephanie Key.

These Ministers are at the "coal face" so to speak and have to deal with the most unfortunate and disadvantaged people in society and who in some cases are in need of urgent assistance.

Terry Roberts and Ms Key go about their tasks with the minimum of fuss and maximum efficiency.

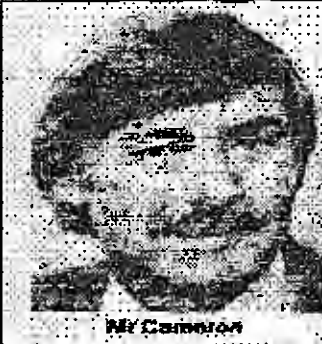
Both are excellent role models and are examples of what can be achieved by considerate and compassionate Ministers in handling the more difficult areas that the Government has to attend too.

Mike Rann, the Premier knew what was required of Ministers in these departments, having himself served some of his early political apprenticeship in such areas.

In the circumstances he appointed the right people to these two portfolios, but no doubt Mike will be having a hard look at the record of some of the "show ponies" so much in the news lately.

**REFORM OF LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL LONG OVERDUE**

When Terry Cameron walked out of the joint sitting of the South Australia Parliament, which approved the appointment of Ms Michelle Lensink to replace Ms Diana Laidlaw, the Speaker Peter Lewis had hit a "raw nerve" with the Hon Terry Cameron.



Mr Cameron

The Speaker is widely known for his support of a fundamental reform of the Legislative Council and which is supported by democratically thinking people.

No person should sit and vote in any democratic parliament who is not elected by the people.

The present system of replacing retiring or deceased members by appointment is contrary to every democratic principle and is leading to abuse by political parties.

One argument used by supporters of this "undemocratic" system is that it would be too expensive to hold an election which would embrace the whole state.

If "democracy" has a cost and the state can't afford the present "set-up" then the "set-up" must be changed. The democratic rights of electors should not be denied.

Electors preferences change, even over short periods of time and this is what leads to changes in government.

If expense is the prime reason for retaining the present "undemocratic" system, then the state should be divided into smaller areas from which Legislative Council members can be elected should a vacancy occur from any reason.

The Hon. Terry Cameron was originally appointed to the Council under this system by the Australian Labor Party to replace an elected Labor candidate who had resigned.

During the debate over the sale of ETSA, Cameron deserted the Labor Party and supported John Olsen and the Liberal Party in selling ETSA.

Cameron then resigned from the Labor Party but hung on to the Council position which rightly belonged to the Labor Party.

**FOLEY CALLS IN POLICE ANTI-CORRUPTION SQUAD**

Ever since the formation of the "Machine" faction in the South Australian Branch of the Australian Labor Party it has been the cause of disruption and turmoil among members in the Branch.

The trouble began when the Machine endeavoured to force long time Party members Ralph Clarke and Murray DeLaine to toe the line laid down by the Machine.

When they refused to do so they were hounded out of the Party and replaced by Machine stooges.

Clarke took the SA Party to the SA Supreme Court and was successful in exposing widespread Branch stacking and other illegal activities.

However, in the State elections that followed the gravity and dangers arising from the Machine's actions did not register fully with the electors with the result that Clarke and DeLaine were defeated when standing as "independents".

We now find that the Machine is splintering and one of the ring-leaders in the attack on Ralph Clarke, Michael Atkinson has been forced to resign as Attorney General and the SA Police called in to look into claims of widespread corruption.

It appears from press reports that Ralph Clarke had a defamation case against the State's Chief Lawman Attorney General Michael Atkinson and that Clarke was induced to withdraw the action.

The beneficiary of Clarke withdrawing his action for defamation was Michael Atkinson.

The inference now to be drawn from press reports is that Ralph Clarke was promised some sort of deal by the Government or by some of the Ministers, that he would be appointed to a compensating position on one of the "boards" being set up.

They then "welshed" on the deal. It appears there was some soul-searching within the government and at a secret meeting it was resolved to say nothing and hope it would go away. That was in November 2002.

Now someone has breathed word about the affair to the Liberal Party, hence the pesky questions to the Acting Premier Kevin Foley and the resignation of Attorney General Michael Atkinson.

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THE CAMPAIGN OF THE BULLIES

George W Bush, Tony Blair and John Howard do not fight like men. Nor do they behave like human beings. They are the worst examples of nature which from time to time produce anomalies in the species. Anomalies which are as horrific to contemplate as Medusa in ancient times.



George W Bush

As with Medusa when one looks at them one risks turning to stone. To look into Bush, Blair and Howard one gets a glimpse into the mindset of pure unadulterated evil. These are not men of god as they like to proclaim.

They have no regard whatsoever for human life and just like the fascist forces unleashed by Hitler, claim they are liberators and have the well-being of the Iraqi people at heart.

Their military strike perpetrated on Iraq and acting outside the auspices of the United Nations Organisation, makes it illegal and all casualties are a war crime. However, for these three

bullies, international law means nothing.

After all they had the Iraqis destroy what few weapons they had left and then attacked them.

Kicking a man when he is down is probably the most cowardly and despicable act that a "man" can commit. Bush, Blair and Howard are cowardly incubi whose ambitions hide behind the outer image of legality.

Their bullying which was used in the UN Security Council with threats that aid programmes would be suspended for countries that did not vote for their war proposal. This was about as low as international diplomacy could descend.

These three bullies have placed in doubt in the minds of millions of thinking people as to whether there is any difference between an innocent Iraqi civilian being murdered by an American/British/Australian pilot and an innocent American/British/Australian civilian being murdered in an event in New York/London/Bali.

The logic of these three bullies is that if someone opposes their war, they are supporting tyranny. Tyranny is launching a criminal attack on a sovereign nation, tyranny is ceasing to use diplomatic channels just because the debate is not going their way.

By their actions these three bullies have awakened the hatred of millions of people and unfortunately they will reap their just rewards in kind. That is the law of the jungle and this is the law that these three bullies choose to follow.

George W Bush, Tony Blair and John Howard are the worst specimens of the species that mother nature could produce.



THE CAMPAIGN TO DENIGRATE SIMON CREAN

There is a concerted campaign to denigrate and undermine the leadership of the Federal Parliamentary Labor Party of Simon Crean. The campaign is being orchestrated by the Murdoch press, Kim Beazley and a few anti-working class professionals.

Crean earned the hostility of these people when he opposed the involvement of Australian military forces in the American/British attack on Iraq in defiance of the United Nations Security Council.

Since then Crean has been under constant attack from these anti-working class forces, who have employed various ploys to undermine his standing in the Labor Party and the community.

One tactic has been to try and encourage some elements in the PLP to challenge Crean in the caucus. Crean stands out as the person best qualified to lead the PLP, and the anti-labor forces know that. That's why they are so keen to replace him with someone more amenable to their thinking.

Members should be very suspicious of the "polls" being conducted about Simon Crean and Labor Party leadership by the media bosses and remember that "polls" can and are manipulated by the media bosses when they desire a particular result.



MISSING ARMS CAST DOUBT ON IRAQI WAR

The orders to strip down to regular battle dress early in the invasion of Iraq was recognition by the American/British commanders that the threat from Iraqi "weapons of mass destruction" was non-existent.

The total lack of chemical and biological weapons on the battlefields, combined with the inability of the American/British forces to uncover any of the massive stockpiles of prohibited weapons or weapons manufacturing capability, raises disturbing questions about what was the principal justification for the American/British/Australian led military action. Disarming a recalcitrant dictator.



Donald Rumsfeld

At this point in time the inescapable fact is that the allegations of Iraqi weapons of mass destruction used by Bush/Blair/Howard to sustain the legitimacy of their Iraqi intervention is invalid.

The American Administration in particular is going to be very "embarrassed when it turns out they have nothing to declare" said former intelligence analyst Eugene Betit.

Former CIA station chief Ray Close said: "I'm hoping they will be embarrassed into acknowledging a role for some independent body, and who could it be but the UN?"

As the "smoking gun" continued to elude US sleuths in Iraq, UN chief weapons inspector Hans Blix called for experts to return to Iraq to determine whether the weapons allegations had any foundation.

Washington has so far rejected calls for the return of United Nations weapons inspectors. Rumsfeld the Pentagon Boss, wants the US army to continue to look for WMD. And says:

"They will have people with them who will validate things, they will have the ability to take pictures, and to make sure that the control over any piece of evidence is as clear as it possibly can be."

Retired CIA intelligence analyst Ray McGovern commented: "Some of my colleagues are virtually certain that there will be some weapons of mass destruction found, *even through they might have to be planted*".



WHO THE IRAQ WAR IS GOOD FOR:

George Schultz was all grins when Bechtel Corporation was awarded the prime contract for the reconstruction of Iraq.

Schultz, a former secretary of state under Ronald Reagan and a perennial heavyweight with the powerful Bechtel Group, where he had previously reigned as president and is now a board member and senior counsellor.

Schultz has long advocated a war with Iraq. Schultz was chairman of the fiercely prowar Committee for the Liberation of Iraq, which is committed to moving beyond the mere political liberation of the oil-rich country to the all important and conveniently profitable "reconstruction of its economy".

Last week Mr Schultz's Bechtel Group was able to demonstrate exactly what wars are good for. The Bush administration gave Bechtel the principal contract for \$680 million. This puts Bechtel in the drivers seat for the long term reconstruction of Iraq, which could cost \$100 billion or more.

Bechtel essentially has been given a license to make money. The license was granted in a closed-door process that was restricted to a handful of politically connected American companies. There is now widespread criticism and opposition to this loathsome process of awarding Iraqi contracts.

Senator Ron Wyden, Democrat in the US Congress, is sponsoring a "bipartisan bill" requiring a public explanation of any decision to award any Iraqi construction contracts without a "fully open, competitive bidding process".



THE FREE TRADE SCAM

The "new world order," "globalisation" and "free trade" are the current slogans of the imperialist bourgeoisie but represent nothing new. Over 150 years ago, Marx and Engels pointed out capitalism's intent to exploit the whole world. It is still doing so and with a vengeance.

The multinational corporations and their puppet governments are waging an unending onslaught against both the working class in the advanced industrial countries and more brutally against the people of the under developed countries.

At the United Nations World Summit on Sustainable Development held last year in Johannesburg some startling statistics were disclosed.

World forests are disappearing at the rate of 14 million hectares per year. Two-thirds of the world's agricultural land is eroding away. 40 percent of the world's people lack adequate fresh water. 1.1 billion have no safe water at all and 3 million a year will die because of it.

Billions of tons of pollution are dumped yearly into the oceans killing fish and other marine wild life. 12 percent of birds and 25 percent of mammals are facing extinction.

But it is not just the physical environment that is under assault by US imperialism and its allies. The Bush administration, along with the IMF and World Bank policies are waging an unrelenting and economic war against all peoples of the world.

The average Gross Domestic Product in imperialist countries per capita is US\$24,340, in the world at large \$6490 and in sub-Saharan Africa \$1450.

The policies of the developed countries, hiding behind the slogan of "free markets" are designed to actually "fix" the markets in favor of imperialism and to exploit the poor countries by transferring capital from them to the imperialist countries.

The method is simple. The poor countries obtain loans from rich countries to prop them up. In order to qualify they must agree to deregulate their economies, end subsidies to their own businesses and farms, privatise public services and assets and allow prices to be set by unfair competition with imported goods from the rich countries.

The US and other developed countries continue to subsidise their farmers and businesses and to erect trade barriers against undeveloped countries.

According to the New York Times, the chief economist of the World Bank estimated that European cows are each subsidised to the tune of \$2.50 a day. Japanese cows rate \$7.00 a day. 75 percent of people in sub-Saharan Africa live on less than \$2 a day.

These methods are so outrageous that voices against these practices have been raised world wide and in the United Nations, but in the meantime famine continues to stalk Africa on a massive scale.



BOLKUS SHOULD MAKE WAY FOR NEW BLOOD

Labor Party members have been staggered by Nick Bolkus demand that he be endorsed for a further "six more years in politics" which is in contradiction to his position of a few years ago when he opposed other sitting members being re-endorsed, and campaigned for "new blood" in the endorsing of candidates for parliament.

Despite Nick's self adulation and claim that "I've got the energy, the drive, together with the experience," Nick should now go and make room for "new blood".

Having been in the senate for 24 years, its reasonable to ask why Nick hasn't shown some of that "energy and drive" during those years.

Senator Nick Bolkus

Personally discovered and politically pushed by Clyde Cameron, Nick has never "fired" in the senate and how he remained a member for so long will be forever a mystery.

Nick is entitled to a taxpayer funded pension and/or a \$1 million superannuation payout and now some of his colleagues of the Machine faction are getting toey and reckon it is their turn to have a suck at the "orange".

Nick is now calling on those people who he helped in the past to enter Parliament and is making it clear that it is "pay-back time." Nick is looking for their support in retaining his lucrative sinecure as a senator in the Federal Parliament.



AMERICAN TO OVERSEE IRAQI OIL INDUSTRY

The Bush administration is according to the Wall Street Journal to install an American as chairman of the management team to control the Iraqi Oil industry.

The former chief executive of the US division of Royal Dutch Shell, Phillip Carroll is to have the job.

Carroll will head a board of 15 members which will make decisions regarding investment, capital spending and production, all decisions are to be vetted by US officials. It is planned that some existing and expatriate Iraqis will be on the board.

There is some talk in American quarters that Iraq will pull out of Opec thereby allowing Iraq to produce oil in excess of its quota.

This is aimed at destroying Opec's control of oil pricing and with Iraq oil controlled by the US, will return price control of oil to the American companies.

With American corporations controlling the reconstruction of Iraq, a nice little set up is envisaged. American companies free to charge top rates for reconstruction and oil prices set by US companies Iraq is about to experience what American colonisation means.



IS NORTH KOREA NEXT FOR AMERICA'S "LIBERATION"

With the fall of Baghdad, the bloody slaughter and "shock and awe" phases of the American "liberation" of Iraq has come to an end.

The full American armada of B1, B2 and B52 bombers and carrier task forces in the Persian Gulf are being released for redeployment elsewhere.

At the conference in Beijing on 23/24 April the American delegate called for, what amounts to the unilateral disarmament of North Korea a proposal which was rejected by the North Korea delegation. It was also revealed that North Korea had a nuclear device.

No doubt North Korea has noticed that a tactic used by America in dealing with Iraq, was to get the United Nations Security Council to have Iraq disarm, when this was completed America and the "willing" coalition attacked.

North Korea seems to think that it is threatened by the presence of 38,000 American troops along its border and occupying South Korea.

North Korea has proposed that America and North Korea sign a "non-aggression" pact, but the proposal is rejected by the Americans.

While America is expressing alarm that North Korea has a nuclear device and could gain more in the future, the latest count from America shows that it has 10,600 nuclear devices. This is 2000 more than any other country.



THE BATTLE FOR CONTROL IN IRAQ

There appears to be something of a three way struggle under way in Iraq for control of this oil rich country.

Two of the contestants are American as represented by the Pentagon and its boss Donald Rumsfeld and the State department headed by Colin Powell.

The President George W Bush says he favors a democratic government for Iraq and appears to lean towards the set-up of Donald Rumsfeld..

Rumsfeld wants to impose on the Iraqi people a government headed by Ahmed Chalabi.

Chalabi has been brought back to Iraq by Rumsfeld after an absence of 45 years. Chalabi is wanted in Jordan for embezzling a Jordan Bank for \$30 million.

Rumsfeld has supplied Chalabi with a private army of some hundreds of guards trained in Hungary by the US.

Powell is reported to oppose Chalabi being involved in any government set up in Iraq. But he looks like losing out to Rumsfeld.

The Iraqi people are resolutely opposed to Chalabi and will have nothing to do with him.

It is going to be a test of just how committed to democratic concepts are the American occupiers or are they going to impose Rumsfeld's placeman on them.





THE PLOD

- 5 MAR 2003



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WHEELS COMING OFF BUSH'S WAR CHARIOT

The wheels look like they could be coming off the Bush Gang's war chariot leaving Tony Blair and John Howard staggering around in no man's land.

Blair and Howard have committed Britain and Australia military resources to supporting the Bush gang's latest adventure of a war on Iraq in order to take over the Iraqi oil resources. In neither case have Blair or Howard sought the authority of their elected parliaments for their treacherous actions.

The American economy is in dire straits, with widespread corruption and fraud rampant in the higher echelons of many of the top corporations and with bankruptcies at an all time high.

It is against this background that the Bush gang has decided on the destruction of Iraq and the take over of its oil resources.

This is classical capitalist class thinking and behaviour. The action of the USA in its grab for Iraq oil, has led to a sharpening of the conflict between the European and American capitalists.

At present this conflict of interests is confined in the United Nations and the Security Council, where the Bush gang delegate Colin Powell, is seeking Security Council approval for war on Iraq.

The European group led by France and Germany are seeking to protect their interests by supporting an increase in the number of "weapon inspectors" along with an extension of their search time for "weapons of mass destruction" (WMD) in Iraq.

Whilst in the past, as witness the two world wars in the last century, capitalists have been able to impose their wars on the people with impunity, there is a third dimension this time and people throughout the world are determined to stop the war.

Experience has taught, that it is the ordinary people on both sides who suffer and modern war is waged in such a manner that it is civilians, women and children who are the principle victims.

Massive demonstrations throughout the world indicate a unity of purpose by the decent, honest people in all countries to impose peace on the warmongers.

Some of the biggest demonstrations have been in the USA, including New York, Washington and San Francisco.

In Italy 3 million people demonstrated in Rome, in Spain 4 million demonstrated in Madrid, Barcelona and other cities. These two countries are claimed by Bush to support his war plans, but like Tony Blair and John Howard they speak without the support of their people.



BUSH AND BLAIR RATTLED BY ANTI-WAR MARCHES

People in 600 cities around the world, in 50 countries, over the week-end 15/16 February, turned out in a massive display of support for peace and opposition to the war on Iraq plans being hatched by Bush, Blair and Howard.

In question is not the character of Saddam Hussein, but rather the notion that war cannot be waged without a valid pretext.

BBH will endeavour to refute the claims, but there can be no refutation that people of the world, whatever their colour or creed came together in Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia and North and South America to show BBH who wish to wage war against Iraq that they are isolated and wrong.

The BBH clique continue to claim that Iraq has "weapons of mass destruction" WMD despite reports that Hans Blix and his Weapon Inspectors have been unable to locate any.

Scott Ritter, an American who served as Chief Weapons Inspector during the 1990s says "While we were never able to provide 100% certainty regarding the disposition of Iraq's proscribed weaponry, we did ascertain a 90/95% level of verified disarmament. This figure takes into account the destruction or dismantling of every major factory associated with prohibited weapons manufacture, all significant items of production equipment and the majority of the weapons and agents produced by Iraq".



THE BOTTOM LINE ON IRAQ

No one in the Bush administration embodies this bottom line mentality more than Dick Cheney. The vice-president is one of those ideological purists who never let little things like logic, morality, or mass murder interfere with the single-minded pursuit of profitability.

His on again, off again relationship with Saddam Hussein is a text book example of what modern moralists condemn as "situational ethics," an extremely convenient code that allows you to do what you want when you want and still feel good about it.

During the first Bush war, when Cheney was Secretary of Defence, they dubbed Saddam Hussein as "Hitler revisited."

Following that war, Cheney moved into the private sector and suddenly things between him and Saddam warmed up. Now in the CEO's seat at Halliburton he helped Saddam reconstruct Iraq's war-torn oil industry with \$73 million worth of equipment and services and became Saddam's biggest such supplier.

Kinda nice how that worked out for Cheney, really oversee the destruction of an industry that you profit from by rebuilding.

American businessmen are nothing if not flexible. Some of Cheney's former cronies are now at the head of the line of companies expected to reap the estimated \$2 billion it will take to rebuild Iraq's oil infrastructure following its anticipated destruction by American bombing.

Cheney has obtained a very lucrative contract for Halliburton, a 10 year contract to provide catering services for the U.S. army.

As Lenin once scoffed "a capitalist would sell rope to his own hangman."

A country's national interest always runs second when pitted against the rapacious desires of "special interests" and the politicians they buy with massive campaign contributions.

Oil and gas companies donated \$26.7 million to Bush and his cohorts during the 2000 election and \$18 million in 2002.

It has come as no surprise that Cheney and his staff are holding meetings with executives from Exxon-Mobil, Chevron-Texaco, Conoco-Phillips and Halliburton to discuss who would get what in a post Saddam carve-up of Iraq.

As they say "to the victors - and big buck donors - goes the sp-oil-s."

At what point in time does subverting the national security in the name of profitability turn from ugly business into high treason?



GUANTANAMO: AMERICA'S CONCENTRATION CAMP

There have been 14 attempted suicides at Guantanamo concentration camp. This is an indication of the psychological state of the detainees at this camp. Which is maintained by the USA in Cuba for political reasons.

These prisoners were taken in Afghanistan, were transported to Guantanamo, dressed in orange shell-suits and held in conditions of high security under suspicion, but no charges, of belonging to Al-Qaeda or the Taliban regime have been made.

The psychological problems result from these people being treated as sub-humans by a regime which does not concede them the right to the status of "prisoner of war", which would entitle them to the protection of a number of conventions, including the Geneva Convention.

Guantanamo is an American concentration camp on Cuban soil, a country which America says is totalitarian. What an excellent example the USA sets. Cuba is democratic and practices democracy.

The American conduct at Guantanamo brings back memories of Belsen, Dachau and Auschwitz.



Dick Cheney

POPE JOHN PAUL II - IRAQ PEACE PLAN

Pope John Paul II stressed the need to settle the Iraqi crisis peacefully during a meeting with UN Secretary General Kofi Annan on Tuesday 18th February.

The Pope spoke of the need to avoid further suffering for the people of Iraq and considered that the crisis should be solved in accordance with international law and any action should be taken within the auspices of the United Nations Security Council.

The Pope's special envoy Cardinal Roger Etchegaray was back in the Vatican after a five day visit to Baghdad, where he had meetings at the highest levels, including one with President Saddam Hussein.

Cardinal Etchegaray was present at the meeting of Pope John Paul II and Kofi Annan and stated that he was optimistic that a peaceful resolution of the crisis would be found.

**COLIN POWELL LOSING PROPAGANDA WAR**

Diplomacy has never been a strong point with any American administration and the Bush outfit is no exception.



Colin Powell

Rumsfeld's snide reference to "Old Europe" and Powell's insinuations of cowardice have done little to improve transatlantic relations.

Colin Powell showed his frustration in a veiled attack on France, Germany and Belgium, because these three countries are leading the campaign for a peaceful solution to the Iraqi crisis.

Powell's simplistic approach to crisis management is acceptable to the cowboy mentality of George W Bush.

That America's foremost diplomat, the Secretary of State, can use such language is a telling example of how frustrated Washington is becoming at not being given a free hand to attack Iraq.

Rumsfeld and Cheney are the two most influential members of the Bush administration and both are rabid war-mongers. Both have at times coaxed up to Saddam Hussein hoping to get him to agree to "co-operate" with American oil corporations to exploit Iraq's oil.

As a sweetener America provided Saddam Hussein with massive amounts of armaments of all categories, plus unlimited access to the materials necessary to develop a variety of lethal gases along with the know-how to develop seven (7) strains of anthrax.

It was only when Saddam Hussein insisted on dealing with America on a basis of equality that America decided he had to go.

The trap was set by April Glaspie, the American ambassador in Baghdad from 1987 to 1990. She was instructed by James Baker, the Secretary of State at the time to advise Saddam Hussein that America was not interested in wars or conflicts between Arab countries.

Hussein took this as the "green light" to occupy Kuwait, which is historically a part of Iraq. This was the trigger which led to the Gulf war, sanctions, and the continuing bombing for the past 12 years of Iraq by American and British planes.

To cover the present intensification of the campaign against Iraq, America now says it wants to rid Iraq of "weapons of mass" destruction (WMD) and to liberate the Iraqi people.

This of course is a "sham". Each time that Iraq agrees to one set of demands master-minded by Bush and his cohorts, Bush shifts the goal-posts and present a new set of demands.

If America really wants to liberate the Iraqi people, it should lift the sanctions and stop the daily bombing of Iraqi facilities.

It has been stressed by former United Nations officials that upwards of 500,000 Iraqis have been killed or perished since the end of the Gulf war as a direct result of American policy.

George W Bush the American president and Tony Blair, the British prime minister could by their behaviour in the Middle East precipitate a world war.

The Bush administration along with Tony Blair and John Howard constitute the greatest danger to world peace as they mischievously scheme and plan their war on Iraq.

**ACTU CAMPAIGN FOR \$24.60 A WEEK ON TARGET**

We already let the union improve safety, productivity, profits and morale. Now you want to improve wages too?"

The ACTU campaign for a \$24.60 a week wage increase has met with support throughout the Trade Union movement but as anticipated has bought the usual tirade against the Unions and workers by the Federal Workplace Relations Minister Tony Abbott.

Tony Abbott has a *social philosophy* that has its genesis from the time of the slave society and sees the modern working class in much the same manner as the slave owners saw and treated their slaves.

Abbott's idea is that modern day workers should leave it to their employers to decide under what conditions they work and the amount of the values that the workers create, that are handed back to the workers as wages.

The case prepared by Greg Combet, the ACTU Secretary is well within the ability of the economy to meet.

Abbott knows that, but so intense is his anti-working class bias and support for the exploiting class, that he has set out to influence the Australian Industrial Relations Commission by claiming that any increase should be no more than \$12.00 a week.

It is important that all Unions should bring Abbott's behaviour to the attention of their members, hold stop-work meetings on the job and get support and publicity supporting the ACTU claim.

To counter the claims of Abbott, the Judges and Commissioners on the AIRC must be made aware that there is widespread discussion and activity among the workers in support of the ACTU claim.

**PUBLIC TO HAVE SAY ON CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM**

Discussion papers for the forthcoming Constitutional Convention to be held in June 2003 are now available and will be forwarded to citizens on application to the Speaker in the S.A. Parliament.

The idea of a Constitutional Convention was initiated by the Speaker in the SA Parliament, Peter Lewis and enthusiastically endorsed by the Premier Mike Rann and the Treasurer Kevin Foley.

There is every reason for the people of South Australia to expect a number of democratic reforms to come out of such a Convention that has the support of such people.

One such reform is the need to bring the Legislative Council into accord with modern democratic belief in that no member should represent the people that has not been elected by the people.

As things are at present, should a member of the Legislative Council die, or resign for any reason at all between elections, the member is replaced by a person from that member's party.

This is a negation of the "democratic process" and this Convention is an opportunity to rectify this manifestly undemocratic practice.

The argument used by supporters of this undemocratic practice is that as members of the Legislative Council are elected by the whole state, it would cost too much to hold an election.

This is where delegates to the Convention should reject this contention and reduce the Legislative Council electorate from the whole state to a number of smaller electorate areas from which a replacement member can be elected at acceptable expense.

As the position stands at the present time both of the major parties are guilty of abusing the present system. Deals are made between individuals and factions which results in party hacks being awarded positions in the Legislative Council without any reference to the democratic rights of the people.



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FORMER LIBERAL SUPPORTER IN LABOR CABINET

The action by the Machine Faction leaders in the cabinet, Treasurer Kevin Foley and Energy Minister Pat Conlon in bringing Liberal Party supporter and Independent member for Mt Gambier, Rory McEwen into the Labor Government, is to say the least, a cause for bewilderment of "grassroots" Labor supporters.

It is realised that both Ministers are finding the going heavy in their respective portfolios and are looking to McEwen for support within Cabinet. Both ministers have picked up and are running with the policies of the former Liberal Government which no doubt appeals to Rory McEwen.

It's hard to see how bringing Rory McEwen into the Labor Government can enhance the prospects of any future Labor candidate for Mt Gambier.

McEwen has been handed the Local Government portfolio where his policy is contrary to Labor. McEwen is reported to advocate support for "outsourcing council work to private contractors" and which is opposed by The Australian Workers' Union and Australian Services Union, who cover workers in Local Government.

By taking the Local Government portfolio away from Minister Jay Weatherill, who had the confidence and support of the AWU and the ASU, Foley and Conlon are unlikely to consolidate any support from these two unions.

If it was considered that the cabinet needed to be enlarged by an additional minister, there are many Labor members who could have met the requirements.

Hon. Bob Sneath MLC who is well known in the South East of South Australia and particularly so in the Mt Gambier area is a former AWU organiser and Union Secretary who should have been sounded out. There is also Francis Bedford, Gay Thompson and Robyn Geraghty all of whom are cabinet material and whose dedication to Labor policy and principles is unquestioned.



PRIVATISATION A COSTLY FAILURE WORLD WIDE

Hailed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank as the solution to the capitalist system's problems, privatisation is proving an abject failure. Privatisation is adding to the accumulating problems now confronting the countries which have followed the IMF and World Bank advice.

The Howard Government has lost \$1.1 billion and faces future losses of \$6.3 billion through its policy of selling public assets such as Telstra to retire debt. This has been revealed by the Treasury's Office of Financial Management.

But the problem is everywhere, no one can guess where South Australia privatised Electricity will end, then there's privatised Water and Gas and public transport all beset with continually rising costs and diminished service to the public.

In Victoria the government is pumping millions into propping up the privatised public transport system. And now for good measure the Victorian public is to be treated to a rise in the cost of their privatised power supply.

In England the privatised rail system is plagued by accidents and breakdowns resulting in the British government continually bailing out the new owners with hefty injections of government funds.

Experience is showing that no privatised service such as, public transport which includes rail, urban and air, electric power generation and distribution, gas and water service or banking can compete with public ownership. In all cases private ownership is less effective and more expensive for the community.



QUOTATION FROM HISTORICAL ESSAYS AND STUDIES

"Power tends to corrupt and absolute power corrupts absolutely."

The ALP Machine faction could well ponder this quotation from the Essays and Studies by Lord Acton 1834-1902



DONALD RUMSFELD'S SHADY ROLE IN MIDDLE EAST

Donald Rumsfeld the American Defence Secretary and a leading hawk in the Bush War Administration, has had a long association with American intrigue and shady dealing in the Middle East and in particular with Iraq.

American interest in Iraq oil goes back into the late 1960 and early 1970.

Rumsfeld came on the scene in 1984 when he was sent by the American President Ronald Reagan to patch up things with Saddam Hussein and prevail upon him to attack Iran.

At the time America was still smarting from its humiliation at the hands of the Iranians.

Rumsfeld was successful in wooing Hussein, resulting in Iraq recognition by the US, the lifting of sanctions and the provision of war material.

Because of Rumsfeld's close connection with the American chemical industry, many believe that he passed on to Iraq the formulas which enabled Hussein to manufacture the gasses used in the war with Iran.

Rumsfeld was in and out of Iraq frequently during those years when Hussein was provided with satellite information disclosing the positions of Iranian forces.

At the conclusion of that war which finished in something of a stalemate, Hussein cast his eyes towards Kuwait which historically is part of Iraq.

In 1987, April Glaspie had been appointed ambassador to Iraq and on July 25, 1990 had a long interview with Saddam Hussein on instructions from US Secretary of State James Baker.

Ambassador Glaspie had been advised by the US Secretary of State, James Baker to advise Hussein that America was not interested in disputes between Arab/Arab states and had no special interest or agreement with Kuwait.

Hussein took this to be the "green light" to go ahead and invade Kuwait. Glaspie returned to America. Hussein had been set-up ready to be double crossed.

On July 31, 1990 two days before Hussein invaded Kuwait, John Kelly, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern affairs, testified to the US Congress: "United States has no commitment to defend Kuwait and the US has no intention of defending Kuwait if it is attacked by Iraq".

American oil companies by "hook or by crook" are determined to take control of Iraq oil and Bush is now preparing to bomb and destroy Iraq and its people to give them that control.



US OFFICIALS GRAB IRAQI DECLARATION

The contempt with which US officials treat the United Nations Security Council was vividly demonstrated by US seizure of the 11,807 page report presented by the government of Iraq to the Council, as required by Resolution 1441, before it had been delivered to the UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan.

No one, can now be sure that the document being distributed to the members of the Security Council is the original as delivered by the Iraq Government.

The US claims that it does not want Syria, in particular, to have access to details of nuclear weapons programmes and that only the five permanent members of the Security Council, namely, Russia, France, China, Britain and the US should have access to the US approved report.

The representatives of the other ten countries which voted for Resolution 1441, should get a censored version with sections deleted by the US.

It appears that the deleted sections reveal details extremely embarrassing to the US. That US Corporations, Government Agencies and Nuclear Laboratories helped illegally to arm Iraq.

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan has described the American action in seizing the report as "unfortunate" and hoped it would not be repeated.



BUSH WANTS TO SET UP AN AMERICAN EMPIRE

The Nineteenth Century was the century of the British Empire and if George W Bush gets his way the twenty-first century will be the era of the America Empire.

There was a time when the British capitalist class use to toast "that the sun never sets in the British Empire".

The Americans resented the economic policies of Britain, particularly the right to tax the colonies, with the exclusion of the colonists from participation in political decisions affecting their interests. This awakening and resentment by American colonists eventually spread throughout the Empire.

The two World Wars in the twentieth century gave America the opportunity to mint money by supplying arms to the warring nations in the first World War 1914-1918.

Then, as luck would have it for America, along came Adolf Hitler who imposed another war on Great Britain in 1939 and which continued until 1945. This war solved America's economic problems and enabled it to resume minting money.

The Americans did participate with Britain in this war under a "lend-lease" agreement, but there remains a wide-spread belief that if Japan had not bombed Pearl Harbour, America would not have entered the war. America does not like committing American troops to ground warfare.

These two wars 1914-18 and 1939-45 have gave the Americans the taste of blood and power. Great Britain crippled by the 1939-45 war has been relegated to a subsidiary power in the comity of nations and now hopes to gain some privilege and benefits by siding with the new Emperor, George W Bush.

Under the leadership of the American President George W Bush, Vice-President Dick Cheney and Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, it is the American plan to take over and exploit the Iraq oil fields.

To cover this plot Bush and his cohorts supported by Tony Blair from Britain are claiming that Iraq has "weapons of mass destruction", but "Weapon Inspectors" in Iraq cannot find any. Bush and Blair have both been exposed as consummate liars, but they persist with their claims.

The Iraqis have challenged Bush and Blair to disclose where these mythical weapons are hidden and to send in the CIA to help discover them.

Bush and Blair have not taken up the challenge. In the meantime "Weapon Inspectors" have visited over 200 sites, but have found no WMD.

Bush and Blair have assembled 500 aircraft in the Persian Gulf region and unless stopped by the civilised world's opinion and the United Nations, they intend to carpet bomb Iraq back to the stone age and then send in an army of occupation.

Bush and Blair are now going down the same path as Hitler, sixty years ago. They hope to solve their economic and domestic social problems by taking Iraq's oil resources.

**ISRAEL CONTINUES GENICIDE OF PALESTINIANS**

With the total approval of George W Bush the American President, Israeli forces have continued the slaughter of Palestinians over the Christmas and New Year period.

Yassir Arafat the Palestinian Leader was denied the right to visit Bethlehem and the Jesus Christ Crib, by Ariel Sharon the Israeli Prime Minister and war criminal.

In past years it was usual for Arafat to visit Bethlehem, where Jesus Christ was born and where members of Christian and Muslim faiths pay homage during the Xmas period.

Netanyahu, Sharon's Foreign Minister has just returned from a trip around the capitals of Europe where he was trying to rally support for Israel's attack on Palestinians and the occupation of Arab land.

His trip was a monumental failure.

Israel now has over 200 settlements on Palestinian land, despite such occupation being illegal and contrary to decisions of the United Nations.

Israel is the most heavily armed country in the Middle East with the exception of the United States of America, which is not a Middle East Country. Israel is a nuclear armed state and has in excess of 200 nuclear bombs and long range rockets to deliver them. All thanks to the USA.

**CANDIDATES CAN SATIRE ELECTION OPPONENTS**

Because of a recent decision of the High Court, that voters have the democratic right to lampoon candidates in elections, judges of the South Australia judiciary will be required to bring their attitude and judgements into line with modern thinking.

The Australian Constitution has always had the inferred right of "free speech". But because it had not been tested and spelt out in detail reactionary judges and "cowboy" lawyers have taken advantage of the situation to penalise anyone who dares to criticise or expose anti-democratic behaviour.

The decision of the High Court should put a stop to these "bogus" claims for defamation arising from what is said in the lead-up too and during election campaigns.

This decision will apply not only in parliamentary elections, but also Trade Union, sporting club or other organisations where opposing views are put forward and canvassed during elections.

**ACTU TO LODGE CLAIM FOR WAGE RISE IN NEW YEAR**

The ACTU is to lodge a claim for a \$24.60 a week wage rise for 1.7 million award workers.

There is absolutely no reason why it should not be successful, providing the Trade Unions get behind the claim and take action to convince employers that it is in their interest to support the ACTU claim.

All the indications are that the claim is well within the ability for Australian financial and industrial resources to meet.

For instance the Commonwealth Remuneration Tribunal had no hesitation in awarding Federal Judges a 17% pay rise or roughly about \$40,000 a year.

To strengthen the ACTU claim Trade Union officials should get out and commence holding meetings of their members and explain the need for continuing action, with claims on their employers to start paying the claims before the Court approves.

There is nothing that helps the Industrial Court more to approving wage rises than to be advised that employers are already granting and paying the claims.

**CARMEN LAWRENCE RESIGNS FROM FRONT BENCH**

The decision of Dr Carmen Lawrence to resign from Federal Labor Opposition front bench will strengthen the ideological debate within the Party for a return to the traditional policies of the Party.

The Labor Party traditionally has always been a Party of compassion and understanding of people fleeing from oppression and war.

During the Hawke-Keating years the Party has veered to the "right" and has now reached a point where on important issues Labor policies are almost mirror images of Liberal-National Party policy.

Simon Crean now has the opportunity to assert an enlightened Leadership of the Labor Party which requires a break from the pro American anti Australia policies being foisted on Australia by Bush, Howard and Downer.

**ADELAIDE BRIGHTON CEMENT WORKERS NOT HAPPY**

Workers at Adelaide Brighton Cement have always been solid supporters of the Labor Party, and more so when the Party was in opposition.

When in opposition Labor party politicians made a point of visiting the pickets whenever the AWU workers were in conflict with the company.

During the recent 5 week dispute with Adelaide Brighton, the pickets would have appreciated a visit from their "political mates", but they were left and avoided like "shags" on a rock.



THE PLOD

JIM DOYLE

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CREAN WINS SUPPORT FOR COSMETIC CHANGE

Simon Crean has emerged the winner in the preliminary struggle within the Labor Party concerning a restructuring of a section of the Party Rules as outlined in the recommendations put forward by Neville Wran and Bob Hawke in their recent report.

The approved changes at this stage are cosmetic and have been designed to blunt the criticism emanating from the media and those sections of the general public under the ideological influence of the Liberal Party and other conservative sections of the community.

That has been the easy part. The difficult part will surface when at the next conference Labor will be required to formulate a political policy around issues which the working people can rally and are prepared to actively canvas and support.

One of the frequent criticisms of the Labor Party is that fundamentally there is no difference now between its policy and that of the Liberal Party and this has led to the dramatic drop in first preference votes for Labor in recent elections.

When Labor dumped its former policies of radical reform at Terrigal in January 1975 it created the circumstances which have led to the present situation in which Labor now finds itself.

The Labor Party grew out of the titanic struggles of the working class in the 1890's, when the issues were clear to the working people who saw the results of their labour enriching a small section of the community who did no productive labour.

While the position to-day may be blurred and is not as clear as it was in those early years, the end result of the peoples' labour is the same. The working people produce the "goods and services", while a parasitic band of exploiters reap the benefit.

There is a growing realisation in the community that "private enterprise" is incapable of providing jobs and a sustainable standard of living for the people. For this reason there must be intervention by the "government" to create employment by wide spread, massive and useful "public works".

This places a tremendous responsibility on the Trade Unions, who from experience understand the greed and exploitative nature of the capitalist system and who must take this knowledge and experience back into the Labor Party so that policy reflects the social needs of the working class.



MINISTER OPS FOR PIE IN THE SKY TYPE PROMISES

Energy Minister Patrick Conlon who ruled out a cap on outrageous price increases in electricity charges has now approved increases of 23.7%. AGL is laughing all the way to the Bank.

Mr Conlon who earlier claimed "that nothing can be done about price increases in electricity", now says its "awful" but "promises cheaper electricity" in the sweet bye and bye.

Citing as an example against putting a "cap" on price increases Mr Conlon used the unhappy experience of the people of California, where he claims that such a "cap" cost that State \$20 million.

What Mr Conlon did not tell the Parliament is that the people of California have been the victims of a gigantic fraud, engineered by Enron Corporation and directed by the former head of trading in Enron's office in Portland, Oregon.

Enron's scheme took advantage of California's deregulated energy market to boost profits.

Mr Timothy Belden, former Boss of Enron's Portland office has been convicted of a crime of fraud in connection with California's energy crisis. Mr Belden could face 5 years in goal and a \$250,000 fine.

Mr Belden has forfeited \$2.1 million in "criminally derived" compensation from Enron.

Belden's guilty plea will be the first of many convictions, suggests Senator Dianne Feinstein (Democrat-California).

The State of California now has a claim before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for a refund of \$9 billion from Enron and others.

Mr Conlon should thoroughly investigate and make public the costs involved in AGL's decision to increase electricity charges.



LABOR DEBACLE IN CUNNINGHAM BY-ELECTION

There is much soul searching in the Labor Party following the defeat of the Labor candidate in the once thought safe electorate of Cunningham.

Some sections of the Labor Party are trying to put the blame for the loss on the Leader of the Federal Labor Party Simon Crean. If the Party is serious about looking for reasons for the defeat it must adopt an open and transparent investigation of the causes.

Whilst Crean has been associated with the Party right wing in the past, the position now is that he realises that if Labor is to form a government after the next elections then it must formulate a policy in keeping with the traditions of the Labor Party.

Crean has initiated steps which should clean out the Party of "branch stacking" and "nepotism", two entrenched features which are destroying the organisational appeal of the Party and which played a significant part in the loss of Cunningham.

Whilst Crean may hold personal views that are not in complete accord with what the working class and Trade Unions generally support, he has shown that he will embrace new ideas when democratically arrived at and endorsed by the Party.

Labor went into Cunningham without a credible policy and that is the prime reason for the debacle along with the behaviour of the NSW right wing, which had set the stage. Under these circumstances Simon Crean can not be held responsible.

To help the forthcoming Labor Party conference formulate policy, Trade Unions and Party branches ought to now be discussing and deciding the issues around which the Labor Party policy must be formulated such as:

- (1) Provision of worthwhile jobs to be the responsibility of government, because of the inability of private industry.
- (2) Refugees to be granted temporary asylum pending investigation of each application. Concentration camps closed.
- (3) Total repudiation of any involvement by Australia in American aggression in the Middle East, Iraq, Korea, South America.
- (4) Medicare to be totally funded by the government, rebates increased, "bulk billing" encouraged. Public hospitals to be upgraded, staffed and completely funded by the Commonwealth government.
- (5) Prohibition of any further "privatisation" of public utilities and progressive buy back of former public utilities, such as Telstra, Power Stations, Public Transport, Hospitals.



ISRAELI NUCLEAR FORCES—2002

The most powerful military force in the Middle East with the possible exception of the United States of America is the armed forces of the state of Israel.

The full force of the Israeli army has for the past 2 years been directed against the Palestinian people with the wanton destruction of their homes and social organisation.

This war against the Palestinian people is being carried on with the approval of the United States, which country continues to supply Israel with the most modern arms and equipment, plus diplomatic support within the United Nations.

Israel is in breach of 31 United Nations resolutions and continues to occupy sections of Gaza and the West Bank. At the latest count there are 200 illegal Israeli settlements established in the West Bank.

According to the American intelligence organisation the CIA Israel has nuclear weapons. One estimate places the number at 75 to 200.

American reports claim that Israel has 50 Land-based Jericho 1 missiles with a range of 1200 kilometres and 50 Jericho 2 missiles with a range of 1800 kilometres.

In June this year former Pentagon and State Department officials confirmed to the "Washington Post" that Israel had three 1900 ton submarines equipped with cruise missiles capable of carrying nuclear warheads.

Israel is America's "fifth column" in the Middle East.



SCRAMBLE TO CARVE UP IRAQ OIL RESERVES

Oil is emerging as the key factor in American attempts to secure the support of France and Russia for an attack on Iraq.

No one believes that Iraq has "Weapons of Mass Destruction" (WMD) and least of all George W Bush and Tony Blair.

This is the reason why Bush and Blair are resisting the return of Inspectors to Iraq, by insisting on a "trigger" which will enable US and English forces to launch an assault on Iraq.

Both Bush and Blair have attempted to hoodwink the people of the world into believing that Hussein has such weapons, but their claims have been exposed as spurious and both shown to be liars of a dangerous type.

The people of the world including the United States and England have been holding massive widespread demonstrations against war on Iraq.

The American economy is in dire straits. In the past four years the USA has lost two million manufacturing jobs, 10% of its manufacturing work force. One in five jobs in the care industry has been lost, one in three in textile manufacture.

The number of people living in poverty as well as those without health insurance are up. So too are personal bankruptcies, unemployment is rising, long term unemployment is going up more rapidly. The ballyhooed "economic recovery" is nowhere in sight.

It is against this background of capitalist crisis in America and which is engulfing the capitalist system world wide, that causes the US to seek a way out of the crisis by laying the basis for a war, that could quickly become World War III.

Saddam Hussein may not be one of the world's noblest creatures, but Iraq is a sovereign country and it is for the Iraqi people to decide who heads their Government, not George W Bush or Tony Blair.

It seems presumptuous that the USA which is about 10000 kilometres from Iraq and England which is 6000 kilometres away should be seeking to warn the world of the danger of Saddam Hussein when the people next door to Iraq, including Kuwait, Iran and Saudi Arabia have no such fears.

Iraq has agreed to the United Nations terms for the return of the weapon inspectors, without any reservations or restrictions and it is the attitudes of Bush and Blair that is holding up their return.

Bush and Blair should practice what they preach and reach an agreement with Iraq as an example of "free trade" by the purchase of Iraqi oil and not seek to usurp the right of a sovereign state to control its own natural resources.

**TONY ABBOTT UP TO HIS OLD TRICKS**

Tony Abbott's professed concern about workers' entitlements didn't last long.

While he was talking to employers recently about protecting workers' entitlements his department was arguing in Court that 17 former employees of a collapsed company should not be paid redundancy over unsecured creditors.

These workers had been refused access to the Howard Government's redundancy scheme. So the administrator sought a judgement from the NSW Supreme Court that he could pay employees their redundancy entitlements as priority creditors.

Fortunately for the workers, the judge rejected the Commonwealth's arguments and ruled on July 3 that the workers be paid three weeks' redundancy for each year of service as priority creditors.

Abbott has said he wants to protect entitlements with 'the least collateral damage to business'.

Sending workers claims to the bottom of the creditors pile is clearly one way of keeping big business happy!

**FREELoadERS ARE BLUDGING ON THEIR MATES**

The old Aussie standard of a "fair go" does not extend to a "free ride" for ticket dodgers.

Your workmates want you to join the Union and help them in the struggle to improve pay rates and working conditions.

If you're not already a financial member, contact your job steward, job rep or Local Branch official—**TODAY!**

ALL WHO BENEFIT MUST CONTRIBUTE

**COLE ROYAL COMMISSION—FINAL REPORT SOON**

The Cole Royal Commission will shortly hand its "findings" to the Federal Government which will be a prelude to a fresh and extended attack on the Trade Union movement by Tony Abbott.

This preliminary attack is expected to be aimed at the CFMEU Building Workers, which Tony Abbott and John Howard see as the leaders and pattern setters for wage increases, improved and safe working conditions.

Other Unions should not allow themselves to be lulled into believing that by going quite they will be safe.

The Howard Government is anti working class and paranoia about Trade Union organisation.

Howard and Abbott know that if they are to continue to grant tax reductions and other privileges to the corporations, banks, insurance companies and the rest of their financial supporters, they must further grind down the working class and the Trade Unions.

One of the methods by which the capitalist sector maintains their rate of profit is to down size their workforce at any drop in profit.

It is time for workers to take a stand and reverse the trend and insist that industry take a drop in profit and the workforce remain inviolate.

If workers don't protect their jobs, Tony Abbott, John Howard and the bosses won't either.

**FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SCREWS THE POOREST**

The General Service Tax is proving a bonanza for the Howard Government.

The GST has enabled the Government to collect tax from the poorest section of the community. Low paid families that previously paid no tax are now required to pay tax on necessities used in every household.

Pensioners are in something of the same boat with the government now trying to reduce pensions by raising the cost of medical prescriptions and doctors visits.

Instead of putting the extra wealth accruing from the GST into hospitals, dental and such services for the benefit of the people Howard and Co are funneling the money into schemes that enhance the wealth of the corporate sector.

The Howard Government is trying to choke the Medicare system by subsidising private health schemes and denying an increase to doctors that "bulk bill" for their services.

This is leading to some doctors charging some patients a "gap" between the Medicare rate and the doctors charge.

The Howard Government recently paid up front \$300 million to help Lockheed Martin develop a plane which will not be in service until 2008.

**HOWARD OUT TO CRIPPLE MEDICARE**

The state of Medicare, nearly 20 years after its inception is one of decay. Bulk billing is declining, particularly in rural areas.

Doctors' expenses, such as insurance, are rising steeply. Public hospitals are overloaded. The system desperately needs an injection of funds—in the right areas.

A 1% increase of the Medicare levy would provide the funds needed to reverse Medicare's decline and provide coverage of dental services.

Medical practitioners working in rural communities should receive a higher rebate than metropolitan medical practitioners.

There is a perennial problem of a shortage of doctors in rural areas. According to Stephen Skinner on ABC Radio's "Background Briefing" there is one doctor (on average) in Australia for every 1400 people. In country areas this average is more like one doctor to 2500 people.

Bulk billing should be a condition for medical practitioners receiving increased rebates.

There is no logical reason why people receiving dental treatment should not be able to have their treatment bulk-billed. After all, dental problems are not magically separate from the rest of the body.



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EVIL NATURE OF AMERICAN DESIGNS ON IRAQ

The evil nature of American plans for war on Iraq and the Middle East have been rejected by the people of all former allies of America.

As a result of this world wide rejection of war, the American ruling class are split and the Bush-Cheney-Rumsfeld clique are being seen as a gang of irresponsible war-mongers. They are being aided and abetted by disoriented individuals like Tony Blair, John Howard and Alexander Downer.

Saddam Hussein might not be the type ordinary people would invite home to a sing-song around the piano on a Sunday night, but he is never the less a former favourite and collaborator of Donald Rumsfeld and the American Republican Party.

It was Rumsfeld in December 1983 who met with Hussein and discussed "topics of mutual interest". Rumsfeld later told The New York Times, "it struck us as useful to have a relationship, given that we were interested in solving Mideast problems".

On January 1 1984, it was reported that the United States "in a shift in policy, has informed friendly Persian Gulf nations that the defeat of Iraq in the 3 year war with Iran would be contrary to U.S. interests and has made several moves to prevent that result".

Rumsfeld was back in Baghdad in March 1984 for a meeting with Hussein's Foreign Minister on March 24, on this same day it was reported from the United Nations: "Mustard gas laced with a nerve agent has been used on Iranian soldiers in the 43 month Persian Gulf War between Iraq and Iran".

Prior to the United Nations report, the US State Department on March 5 had issued a statement saying "available evidence indicates that Iraq has used lethal chemical weapons".

In November 1984 full diplomatic relations between Iraq and the US were restored.

In 1988 when it was mooted that Rumsfeld could be a Republican candidate for US President, it was cited among his achievements his help in "reopening US relations with Iraq".

No mention was made that this help came at a time when, according to the US State Department, Iraq was actively using chemical weapons.

During the period that Rumsfeld was Reagan's Middle East envoy, Iraq was authorised by the White House to purchase military hardware from American firms, which included big orders for helicopters and other munitions of war.

Extensive research can uncover no public statements by Donald Rumsfeld expressing even remote concern about Iraq's use or possession of chemical weapons until after Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1990.

Now after all stocks of Iraqi chemical weapons have been destroyed, Bush, Cheney and Rumsfeld are hatching a war with Iraq as a preliminary to seizing the Iraqi people's oil resources.



BUILDING INDUSTRY INQUIRY GRINDS ON

The Building Industry Commission grinds on, not concerned with the practices of the Building Companies but intent on trying to get something on the Building Unions and their members.

At present it is concentrating on the Construction Forestry Mining and Energy Union, but is a threat to all Unions. This commission has been set up by the Howard Government for the express purpose of destroying the ability of Unions to protect the pay rates and working conditions of their members.

One of the methods traditionally adopted by employers to "keep Unions in line" is through a system of "black balling" the more active members of a Union.

Commissioner Cole has called on the CFMEU to provide it with a list of its "job stewards".

Once a list of active workers is obtained and becomes known, it will be a simple matter for Tony Abbott, Minister for Workplace Relations to make it available under Parliamentary Privilege and so enable the "bosses" to victimise the active and militant unionists.



DEMOCRATIC LABOUR PARTY IN BREACH OF LAW

The Democratic Labour Party (DLP) is in trouble with the Law in Victoria for refusing to provide a list of the names of 500 members to satisfy the electoral rules preventing bogus party registrations.

Whilst the DLP is no longer of any great influence on the political scene, it is of particular importance to the McGauran family, so much so that the McGauran's have undertaken to help bank-roll the DLP legal expenses should the Australian Electoral Commission move to deregister the DLP.

There are two McGauran's in the Federal Parliament, one in the Senate and the other in the House of Representatives, both are members of the National Party and belong to the extreme right in that Party.

So its only natural they should be concerned about retaining a "party" which echoes their political philosophy and can be useful during electoral campaigns.



CAPITALISM PROBLEM- OVER SUPPLY- NO DEMAND

The fundamental problem with the capitalist system of society is not a problem of supply, but is a problem of distribution.

This is the essence of the problems now confronting every capitalist country in the world and of which "unemployment" is the most widespread and distressing manifestation.

Widespread unemployment leads to loss of purchasing power by the working class with the subsequent curtailment of production of consumer goods for general use.

It is in these conditions that in some countries the position is overcome to some extent by the capitalist class deliberately setting out on a policy of rearming and preparing for a war.

This was the position that prevailed in Germany in the 1933 to 1939 period and which led to war.

Something of the same situation has now arisen with regard to the economy in the United States of America.

American capitalism is in desperate straits and the Bush administration believes that war will solve its problem, hence it launched its "war on terrorism" and has set about threatening and bombing countries of the Middle East as a preliminary to occupying and taking over their natural resources.

American policy is being dictated by the requirements of the American oil companies, led by Exxon-Mobil and Chevron-Texaco and the armament industry led by Boeing, Lockheed, Raytheon, General Motors and others.

Whilst the capitalist class in some countries are prepared to go along with Bush-Rumsfeld-Cheney clique, the people world wide, led by the working class and their political parties are not.

European workers are actively opposed to America's war plans, and in England, Tony Blair is in deep trouble trying to line up the Labor Party to support the war in Iraq, where Shell Oil and BP Petroleum hope to share in the plunder.

Here in Australia John Howard and Alexander Downer have had to draw their horns in and tone down their urging and support for the American war plans in Iraq.

Whilst the Labor Party in Canberra has been skilful in opposing Howard and Downer, the main spokesmen should now take the Australian people into their confidence and expose the real cause and aims of the American war plans and the Howard/Downer support for these war plans, which is control of Iraq's oil resources.



AMERICAN COMPANIES COOK THE BOOKS

In what seems to be a desperate attempt to halt falling share prices on the Dow Jones, big American corporations have taken to "cooking the books". This gives the "top executives" time to unload their shares before ordinary investors become aware of the true state of the American economy. George W Bush is "investigating".



CHENEY RAISES THE WHITE HOUSE WAR BANNER

Dick Cheney, US Vice-President has decided to raise the war banner in America and used an address to the Veterans' of Foreign Wars (VFW) in Nashville on Monday 26/8/02 to do so.

Cheney has a reputation for resorting to any dodgy ploy if he thinks he can get away with it and it suits his purpose. When CEO at Halliburton Corp, Cheney got away with some snide practices, which to-day would land him in serious trouble.

Taking advantage of the VFW audience, Cheney claimed that by going to war with Iraq, America would be helping their friends in the Middle East. Only trouble is that America has no friends in the M.E.

Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and all lesser Arab countries have warned the U.S. that they cannot use their territory for an attack on Iraq.

Cheney painted a picture that the Iraqians would be better off under an American sponsored government. Just how good that would be can be gleaned by taking a look at the countries of South America.

There, the United States has imposed its idea of good government on South America for years and today, South American countries are basket-cases, the majority of people and the working class live in abject poverty, because the Americans have and are continuing to drain off their wealth.

Iraq has one of the largest reserves of oil in the M.E. and that is what Cheney, Rumsfeld and Bush covet.

Cheney knows that Iraq has no weapons of mass destruction and the Bush administration by claiming they have, use this as an excuse for their real aim which is to gain control of Iraq's oil.

The American economy is in dire straits and it is the belief of Cheney, Rumsfeld and Bush that a war in the M.E. and control of Iraq's oil will be a boost for the ailing economy.

It would be sheer lunacy for Saddam to now have "weapons of mass destruction" and so provide the U.S. with the reason for an attack.

**IS IRAQ A TRUE THREAT TO THE UNITED STATES.**

Scott Ritter is a Colonel in the US marines and for seven years was the chief weapons inspector for the United Nations for both the scope of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction programs and the effectiveness of the UN weapons inspectors in ultimately eliminating them.

According to Ritter during seven years as chief weapons inspector from 1991 to 1998 they were able to ascertain a 90-95% level of verified disarmament. This figure takes into account the destruction or dismantling of every major factory associated with the prohibited weapons manufacture, all significant items of production equipment and the majority of the weapons and agents produced in Iraq.

Does or can Iraq truly threaten the existence of America? If one takes at face value the raving of Bush, Cheney and Rumsfeld it would seem so.

However to date Bush and his cohorts have been unable to produce a shred of evidence to support their claims and refuse to accept the invitation of the Iraqi Foreign Minister to come to Iraq and inspect for themselves.

With records such as Cheney as CEO at Halliburton Corporation and Bush as a director at Harken Energy Corporation, coupled with Rumsfeld's covert collusion with Saddam Hussein during the Iraq-Iran war, is it any wonder that responsible people everywhere want nothing to do with this gang's war plans.

**LIBERALS WANT TO DENY BASIC LEGAL RIGHTS**

The Howard Government is seeking changes to the legal system, whereby they can detain children as young as 14 years of age. Under the proposed changes a person can be detained for up to 48 hours without being charged and without access to legal assistance.

These draconian changes are being copied in the main from similar legislation in America, arising from the panic that has gripped that country's ruling class since September 11.

Australia already has legislation which provides all necessary safe guards and Labor should continue to reject changes.

**SALINITY IN THE MURRAY-DARLING RIVER SYSTEM**

Being at the bottom end of the river system, South Australia suffers greater effects from salinity, but alone can do little or nothing to materially alter the situation.

Fundamentally the problem of the Darling/Murray River system is a national problem and eventually must be tackled on that basis.

The salinity problem arises from the fact that there is not a sufficient flow of water in the system to sustain the economic activities that are now drawing water from the rivers.

Either economic activities along the rivers will have to be curtailed and capped or more water will have to be brought into the system and the flow controlled.

The time has come when politicians have to get out of the "circle" and begin to think big and nationally.

There is now an opportunity for Mike Rann to take the lead and raise the question of the possibility of damming the water in Northern Australia and Queensland and channelling it down into the head waters of the Darling system.

This would require a scientific investigation by engineers and other experts as to whether such sites are available. If such a scheme is feasible, then that would be the way to go.

Such a massive scheme would do much to stimulate and lift the Australian economy and provide thousands of jobs, much like the Snowy Mountains scheme did at the end of World War II.

If scientists and engineers reported that such a scheme is not possible because there are no suitable areas or features available, then South Australia will need to think of alternative methods of providing Adelaide with water.

**LIBERALS ANXIOUS TO PRIVATISE REST OF TELSTRA**

Despite the fact that an overwhelming majority of the Australia people have indicated that they are opposed to the privatisation of Telstra and want the remaining 51% to remain in public ownership, the Liberal bully boys remain dead set on privatisation.

There is no question that the Liberal Party bosses are under extreme pressure from the banks and insurance companies to get on and do it.

The banks and insurance companies are loaded up with cash and have no where to invest it. Hence the pressure on the Liberals.

Much is made when pushing the case for privatisation that it gives the "mums and dads" a chance to buy shares. That might be so, but it is the banks and insurance companies that get the big bundles and then when the "mums and dads" need to sell their shares, guess who are on hand to snap up their shares.

It's not the "mums and dads" who will decide the policies and how Telstra will be run, but the representatives of the banks and insurance companies on the board and their motivation will be for profit and not service to the community.

Telstra chief Ziggy Switkowski a keen supporter of privatisation said last week he was sorry for investors when Telstra shares slipped 16cents.

According to Telstra annual report Ziggy has 404,000 Telstra shares and options on 3,456,000 further shares.

Depending on the conversion terms, every 1cent rise in Telstra shares is worth \$38,600 to Ziggy. A return to Telstra's top price of \$9 would bring Ziggy and extra \$16.2 million, depending on the price he pays for the options.

Telstra chairman Bob Mansfield has now said that no further options will be granted to executives.

David Murray, head of the privatised Commonwealth Bank has relinquished his claim on options as like wise has Hugh Morgan the Western Mining Corporation boss.

Top executives are very highly paid and being given these astonishingly big gifts of share options is a rip-off of shareholders.

It's about time Ziggy Switkowski got the message and relinquished any claim he has to Telstra options.



Prepared and Issued

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CONFUSION DEEPENS OVER US FOREIGN POLICY

The more the American President, George W Bush tries to explain US foreign policy, the deeper the confusion becomes. The crisis between Pakistan and India, along with Israel and the Palestinians is slipping beyond American control. George W's recent European trip did nothing to add to his credibility.

George W called on Pakistan's President Pervez Musharraf to "show results" in stopping incursions into Indian controlled part of Kashmir.

This demand got no better response than his angry and peremptory order early in April to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon to immediately halt Israel's military offensive against the Palestinians to withdraw from the occupied territories and end the colonising of Palestinian land.

That was simply ignored. Expansion of the settlements, Palestinian attacks and retaliatory incursions have since resumed and have been stepped up.

George W Bush's inability to control his own protégés in the war on terrorism undermines his administration's credibility and lends weight to the widespread belief that US policy in practice disrupts international order.

The Pakistan Dictator's enforced cooperation with Bush's war against the Taliban in Afghanistan has destabilised Musharraf in his own country and he appears to have lost control of the extremist elements in the Pakistan army and intelligence services.

Israel has rejected Washington's plan for a reform of Palestinian security forces. This plan was unrealistic from the start. It serves no purpose to reform the Palestinian Authority, when Israel then sends in its army to destroy it.

Negotiations are a charade so long as Israel continues to colonise the West Bank and the Palestinians launch suicide bombers on Israel in retaliation.

The Bush administration's favoured solution for the Middle East is to attack Iraq, but a revolt by generals, this time in Washington, has become an obstacle to that.

While George W Bush was away in Europe, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, are reported to have unanimously decided against a military move against Iraq this year and are believed to harbour serious doubts that such an attack should take place at all.

According to the influential Washington Post, a spokesman for the Joint Chiefs argued that it is an illusion to think that other countries, with a little American help from the air are going to fight Saddam Hussein on behalf of the United States.

In the meantime Israel goes on slaughtering the Palestinian people with modern armaments supplied by the United States.



WORLD WIDE PROTEST OVER AMERICAN FARM BILL

Australian farmers and people have reason to wonder why they need an enemy when they have a "friend" like the United States.

The new US farm bill increasing agriculture subsidies by 80% by this self-proclaimed champion of "free trade," has unleashed a wave of protest in Europe, South America and Australia.

While Australian farmers have been penalised and are smarting because of our "friend's" action, the Liberal-Country Party government have been able to keep a lid on any move for the discontent to spread and a call made to lift the sanctions on Iraq.

This subsidisation of American farm products, to the disadvantage of other countries is a perfect illustration of the Bush administration's hypocrisy on trade liberalisation and high-lights the contradiction between Washington's free-market rhetoric and its policies.

These US subsidised farm products will affect Australia's competitiveness in Asia, the main destination of many US farm products.



CAPITALISTS HELP TO BRING DOWN CAPITALISM

The scandals that have oozed out of corporate America and Australia in recent months have repeatedly featured company executives and accounting firms betraying the market place for their own self interest.

In America there has been Enron, Tyco, Global Crossing, Adelphia, WorldCom and Xerox. In Australia, HIH Insurance, OneTel and Ansett.

While the details may differ, the essential facts are the same, the executives lied about the companies performance and the investors and employees pay the price.

How does it happen? Capitalism, at its most basic says that the company producing the best product at the lowest price wins.

But for modern day capitalists, victory is measured solely in profits. Left to their own devices, it is now clear, capitalists aggressively pursue profits even if it means cheating investors who provide the capital.

It's not that corporate cheating comes out of nowhere. In boom times is when these people begin breaking the "rules" and then rely on improving business activity and rising stock prices to give them a sense of invincibility.

It's when the market turns and it always turns, is when these executives and directors get into deeper trouble. They keep believing that stock prices will rise and cover their misdeeds. They seem to believe that "capitalism" can go on expanding forever.

Workers are expected to take these shenanigans and malfeasance by the "bosses" on the chin and to accept the loss of their entitlements without a murmur.

This is the kind of advice offered to "workers" when they lose their jobs, from people like Tony Abbott, the Minister for Industrial Relations in the Howard Government.



LIBERAL MAVERACK ATTACKS TRADE UNION ICON

There seems to be a rule in the Liberal Party that if you want to "kick on" and be considered for higher office you must prove your bona fides by attacking working class leaders in the Trade Unions and Labor Party.

This was the case when the new Liberal member for Bragg, Ms Vicki Chapman, took a swipe at both Jim Dunford, one time secretary of the SA Branch, The Australian Workers Union and Don Dunstan, former Labor Premier of South Australia.

Both are now deceased and so Ms Chapman decided she could malign them with impunity as they would not be able to reply to her flawed and mischievous remarks.

The incident relating to Jim Dunford occurred thirty-two years ago and concerned two Kangaroo Island shearers, who while enjoying the benefits flowing from the Pastoral Industry Award, which had been obtained by the AWU at considerable cost in both time and money, had refused to join the Union.

When the two shearers continued to refuse and reconsider their position, it was this selfish action that brought about the position, which seems to have upset Ms Chapman.

It is important to know that not everyone on Kangaroo Island supported the action of these two ill advised shearers. Most people on Kangaroo Island are honest decent people and believed that the principle of "user pays" applied in this case.

Jim Dunford was a "visionary" and knew he was morally right and had widespread support in upholding a vital Trade Union principle, "if you enjoy a benefit, then help pay for it".

It should be noted that the principle of "user pays" for which Jim Dunford campaigned and fought has now been upheld by the full bench of the Federal Court, comprising judges Murray Wilcox, Catherine Branson and Shane Marshall.



FEDERAL LEADER SEEKS TO LIFT PARTY STANDING

Federal ALP Leader Simon Crean is seeking to lift the standing of the Labor Party by what he has referred to as "modernisation" and which is causing considerable soul searching within the Party.

The Labor Party is in an ideological and philosophical quagmire, with the membership not knowing where the Party is leading and with the popular vote declining.

The fundamental problem of the Labor Party is that it is trying to mean something to all sections of the community, while neglecting, but relying primarily on the working class for mass support.

In recent times leadership of the Party has been hijacked by opportunists who are more concerned about establishing cosy relations with the "boss" class than attending to the well being of the Trade Union and working class membership.

This state of affairs has been aided to a large extent by wide spread "branch stacking" and the undemocratic method by which Trade Union delegates to Labor Party councils and conferences are selected.

There is a case that only fully paid bona fide Labor Party members should vote for delegates to Labor Party councils and conferences and the selection of Labor Party candidates for parliamentary office.

There is a problem with the present system where a Trade Union can affiliate for its total membership, at a token fee. Rank & File members of the Trade Union are not given the opportunity to nominate or cast a postal vote for the delegates to the Labor Party or for their choice of candidate for parliamentary office.

It is completely undemocratic for the Union Secretary to unilaterally carry out the function of selecting "delegates" to represent the Union when the membership have no say in who are to be their representatives.

This type of corruption leads to the position which now prevails in the South Australian Branch Australian Labor Party where the Secretaries of two "service unions" control the S.A. Branch and have set about foisting their policies and candidates on the Party and people of South Australia.

What these "secretaries" are overlooking is that whilst they decide who gets endorsed as Labor candidates, they can't control how the community votes and it is these undemocratic practices that is leading to the slump in Labor's first preference vote.

**WRIGHT PUTS SUNDAY SHOPPING ON THE AGENDA**

For years the people of South Australia have been advocating a relaxation of the laws concerning Sunday shopping.

The present position is something of a "dogs breakfast", in some areas its been allowed, whilst in others its been banned.

In the past no one in the Labor Party has been game to speak openly in support of Sunday trading for fear of earning the wrath of the awesome political power of the Secretary of the Shop Assistants Union.

Now, Michael Wright, the Minister for Industrial Relations has at least placed it on the agenda for discussion by the Labor Party Parliamentary caucus.

The case for Sunday trading has been given an added boost by billionaire trader Garry Harvey of Harvey Normans and which puts the Labor Party in an invidious position. Harvey castigates all and sundry for lack of Sunday trading and supports a campaign of "civil disobedience" to get his way.

The main opposition to extended Sunday trading in South Australia has come from Don Farrell, Secretary Shop Assistants Union.

Farrell has powerful support within the Parliamentary Labor Party and Cabinet having sponsored many of their candidatures and then financed their campaigns.

Farrell sometime ago disaffiliated the Shop Assistants Union from the United Trades and Labor Council and has concentrated his activity within the Labor Party.

There's going to be some embarrassed members at the caucus meeting if Farrell calls for redeeming of his past favours.

**DISABILITY PENSION CHANGES BRUTAL & CALLOUS**

The Liberal-National Party government has decided to put the "boot" into that unfortunate section of the community that have been certified as eligible for the "Disability Pension".

For the time being action by the Labor Party, Democrats and the Greens in the Senate have thwarted this cowardly attack on the pensions of people least able to defend themselves.

With unemployment running at about 7% among the able bodied section of the community, any disabled pensioner "up-graded" by the Howard-Costello formula would have a "snow-ball's" chance in hell of obtaining a job.

Coupled with the Howard-Costello attempt, in the interests of the Pharmaceutical Companies to impose a further charge on pensioners for medical proscriptions, it represents the depths to which the Howard government has sunk in attacking the working class.

**HOWARD FAILS AS INTERNATIONAL POLITICAN**

Howard's trip to the US was a monumental failure. True he was wined and dined by Cheney and Rumsfeld and was even granted a couple of hours with George W Bush, the US President.

But the main purpose to gain some relief for Australian farmers from the effects of the US farm subsidies was a complete negative and Howard and Australian farmers know it.

When Howard addressed the Congress less than one third of members turned up. The seats were filled with students who had been hastily rounded up to give the appearance of a full house.

It's the members of the Congress who in the end will make any decisions regarding the agricultural subsidies and the US farm lobby is a pretty powerful group.

Not daunted Howard is now in Europe and endeavouring to gain some relaxation of European farm subsidies.

To date he appears to be given the run around there too. The German chancellor has referred Howard to the French and we know what happens to any French politician who bucks the French farm lobby.

If Howard is really serious about being listened to, he should adopt an independent attitude on Australia's behalf, and concentrate his efforts in the Asian area, where Australia's real trading interests should lie.

Australia should drop its support for America's aggression in Afghanistan and the Middle East, along with any assistance to the policing of American sanctions on Iraq.

Its in Australia's best interests that we re-ignite our former trade relations with Iraq. Such a move would result in Australia being seen as independent by the international community.

**ABBOTT SEEKS TO PROLONG INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES**

Tony Abbott the Howard Government's Minister for Industrial Relations seeks to extend and prolong industrial disputes in contradiction to the normal role of an Industrial Relations Minister of aiding in their resolution.

Tony Abbott is the greatest single threat to industrial relations in Australia to-day.

Abbott is the ring leader in promoting the Commission of Inquiry into the Australian Building Industry and which in reality is a cover for an attack on all Trade Unions.

The Commission refuses to allow witnesses to testify about issues like health and safety in the work place, breaches of award conditions and corrupt practices by builders and employers.

However, testimony from shonky builders, the Howard Government's Employment Advocate and anyone with a grudge against Unions are encouraged.

To date Unions attending include, Australian Manufacturing Workers Union, the Liquor, Hospitality and Miscellaneous Workers Union and the Finance Sector Union.



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LABOR MUST CEASE MOVING TO THE RIGHT

Australia is a "class" society and this is reflected in the traditions and origins of the two main political parties at present on the political scene.

The Australian Labor Party grew out of these "class" struggles which are a feature of Australian society from the first settlement in 1788 and which have persisted to the present time, with varying degrees of intensity.

Such struggles for economic relief, democratic rights and against unemployment and for jobs were tempered by the mood of the workers at the particular moment.

The original objective and purpose of the Labor Party was to protect and advance the well being of the working class and the less advantaged sections of the community.

At the Labor Party Conference at Terrigal in January 1975 it was decided to dump the "socialist" objective of the Labor Party program and to adopt a policy of supporting the profitability of "private enterprise". This led to Labor supporting a campaign of "wage" restraint and which has continued to the present time.

As a result of this action the Labor Party is now facing very serious theoretical and practical political problems as to how to explain and handle the nature of the capitalist crisis.

When the working community at large claim that they can see no difference between the policies of the Labor Party and the Liberal-National Party they are sounding the alarm. It is because of this wide-spread belief that Labor now finds itself in a deteriorating electoral environment.

It is not the function of the Labor Party to look after the "private enterprise" section of society. Labor should at all times give priority and support to the well being of the working class.

Labor should leave the looking after the "private enterprise" section of society to the Liberal-National Party from where they gain their financial support and in whose interests they govern.

Under Labor and Liberal-National governments since 1975 the capital class have never had it so good. Nor have the working class had to contend with continuous attacks on living standards and working conditions.

There are now more millionaires in Australia than at any time in our history and at the same time Australia has so many families living in poverty and widespread homelessness.

Confronted with the present "two party" system many workers and "true-believers" who have tried to move the Labor Party to support social and economic policies that put people's needs before profits have had to settle for supporting the lesser of two evils.

This has now led to a position where influential members are leaving the Labor Party and Trade Unions are disaffiliating.

If Labor is to remain relevant on the political scene, there needs to be a revision of the Party's "Objects" and Rules and Constitution and to ensure the democratic participation of proper rank and file "bona fide" members in the making of decisions and the endorsement of candidates for political office.



DON'T HUMANISE THEM—OFFICE OF PETER REITH

The office of former defence minister Peter Reith instructed the forces not to take or release pictures of asylum seekers that humanise them, the Senate inquiry has been told.

The scandal of the "children overboard" has moved closer to Prime Minister John Howard.

It has now been revealed that the Defence Force's prime ministerial liaison officer was told the day after the "children overboard" pictures were released that they were people being rescued after their ship sank, not from being thrown overboard.

So far as the Liberal Party is concerned it will stoop to any liar and deception to win an election.



S. A. LABOR PARTY CONFERENCE CUT SHORT

The 2002 SA Labor Party conference on Saturday 13th April must surely have been the shortest in living memory of Labor Party members and is an indication of the growing irrelevance of the Labor Party in the life of the Trade Unions and the community generally.

The "conference" was over in four hours. This contrasts with earlier times when Labor Party conferences would open on a Friday night to decide on precedures and then meet on the Saturday and Sunday to debate and decide policy.

At that time there was a greater degree of democracy prevailing in the Party and some attention was given to the quality and standing of candidates endorsed for Parliament.

To-day candidates are selected on the basis of their relationship to the "Machine" faction which is dominated by the Shop Distributive Employees' Association and the Liquor Hospitality and Miscellaneous Workers Union, neither of these organisations have a particularly inspiring record of taking action in support of improving pay rates or working conditions.

It may be time that the Party had an investigation of the conditions of organisations affiliation to the Party and the enormous power such affiliation puts in the hands of the Union Secretaries and which nullifies the voting power of bona fide Party members who pay full membership contribution.

If the Labor Party is to regain its former pre-eminent standing in the community only those members who are financial members in their own right and whose name and address are registered on the Labor Party Branch roll can have a valid vote.

Immense harm has been done to the South Australia Labor Party Branch with the support by its officials of "Branch Stacking" and then by the expenditure of Branch funds to defend their right to do so.

The way forward is for bona fide rank and file members to claim and exercise their democratic right of one vote one member from a registered roll of bona fide members.



SUPPORT FOR EDUCATION TO BE UPGRADED

One of the enduring demands over the last 100 years has been support for the important role of public education and it was one of the principal planks in Mike Rann's recent election policy.

In a functioning society it is understood that a system of public schools provides a common educational experience for all, which provides a platform to exchange our understanding of our history and social values.

Public education unites us, neighbour to neighbour, town to town, with a common language, for a common purpose, thereby strengthening our democratically diverse country.

All state constitutions in Australia describe public education as a democratic imperative. Thorough and efficient education means more than teaching the skills needed to compete in the Labor market.

It means being able to fulfill one's role as a citizen, a role that encompasses far more than registering a vote. It means the ability to participate fully in society, in the life of one's community, the ability to appreciate music, art and literature and the ability to share all that with friends.

We must reactivate our understanding of how a common educational experience plays a critical role in shaping a diverse, well-informed, actively engaged citizenry at every level of the democratic process.

Let us join together with Mike Rann, the Labor Party and all the community forces to demand that "public funds" be for public education only.

It is up to us all to work together with Mike Rann to defeat wrong-headed Liberal policies and politicians who seek to divert public funds to wealthy "elite private schools".

To-day more than ever, our democracy depends on it.



ACTU LODGES CLAIM FOR WAGE INCREASES

The Australian Council of Trade Unions has lodged a claim for wage increases for Australia's 1.7 million workers who depend on "living wage" increases to try and maintain living standards.

The claim is for an increase in the minimum hourly rates from \$10.88 to \$11.54, a rise of \$25.00 per week, which would bring the weekly wage for low paid workers to \$438.00 for a 38 hour week.

This claim is well within the capacity of the Australian capitalist system to meet. Both the Prime Minister John Howard and Treasurer Peter Costello are on record claiming how well Australian capitalism is going and which is borne out by the record profits being declared by Australian companies.

Australian workers are caught in the position after gaining wage increases only to see their momentary increase in living standards filched away by price increases in commodities.

In this way the Corporate sector continues to maintain and increase its share of the National product and at the expense of the living standards of Australian workers.

Despite the government claim of the system's buoyancy and its capacity to meet the ACTU claim, Howard, Costello and Abbott say they will support a cap on any increase of \$10.00 only.

If the ACTU claim is to be successful affiliated Unions should take organised action in support of the claim. This can take on many forms, beginning with "stop work" meetings to enable members to discuss the claim and maybe make a direct approach to their bosses to meet the claim immediately.

The Victorian Branch of the Liquor Hospitality and Miscellaneous Workers Union, a union which represents many of Australia's lowest paid workers, is not overly confident about the Commission's ability to provide a just decision for workers in the greatest need of a wage increase.

Like all courts, commissions and tribunals there is nothing like rank and file activity around an issue to help focus attention and urgency on the matter in question.

**CREAN CRITICAL OF LIBERAL FOREIGN POLICY**

In a major foreign policy speech at the Asia-Australia Institute as Leader of the Federal Parliamentary Labor Party Simon Crean made a number of comments which will be welcomed by all thinking Australians.

Simon Crean has described John Howard as a "swaggering deputy Sheriff" to Uncle Sam.

"For too long the Howard Government has behaved as though we have no choice in foreign policy," he said.

Australians recall that it was the Liberal Government of Robert Menzies that got Australia involved in the American war in Vietnam in which over 500 Australian lost their lives and for absolutely no purpose or benefit to Australia.

It was a Labor Government led by Gough Whitlam that extricated Australia from that mess.

American policy in the Asian area is fraught with danger and should America become involved in another conflict in that area the Liberal Government is prepared to side with America against Australia's best interests.

Mr Crean's visit to China should do much to assure one of our leading trading partners of the independence and peaceful intentions of the Labor Party.

In his position as Leader of the Labor Party Mr Crean also raised the position of Iraq. He believed the Bush Administration has yet to justify any grounds for a military assault on Iraq.

For years now and especially since September 11, Bush & Co have been demonising Saddam Hussein, but has not been able to come up with any creditable evidence to support its assertions.

It is not for America to change the government of Iraq, that is the sovereign right of the Iraqi people. Just as it's the right of only the Australian people to change our government.

Its becoming clear to most people throughout the world that what America is seeking in Iraq is control of their oil reserves and the supply of cheap oil to America.

**PEACE GETS BURIED IN THE MIDDLE EAST**

All the land for total peace. Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia's proposal made in February and unanimously endorsed by the Arab summit in Beirut at the end of March, had the merit of simplicity.

Israel would withdraw to its June 1967 borders, Syria would recover the Golan Heights and there would be a Palestinian state in Gaza, the West Bank and East Jerusalem. In exchange the 22 states of the Arab League would establish full diplomatic relations and normal trading links with Israel and guarantee the security of its borders. Total withdrawal for total peace.

Ariel Sharon's reply is a strategy of violence to subdue the Palestinians. In the name of a Greater Israel, he wants the Palestinians accept permanent Jewish settlement of part of the territory recognised as belonging to Palestine.

The use of excessive force—warships, F16 fighter aircraft, armoured helicopters and tanks - against the largely unarmed civilian population has not had the effect Sharon wanted. The reverse is true.

To-day Israel is guilty of the massacre of hundreds of civilians in the city of Jenin and stands condemned by every country in the world except the United States of America and George W Bush and his personal supporters.

One thing seems certain if George W Bush wants to be seen as an honest broker in the Middle East he must cut all financial and armament support to Israel. And insist on the total withdrawal of Jewish settlements from Palestine in accord with decisions of the United Nations General Assembly, as required by resolution 242.

**SLAVERY LAWSUIT AIMS FOR SOCIAL CHANGE**

An interesting class-lawsuit has been filed in Washington on behalf of 35 million descendants of black slaves against a number of companies with ties to the slave trade. It is aimed at shaking up U. S. society as much as winning financial gain.

The suit filed by African-American Attorney Deadria Farmer-Paellmann, names some of America's largest insurance and banking companies as defendants including, Aetna, FleetBoston and CSX a Virginia based railroad company.

The suit has the support of Harvard Law Professor Charles Ogletree and John Cochran, famous for his successful defence of O.J. Simpson.

If successful, such a case could have repercussions in many countries around the world and could trigger claims in countries where the traditional owners of the land have been dispossessed by new arrivals.

**MAY DAY—DAY FOR WORKING CLASS CELEBRATION**

May Day is celebrated by the workers in all countries as the day they review the past achievements and plan for the future.

May Day has a long history in Australia. The first May Day celebrations took place in Barcaldine in Central Queensland when the shearers and shed workers were locked in struggle against the big pastoral companies.

Arising from the experience gained by the shearers during this and other monumental struggles the Australian Labor Party was born.

The shearers union of the day became The Australian Workers' Union, which has gone on to play a leading part in improving the living standards and working conditions of the Australian community.

It was the shearers in 1946 that won the 40 hour week and which by struggle and demonstrations was won by the working class generally in 1947.

Next step forward for the working class must be the winning of a 30 hour week, which is one of the objectives of the modern working class.



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"nothing in human affairs is more unstable and precarious than power unsupported by its own strength".

Tacitus AD 55-120

TESTING TIME FOR THE LABOR PARTY

It now seems that South Australia is in for a period of unstable and indecisive government with the Labor Party occupying the Treasury benches with the conditional support of the mercurial ex-liberal Peter Lewis.

With the Labor and Liberal Parties each with twenty-three supporters following the State elections, both Parties set about gaining the support of Peter Lewis, who found himself the centre of great attention and promises if only he would support a particular Party.

For a start it seemed that Lewis would continue to support the Liberal Party, but then the Labor Party came up with an "offer" which Peter Lewis simply could not refuse.

Lewis has been promised the "speakers" position in the Parliament, along with Labor's agreement to pick-up and support a number of matters which Lewis wants carried out in his electorate of Hammond.

Lewis has made it clear, that if Labor reneges and does not honour its undertakings to him, he will have no hesitation in switching his support back to the Liberals and Rob Kerin.

Peter Lewis has emerged from the elections as the most powerful politician in the South Australian parliament.

As the election campaign unfolded there was not much difference in the policies put forward by Labor and Liberal. Both Parties realised that, "health, hospitals, education, electricity and jobs" were the primary matters exercising the concern of voters.

Labor was more positive in that Mike Rann was definite that the health, electricity and hospital problem would be "fixed" and that education and school matters would be a priority. The Sturt Street School would be re-opened.

The Liberals took a negative attitude to these problems saying they would be attended to when money could be found.

Both Parties put the question of providing "jobs", which is central to any up lift in the State's economy in the "too hard basket".

It also looks as though the "emergency tax" is to become a permanent tax.

For the Labor Party the question is "how much of Labor's policy" can Mike Rann get through the Parliament, given Peter Lewis's demands.

Whilst Bob Such, Karlene Maywald and Rory McEwen have to a more or less extent indicated they will support Mike Rann and Labor, they are conservatives and are unlikely to be of much help to Labor should Labor have problems meeting Lewis demands.



MIKE RANN NEEDS TO WATCH HIS BACK

While Mike Rann was busy stitching up a deal with Peter Lewis, so as to get the Labor Party into government, sections of the Machine faction were busy trying to round up support to dump Mike and install their man as leader.

Mike Rann needs to watch his back as the "rabid right" section of the Machine faction are determined to get him and its no secret of their treacherous plot.

Some of the Trade Unions which are prominent in the Machine faction are leading the push. During the period when Mike was negotiating with Peter Lewis, the Secretary of one such Union made a flying trip to Melbourne to enlist the support of local Union officials that were in Melbourne at the time.

During the time of the Menzies Liberal governments, Menzies relied largely on the Democratic Labour Party to retain office. DLP elements are now the decisive influence in the Machine faction and they have Mike Rann in their sights.



LABOR POLITICIANS MUST SHOW COMPASSION

One of the features of the recent Federal elections was the split between the politicians on the one hand and a wide section of the Labor Party membership concerning the "asylum seekers".

The Liberal Party decided to oppose the landing in Australia of what were "labeled boat people" and who were seeking "asylum" in Australia.

The Liberal Party and Howard were in violation of Australia's membership of the United Nations.

The Federal Labor Party under the Leadership of Kim Beazley fell in line with the Liberal Party and John Howard. And by this action contributed in large measure to the defeat of Labor.

Traditionally the more responsible and thinking sections of the Labor Party membership and supporters have always had a compassionate and caring attitude for people being persecuted, irrespective of race or religion.

There is growing evidence that there were some among the Labor Party politicians who were unhappy with the position adopted by the leadership.

Just as the exposure of the "children overboard" scandal has opened up scrutiny of Howard's immoral machinations on "asylum seekers" policy, so too must Labor's internal decision making on this issue be thrown open to scrutiny.

Labor has a proud record of opposing the Liberal Party and Menzies in the attempts to ban political parties and destroy Trade Unions.

It was Labor that opposed the Vietnam War on principle and when Gough Whitlam was elected in 1972 pulled our troops out of that American War.

Labor rolled over and gave in to Howard's and the Liberals political instincts on an issue concerning basic humanity for fellow human beings it brought shame and disrepute to the Labor movement throughout the civilised world.



RANN AND LEWIS SUPPORT POLITICAL REFORM

Mike Rann and Peter Lewis have hammered out an Agreement much along the same lines as Mr Lewis previous agreement with the Liberal Party, calling for the convening of a Constitutional Convention to amend a number of features and practices of the South Australian Parliamentary system.

It is believed that the Convention is to meet within six (6) months of the reconvening of the State Parliament.

South Australia is manifestly over governed and a reduction in the number of members in both the House of Assembly and the Legislative Council are high on the list of improvements sought and will result in a considerable saving in the State finances.

There also needs to be an overhaul of the anti democratic conventions governing membership of the Legislative Council. As things stand it is possible for a member of the Council to occupy a position for almost eight (8) years without being democratically elected by the electorate.

There are at present members of the Council who were not elected to the position and hold the position as a result of skullduggery and horse trading for parliamentary positions.

Whilst this type of conduct might be considered smart by the power brokers of the Machine faction it is universally condemned by voters is one of the reasons for the deteriorating position of the Labor Party in the eyes of the community.

Unless there is a moral uplift in the conduct and administration of the Labor Party South Australia Branch, with greater attention to the rank and file members, the Party will become politically irrelevant.



BUSH'S STATE OF THE UNION SPEECH A SHOCKER

George W Bush, American President, in his "State of the Union" speech has sent shockwaves reverberating around the world.

His speech was branded by Gareth Evans, a former Australian Foreign Minister and now chief of a consultancy in Brussels, specialising in advising on matters concerning countries foreign policy as, "amateurish, jingoistic, arrogant and ludicrous".

A spokesman for the British Foreign Office declared "we do not believe everything the US says". He then went on to say, "We believe that in a long term, we can overcome disagreement by talking to each other".

Another British Foreign Office spokesman declared, "Britain certainly has no wish to engage in any kind of confrontation".

The European Commissioner Chris Patten accused George W Bush's administration of adopting a dangerously "absolutist and simplistic" stance to the rest of the world.

The French Prime Minister Lionel Jospin and his Foreign Minister Hubert Vedrine called on Washington to broaden its contacts with the rest of the world and not to become fixated on the war against terrorism.

These comments follow on from George W Bush naming the sovereign countries of Iraq, Iran and North Korea as being "an axis of evil" and on George W's "hit list".

George W produced not one shred of evidence to indicate or show that any of these countries were in any way connected with "terrorist" activities or were a threat to American security.

All of these countries are thousands of kilometres from America and on the contrary American foreign policy poses a danger not only to the countries named but also to the rest of the world.

The Foreign Policy being perused by George W Bush and his cohorts is the reason why America is hated so intensively universally around the world.

The State of the Union speech was a monumental blunder, a gross miscalculation and massive display of arrogance, which has basically served to take away any degree of sympathy, to counter all feelings of commiseration and at a stroke, annul the outrage felt by the international community for America in the aftermath of September 11th.

One wonders whether the President of the United States of America has been eating pretzels again....they do pack a mighty punch, after all.

**SIMON CREAN EXPOSES HOWARD AS A CHEAT**

In a series of blistering attacks on John Howard, in the Federal Parliament, Simon Crean has exposed Howard and his win in the elections of November 10 to be the result of a gigantic "liar" and fraud imposed on the Australian people.

Within in a few days of calling the election on October 5 Howard and his henchmen began to pedal the "story" that asylum seekers had been throwing "children into the sea".

There was not one iota of truth in this assertion and could not have been arrived at by any honest interpretation of the material made available from Captain Banks of the Adelaide who was on the spot or Group Captain Walker who was the Defence Department representative who was also there.

Howard and his cronies realised it was in their interest if they were to "pull off" the election that they continue to pedal this falsehood and prevent any exposure of the truth. In this they were eminently successful.

Even when in the closing days of the election campaign when Defence Dept heads made it abundantly clear to Peter Reith, Defence Minister that no such incident had occurred, the Liberals refused to let the truth be known to the Australian people and voters.

It was in the interests of the Liberal Party that Australian voters be kept in the dark as to the true facts concerning the arrival of this group of asylum seekers. Howard, Reith and Ruddock saw it as a winner for them.

There is no doubt that Kim Beazley was cheated out of the Prime Ministership by the liars and deceit of Howard and his cohorts and Australia has been denied a Labor Government by this dishonest conduct.

**SHARON SEEKS TO ANNEX THE WEST BANK**

The on going conflict between Israel and the Arabs in the Middle East and in Palestine in particular could be a trigger leading to a conflict embroiling a wider area and a greater number of countries.

It is in the interests of all peoples that peace talks be resumed between Israel and Palestine and that the United Nations be involved. It is the ordinary people from both these countries that are the sufferers as the conflict continues.

The people of Israel are entitled to have a secure and peaceful environment and so are the Palestinian Arabs. There has to be brought into the equation a basis on which such peace talks can resume.

At the present time Israel and the United States are opposed to involvement of the United Nations in any such talks. Both seem to be determined to impose on the Palestinians a set of prior conditions laid down by Sharon and the Likud Party and which calls for the continuation of Jewish settlements in Palestine and overall control of Jerusalem.

Ariel Sharon and the Likud Party are on record laying claim to the West Bank and Gaza which they desire to incorporate in a Greater Israel.

At the present time the United States is underwriting the Israeli State and supplying the Israeli's with modern weapons with which the Jews are systematically destroying the comparatively unarmed Palestinians.

The actions of Sharon and the Jews stand condemned by just about every country of the civilised world. Their torment of the Arabs is being compared to the treatment the Nazi's metered out to the Jews during the Second World War.

Before the situation in the Middle East gets out of hand and brings about a conflagration with dire results for us all, Australian Trade Unions and the Australian Labor Party must add their voice to the call for a "Peace Conference" under the auspices of the United Nations.

**THE MORAL DILEMMA OF JOHN HOWARD**

John Howard and the Liberal Party have been hit with a "double whammy" during the Parliamentary break. Admiral Barrie, the Defence Chief, on who Howard was counting for support with his "children-overboard" claim has checked up with Captain Banks of the "Adelaide" and found the claim was false.

Howard is also becoming increasingly isolated and embarrassed by his choice as Governor General of the former Archbishop of Brisbane, Dr Peter Hollingworth.

Howard, who is an ardent monarchist, no doubt hoped to shore up the monarchist position in Australia by appointing the Archbishop, not only as the Constitutional representative of the English Crown, but also a person who was bound to the Crown by his former ecclesiastical position as Archbishop.

So many skeletons have now been unearthed in Dr Peter Hollingworth's past, it will be interesting to see how long Howard will hold out before asking for the Governor General's resignation.

**SHORTER WORKING HOURS LONG OVERDUE**

It is now 146 years since Building Trades workers in Melbourne adopted the "eight-hour day" and took action, which resulted in the "eight-hour day" becoming standard day of work in Australia.

It is now 56 years since the shearers in Queensland led the way in adopting a 40 hour week.

With unemployment increasing the time has come for Trade Unions to draw up plans for the introduction of a 30 hour week and an increase in pay rates.

The main reason for the lack of jobs is that a section of the working class is now working too many hours, while others are not working at all.



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LABOR TO INVESTIGATE ELECTION LOSS

There is to be an investigation into the reasons for Labor's loss in the recent Federal elections and the poor performance by the South Australia Labor Party Branch.

The Labor Party was formed at Barcaldine in Central Queensland in 1891 following the widespread industrial unrest among the Shearers, Seamen and Miners.

These strikes were a continuation of the on going struggles of the exploited working class, which commenced with the settlement of Australia in 1788.

In the struggles of the workers to improve their living standards and working conditions it was found that the government and state forces were invariably used against the workers and in support of the employers and bosses.

The use of the State forces against the shearers in 1891 and 1894 verged on civil war.

When the shearers formed the Labor Party in 1891 the thinking was, that if workers had their representatives in Parliament and were part of the government, that this would ensure that workers had fair and reasonable working conditions and received a just and equitable payment for their "labour" power.

Whilst there were entrenched beliefs in the working class at that time supporting changes in the structure of society, these calls for "change" were in the nature of "reforms" which left the basic structure of capitalist society unchallenged.

Following the Russian revolutions of 1905 and 1917 when Russian workers challenged the power of their oppressors, the more advanced thinkers among Australian workers became acquainted with the scientific socialism of Marx, Engels and Lenin.

In 1920 the Labor Party upgraded its political philosophy and objectives and called for the:

"Nationalisation of the means of production, distribution and exchange".

A number of Trade Unions also adopted a similar objective in their Rules and Constitution, led by The Australian Workers' Union.

When the Labor Party adopted nationalisation as one of its objectives, it gave the working class an inspiration for political struggle and a distinction from the Parties of the Australian bourgeoisie.

The Labor Party conference at Terrigal in January 1975 decided to drop the "socialist" objective from the Labor Party, Rules and Constitution.

This decision which was welcomed by the Australian capitalist class and Liberal-Country Party Coalition, has now created complex problems for the Labor Party.

By moving away from the basic policies of radical reform and socialist objectives, the Labor Party has become subservient to the requirements of the capitalist class with Labor Party leaders unashamedly supporting openly and at times covertly capitalist class policy.

The retreat by the Labor Party from the class concept of Australian society was one of the major reasons for Labor's defeat in the recent Federal elections.

The alacrity with which sections of the Liberals' policies were embraced by Labor leaders suited the media and anti-working class organisations, but spread confusion among "grass-roots" and traditional Labor Party supporters and voters.

Bob Hawke and Neville Wran have been appointed to investigate and report on the reasons for Labor's defeat and loss of popular support in the election.

Hawke and Wran are from the "right" and closely tied to the present leadership of the Party.

For a balanced report of what ails the Labor Party it is important that there be representatives of the "left" both from the Trade Unions and Labor Party included in the investigation.



BUSINESS CHIEF APPOINTED TO ADVISE ABBOTT

The Howard Government has appointed Mark Paterson to assist Tony Abbott in the planned attack on the Trade Unions, working conditions, living standards and pay rates.

No sooner had Abbott been confirmed as Workplace Relations Minister in the revamped Howard government than he let fly at the Trade Unions and Union membership.

Not surprisingly, the tone and content of his discourses smack of ignorance and sensationalism, which quite predictably was foreseen by "The Plod" months ago.

Abbott's approach to Trade Union and working class affairs, now boosted by Mark Paterson's appointment, is offensive and arrogant with an outdated notion of superiority.

To counter the Abbott/Peterson offensive the Unions need to come together and rally around traditional trade union organisations like the Trades & Labor Councils.

The best way to put a stop to Abbott's game plan is for Unions to develop a policy around issues common to and beneficial to their members.

A thirty (30) hour week without loss of pay, an extra week annual leave, casuals to be paid an additional 50% over and above ordinary rates, employers to subsidise and pay workers hospital, health and dental services.

Workers superannuation payments to be made to a certified and government guaranteed fund with a workers' right to know on seven (7) days notice the state of his entitlements.

The history of the Australian working class confirms that only by consistent and persistent activity by workers are working conditions won.

The eight (8) hour day, the forty (40) hour week, wage increases, paid holidays, sick leave, superannuation were all won by struggle of the working class and their Trade Unions.

It is to destroy the Trade Unions and their organising abilities that is now the "core" purpose and main focus of the Howard government and Workplace Relations Minister Tony Abbott.



EMPLOYEE OMBUDSMAN SOUNDS ALARM BELL

The South Australian Employee Ombudsman has drawn attention to the deteriorating position of injured workers as a result of changes to the "workers compensation laws" which has made the system less friendly to injured workers.

He believes that the "whole system is stacked against them" and that recommendations in his reports are routinely ignored by the Liberal government.

Claims that injured workers are discriminated against by employers, with threats of losing benefits, pay and jobs is well known to workers, especially workers in poorly organised or non-union jobs.

With the present state of the Labor Party its no good workers or Unions thinking that they can rely on decisive support from that quarter.

Some Labor parliamentarians are more inclined to eulogise "workers"exploiters" than expose them.

Some Unions in South Australia under misguided leadership have reduced or cancelled their affiliation to the Trades & Labor Council and extended or over affiliated their membership with the Labor Party.

This may appear to assist the political ambitions of some Union officials, but the end result is that their members have to pay and the Labor Party loses respect in the community.

The history of the Australian working class shows that when there is a vibrant and active Trade Union movement, that the acceptance by the community of the Labor Party is always enhanced.



GLOBALISATION MODEL JUST DIDN'T WORK

The current turmoil in Argentina is a direct result of the policy of privatisation foisted on to that unhappy country by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank.

Since 1990 Argentina has dutifully carried out the instructions of the men who run the international markets. It privatised state owned industries, selling them off to foreigners.

It embraced free trade and pegged its national currency, the peso, to the American dollar.

That Argentina was ruled by gangsters, first the Army Generals and then Carlos Menem, recently released from house arrest, mattered little to the IMF and the World Bank.

Argentina was before the Generals one of the richest countries in the world. Unionised rural and factory workers could afford a house, a car and hope to put their children through college.

To-day unemployment is running at 20% and rising by 2000 a day. Cheap imports have smothered local production and the National Debt stands at US\$130 billion (A\$259 billion).

The IMF and World Bank proscribes further cuts in wages and the Argentina workers' have taken to the streets.

What's happening in Argentina is a foresight to what will happen here in Australia if the Howard government gets away with its attack on wages, working conditions and continues the sale of public property.

**AMERICAN POLICY MAY BACKFIRE**

It is unlikely that when the American President George W Bush made his brash statement to US Congress, that he could have anticipated the embarrassment it would subsequently place him in

"From this day forward any nation that continues to harbour or support terrorism will be regarded by the United States as a hostile regime", raved George W.

George W made no attempt to spell out just exactly what constitutes a "terrorist". Some people believe that when a country is occupied by an oppressor, for instant Israel occupying Palestine then those endeavouring to eject the aggressors are not "terrorists".

However Sharon the Israeli Prime Minister has the green light from George W to wade into the Palestinians and George W even supplies him with the finance and weapons to do so.

Now take the case of the attack on the Indian Parliament by what India knows are "terrorists" from Pakistan.

Because George W is using Pakistan in his war on Afghanistan he finds himself in an invidious position and appears to sanction "terrorism" in some cases where he uses the host country to carry out the American agenda.

Its becoming a question of just how long will the world put up with this unilateral and inconsistent conduct by George W Bush.

**SHORTER WORK WEEK KEY TO LONGER LIFE**

The ACTU and 14 Australian unions are involved in a Test Case to include reasonable hours of work as an Award condition for Australian workers.

Recent Australian and international studies have shown some very damaging effects on health and safety for those working long hours.

The drive for longer hours, particularly under the Howard Government, is fuelled by employers claims for a more competitive workforce.

This is utter rubbish. Longer hours produce fatigued and stressed workers who cannot perform at their peak and their health and safety is constantly worsened.

French workers now have a limit of 35 hours per week and this has not adversely effected the French economy. It has led to an increase in jobs and improved workers health and safety.

Australian workers were the first to win an 8 hour day and Broken Hill miners pioneered the 35 hour week. What the ACTU needs is some "rank and file" action to boost their case.

**LATEST POLL BAD NEWS FOR S.A. LABOR PARTY**

Polls are an indication of the voting intentions of a selected number of voters who respond to questions posed by the pollsters.

The latest result of a poll concerning voters intentions on how they will vote in the forthcoming SA State elections is bad news for the Labor Party.

Published results are that at present the Liberal Party under its new leader has a 10% lead over the Labor Party and would be returned in an election if held now.

The "Machine" faction leadership of the Labor Party is the prime cause of Labor's poor showing and looks like leading Labor to another electoral defeat.

Labor's decline and its rejection by the wide community springs from the narrow selfish manner in which the "Machine" faction has tried to impose its ideas on the rest of the party membership.

Factions are endemic in any organisation and the Labor Party is no exception. The "Machine" which is a hybrid of the Bolkus and Farrell groups tried to have all factions and members subservient to their dictates.

This proved to be a dismal failure and one immediate outcome was action by top Labor performer Ralph Clark, who took the Machine dominated Labor Executive to the Supreme Court and exposed their "branch stacking activities".

Since then all hell has broke loose with the "Machine" seemingly going berserk and orchestrating a sleazy deal whereby to gain the support for its plans it agreed to appoint a comparative newcomer and cleanskin to the Legislative Council.

With this nefarious part of the scheme in place they then proceeded to undermine the party endorsement of sitting members Ralph Clarke for Enfield and Murray DeLaine for Cheltenham and groom suitable puppets for the positions.

Both of these Labor Party stalwarts have since resigned from the Labor Party and will be standing as "independents" in their electorates. Both have declared that if elected they will support Mike Rann and continue to uphold Labor principles.

As a result of the mischievous behaviour of the "Machine" faction, long standing and widely respected Labor Party member, Bill Hender also resigned from the Party.

Bill Hender for years carried the flag for Labor in the country and as a farmer bought to the Labor Party a knowledge and understanding so necessary if Labor is to develop a policy to win country support.

Another victim of the "Machine" faction was Chris Schacht, who was Labor's Shadow Minister for Veterans' Affairs, an area in which he is pre-eminent. As the sitting Senator, Schacht was entitled to number one position on the senate ticket.

Because Schacht had the "guts" and refused to bend his knee to the "Machine" faction they engineered his position to the unwinnable position of number three on the senate ticket.

Labor Party support is at an all time low in the community, and while the "Machine" faction calls the shots it is unlikely to improve.

**MOST AUSTRALIANS SUPPORT TRADE UNIONS**

A nationwide poll of people commissioned by the Labor Council of NSW, shows a firm trend in positive attitudes towards Trade Unions.

It was carried out by the Sydney University's Australian Centre for Industrial Relations Research and Training and follows similar surveys in 1996, 1997 and 1999.

Only 14% of Australians now say "that Australia would be better off without unions" down from 23% in 1999.

The rise in public support for Unions comes despite five years of outright and constant attack by the Liberal National Party government of John Howard, Peter Reith and Tony Abbott.

This rise in Union support has been achieved despite the persistent campaigns of victimisation against Union members.



Prepared and issued by:
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FEDERAL ELECTIONS NEXT SATURDAY

At the elections next Saturday, Australians will decide which party will be in office for the next three years. The successful governing party will be either the Labor Party or the Liberal-National Party coalition.

There is a distinct possibility that neither of the major parties will receive a working majority in their own right and will have to rely on support from some of the independents.

Neither the Labor Party or the Coalition are held in particularly high esteem by the electorate generally and this raises the likelihood of candidates from lesser parties or independents being elected in some electorates and to control of the senate.

There is no difference in the foreign policies supported by Kim Beazley and John Howard. Both are sucking up to George W Bush and support the Bush policy of indiscriminate bombing of weak and poor countries back to the stone age.

Kim Beazley and John Howard could well ponder the comment of DR Henry Kissinger, a former American Secretary of State, when he said, "to be an enemy of America can be dangerous, but to be a friend is fatal."

In the circumstances it will be domestic issues that will be foremost in the minds of working class voters when they mark their ballot papers on Saturday, they will be looking for such things as:

- Repeal of Reith's anti-union legislation
- Repeal of the GST tax impost and its replacement with a proper and fair income taxation system
- Creation of real jobs—by government financed public works programs.
- Complete and fully funded public hospital system, with upgraded "Medicare and Dental services along with universal bulk billing."
- A complete overhaul of the public education system, with first call on funds for teachers, buildings and class room equipment.
- A firm and definite undertaking that there will be no further privatising of Telstra and an intention for the government to buy-back all shares now in private hands.
- A more sympathetic attitude to refugees and people escaping American policies in the Middle East.
- Support for sustainable environment policies, with particular emphasis on the continuing degradation of the Darling-Murray river system.

Australia needs a government that functions in the interests of the Australian people.

On this test alone the Liberal-National coalition government has failed the Australian people and has over the past seven (7) years has run the country for the benefit of the corporations and the rich.

To rid Australia of this scourge play safe and in all cases put the :

"LIBERAL-NATIONAL COALITION" LAST



DUMMY CANDIDATES RUNNING FOR PARLIAMENT

According to Terry Cameron, MLC and Leader of the minuscule SA First Party, political parties are putting up dummy candidates who mislead voters into voting for "old Labor" or the ALP.

And Terry should know, the "little fella" was originally appointed to the Legislative Council as a member of the Labor Party, but during the ETSA debate, ratted on the Labor Party and sided with the Liberal Party in privatising this public asset.

As a result of his reprehensible and dastardly betrayal of the Labor Party and his previously espoused principles people in South Australia now pay the highest electricity charges in Australia.



AS ECONOMY TUMBLES - WORKERS WILL SUFFER

The world wide economic downturn is ominous news for the working class.

More and more layoffs are being announced daily, as companies fold or attempt to maintain profits by down sizing their workforce.

The downturn world wide had already commenced before the events of 11 September in America.

Most Australians are ill prepared for this recession. While availability of jobs picked up slightly during the economic expansion of the 1990's, workers became poorer, while the rich got richer.

Australian consumer debt now stands at record levels. Debt racked up in good times is difficult to repay in hard times.

Governments are finding that their tax revenue is dropping just when applications for benefits increase, resulting in harsh eligibility rules being invoked for welfare.

The Howard coalition government has added to the torment of the unemployed and poorer people in the community by cutting back on funds for hospitals and nursing homes for the elderly and disadvantaged.

Whilst the Howard government has made much of its tax cuts, they have gone in most cases to the wealthy.

Most economists worth their salt agree that the path to recovery is some combination of direct government spending on public works. To put money in the hands of consumers.

Programs such as housing, water conservation and a thorough scientific investigation of the degradation of the Darling - Murray River system and its solution are needed.

The Howard government has not the capacity or inclination to cope with the major social problems afflicting Australia.

When voting on Saturday it is in Australia's best interest to put the **Howard coalition candidates last.**



SCABS TAKE LANG CORP & NATIONAL FARMERS

FEDERATION TO COURT

Lang Corporation and the National Farmers Corporation are being sued by a group of scabs, who were to be used in the attack on the Maritime Union of Australia in 1998.

Lang Corporation owners of Patrick Stevedores (PS) and the National Farmers Federation (NFF) conspired to sack the waterfront workers and use the scabs to replace them.

The whole putrid scheme came unstuck because of the solidarity of the working class, in Australia and world wide.

Its par for the course for bosses to dump scabs when they have no further use for them.

Lang Corp and the NFF asked the Federal Court to dismiss the class application by the scabs and allow the matter to be heard on an individual basis. The judge upheld the scabs submission.

Outside the Court a spokesman for the scabs complained of "the dirty tactics of the other side in trying to split them, so that each would have to fight his own case".

It is believed that something like 200 scabs are involved in the case and they are seeking up to \$30 million compensation.

The Federal court hearing is set down for trial in March 2002.

It will be interesting to see if former Minister for Workplace Relations Peter Reith is called as a witness and submits himself to cross examination.



The greatest area of unemployment in the Liberal Party is just above the shoulders.



WHO FORMULATES AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY?

In February 1998 Mr John Maresca, Vice-President for International Relations of the Unocal Corporation addressed the American House of Representatives International Committee on US interests in the Central Asian Republics.

Unocal Corporation is one of America largest and most powerful oil and energy corporations.

Mr Maresca congratulated the committee for focussing on Central Asian Oil and Gas reserves and the role they play in shaping US policy.

Mr Maresca went on to say that the Caspian region contains tremendous untapped hydrocarbon reserves.

According to Mr Maresca 200 billion barrels of oil and 600 trillion cubic feet of gas. Enough to make any oil company envious.

The Unocal chief says the oil could be got out by either of two (2) ways. One is to go east across to China, but besides some political problems that way is the length of pipe-line required and the price that would be paid at the well-head.

The other way would be down through Afghanistan to the Indian Ocean. This is the preferable way, but could not be entertained at present because of the unsettled nature of the political situation in Afghanistan.

Mr Maresca indicated that before his company would consider the construction of a pipe-line across Afghanistan there must be a stable, united and recognised government in Afghanistan.

By coincidence that is just the policy and conditions that is now being advocated by, George W Bush, Colin Powell, Tony Blair and John Howard to justify the ruthless bombing of the Afghani civilian population.

Some unkind people believe that if Osama bin Laden had not been in Afghanistan, George W Bush & Co would have had to invent someone who was.

**PORT PIRIE WORKERS' FACE UNCERTAIN FUTURE**

The announcement that Pasminco Ltd, operators of the Port Pirie smelter has gone into "voluntary administration" is grim news for the workers and people of Port Pirie.

The continued operation of the smelter is threatened from two (2) directions. In the immediate future from the high cost of electric power, arising primarily from the failure of State governments to prepare for the general increase of electricity consumption in South Australia and the privatisation of ETSA.

In the longer term the threat to the town is that the Broken Hill mine, supplying lead and zinc concentrates is scheduled to close in six (6) years time.

Both the workers of Broken Hill and Port Pirie will then pay the price for the practice of Broken Hill mining companies of ripping the guts out of the line of lode by mining the higher grade ores and leaving the lower grade ores in the stopes.

A more balanced mix of the lower grade ores with the higher grade ores over the years would have prolonged the life of the mines for another 100 years.

Its another example of the policy of the mining companies. Rip in, get the maximum profit out of the mine and ancillary attachments, then leave the workers with no jobs, to fend as best they can with the falling values of their homes and businesses.

**AUSTRALIANS ARE GETTING STRONGER**

Australians are getting stronger according to the logic of the Liberal Party spin doctors.

Before they came to office it took two people to carry twenty (\$20) dollars worth of groceries.

To-day a child can do it.



PLAY YOUR PART IN DEFEATING THE HOWARD GOVERNMENT - BY PUTTING LIBERAL/NATIONAL PARTY CANDIDATES LAST!!!

HIDDEN AGENDA BEHIND THE WAR ON TERROR

America is now five weeks' into its bombing campaign and not a single terrorist implicated in the attacks on America has been caught or killed in Afghanistan.

One of the poorest most poverty stricken countries on earth is being terrorised by the most powerful.

American pilots have run out of military targets and are doubling up on targets previously pulverised such as mud houses, hospitals, Red Cross warehouses and lorries carrying refugees.

Tony Blair and George W Bush have yet to tell us what the violent death of children - seven in one family - has to do with Osama bin Laden.

And why are cluster bombs being used? If ever a weapon was specifically designed for acts of terrorism, this must surely be it.

To date neither George W Bush or Tony Blair have produced the promised evidence implicating Osama bin Laden with the attacks on the World Trade Towers and the Pentagon.

None of those directly involved in the September 11 atrocity was Afghani. Of the nineteen involved fifteen were Saudis and did their planning and training in Germany and the United States.

The Taliban is a creation of the Americans and the British. In the 1980s, the tribal army that produced them was funded by the CIA and trained by the SAS to fight the Russians.

When the Taliban took Kabul in 1996, Washington said nothing and Taliban leaders were soon on their way to Houston (Texas) to be entertained by Unocal the powerful American oil company.

A US diplomat said at the time: "The Taliban will develop like the Saudis did". Afghanistan would become an American oil colony, there would be huge profits for the West, no democracy and the legal persecution of women. "We can live with that", he said.

Although the deal fell through, it remains an urgent priority of George W Bush, who is steeped in the oil industry. Bush's concealed agenda is to gain control of and exploit the oil and gas reserves of the Caspian Sea basin.

It is not surprising that US Secretary of State Colin Powell is now referring to "moderate" Taliban, who will join an American sponsored "loose federation" to run Afghanistan.

By bombing and killing innocent people in Afghanistan, Bush and Blair stoop to the level of the criminal outrage in New York. Once you cluster bomb, "mistakes" and "blunders" are a pretence.

Murder is murder, regardless of whether you crash a plane into a building or order and collude with it from the Oval Office and Downing Street.

Its time the bombing and indiscriminate killing of Afghanistans stopped and that is the ardent desire of ordinary people around the world including both the United States and Britain.

**SHADOW ATTORNEY GENERAL GETS CHEAP ADVICE**

Mr Michael Atkinson is the shadow attorney general and leader of the right-wing faction in the Australian Labor Party.

Michael has never had a progressive working class idea in his life, but he sure knows where to get free legal advice when his behaviour gets him in to trouble with fellow Labor Party members.

Following Ralph Clarke's exposure of wide-spread ill legal practices of "branch stacking" in the SA Branch of the Labor Party, Michael has found himself in need of "legal assistance".

Michael seems to have a penchant of going off half cocked and then either apologising or seeking legal assistance.

He was recently threatening to get stuck into The Australian Workers' Union following a ballot in that Union and in which a clique of disgruntled Union officials, closely associated with Michael were decisively defeated.

It is believed that the legal costs to the Labor Party in opposing Clarke's exposure of the "branch stacking" rort amounted to around \$100000 dollars.

It's a pity Michael wasn't able to put the Party on to his legal advisers who apparently don't charge for services.



Prepared and issued by:

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HOWARD GOVERNMENT SHOWS TRUE COLOURS

A Federal election could be called at any time between now and the end of the year. Howard and his henchmen are stepping up their attack on the Trade Unions, Labor Party and working people.

Howard's action is in accord with the strategy and instructions mapped out by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank.

These organisations are subject to controlling directions from the United States Government, which is becoming increasingly nervous at the development of anti American feeling in all countries around the world.

As the capitalist system in country after country fails to meet the legitimate expectations of the people for a better life. People naturally question the motives and attacks on their living standards by the emissaries of the corporate sector.

It is this growing revolutionary attitude of the working class that is the worry of George W Bush, Tony Blair and now John Howard. It is also a worry to supporters of the capitalist system and their class in other countries.

These people and their lackies think that history has ceased with the capitalist system and are unable to grasp that just as everything else has a use by date so too has capitalism.

In accord with the instructions emanating from the IMF and World Bank, the Howard Government imposed the General Services Tax (GST) on the Australian people. The purpose of this tax is to have the working class subsidise the capitalist system.

The section of the community hit hardest by the GST are the lowest paid working men and women, unemployed, pensioners and aborigines. Despite claims by Howard & Co to the contrary these people are now paying tax where previously they did not.

It is this tax gouged out of those least able to afford it, that has enabled Howard to give big tax cuts to the rich and the corporate sector. This creates the impression that capitalism is stable and robust. It's the poor whose standard of living that has suffered.

The Labor Party is pledged to "roll back" the GST when elected and it will require support from all sections of the working class to carry this out. It is an area where the Trade Unions should remain vigilant, insistent and ready to assist.



FRASER SEEKS REASSESSMENT OF ANZUS TREATY

When Malcolm Fraser called for the withdrawal of Australia from the ANZUS treaty in a recent interview on the ABC, it met with widespread support in Australia, but sent a shiver along the spine of George W Bush and the US bully-boys.

Fraser's concern was sparked by the US unilateral interpretation of obligations under the "treaty".

American policy in the Asian area is in conflict with China, because of American interference in the internal affairs of China with regard to Taiwan, a China province.

The American interpretation of ANZUS is that Australia should help, should America decide to invade or attack China over Taiwan. As one American "hawk" put it recently Australia should help do the "dirty work".

If China were to invade the US there would be some validity in the US interpretation of ANZUS. The original concept of ANZUS was as a mutual assistance pact should any of the members be the victim of aggression.

It was never understood, in the thinking of the average Australian that ANZUS was an instrument of aggression.

China is one of Australia's most important trading partners and it is against Australia's best interests that we should be dragged into a war with China to support American "imperial ambitions".



WORKERS ENTITLEMENTS MUST BE PROTECTED

Strike action by workers at the Tristar plant in Sydney to ensure that their entitlements were safe and secure has caused workers in other industries to take a look at the security of their entitlements.

Superannuation, long service leave, holiday pay and redundancy payments are as much part of a workers' entitlement as is the weekly payment of wages. These should accrue to a workers' credit each week in a secure and guaranteed fund.

On the evidence this is not being done in some cases. It has been estimated that over the past few years something like \$40 million has been lost by workers as a result of employers going bust and then pleading bankrupt.

It seems that workers entitlements have been used to finance the establishment or used by the bosses to secure themselves when they see the writing on the wall.

Trade Unions must take action to ensure that "workers' entitlements" in all circumstances are fully protected and insured.

Should any employer go bankrupt the workers' entitlements must rank above all others in priority of payment.



TELSTRA AND BHP DESTROY WORKING CONDITIONS

Making use of the provisions of Reith's Individual Work-place Agreement (AWA) legislation, Telstra and BHP are using them to destroy established working conditions.

The method is to downsize their workforce and then to out-source work previously performed by the downsized workers.

Since partial privatisation Telstra has sacked 20,000 workers and then contracted work to Stellar Call Centre Solutions. Stellar denies workers the right to negotiate working conditions collectively and adopts the attitude of "no sign then no job".

In this way Stellar has altered "normal working hours", reduced "sick leave" from 10 days to 8 days, employees must also agree to unwritten and changeable work rules, along with management right of instant dismissal of any employee. Stellar's pay rate and working conditions are below those to Telstra staff.

Telstra was originally conceived as an organisation to provide a service to the community and with a "social responsibility". Today Telstra operates as a corporation intent on maximum profit, where its workers are exploited in the interests of share-holders.

BHP which once claimed to be guided with a sense of "social responsibility" is now going down the same path of total disregard of its workforce.

BHP is seeking to downsize 450 of its Port Kembla workers and have them replaced by employees of Transfield Services and Fluor Gonian.

It was the workers of both Telstra and BHP whose services and labour collectively provided the values which built these corporations.

Now instead of the workforce being downsized by the corporation bosses and thrown on the unemployed scrap heap, Trade Unions should be initiating action for a 30 hour week, without loss of pay.



MAJOR PARTIES LOSE POPULAR APPEAL

The two party system that has dominated Australian politics for years is in deep trouble. Recent polls show that in some cases Labor and Liberal attract just over 30% of first preference votes. In other polls both are under 40%. This is a direct result, in the case of Labor, of failing to develop policy that accords with the aims and objectives of the working class.



HOWARD TARNISHES AUSTRALIA'S REPUTATION

Because of the Howard Governments ham fisted handling of the latest batch of "asylum seekers" following their rescue by the Norwegian container ship "Tampa", Australia is today being branded as "racist" and "mean spirited" throughout the civilised world.

Thinking that here was a ploy that could be exploited for advantage by the Liberals in the forthcoming elections, Howard claimed that no "asylum seeker" would set foot on Australian soil. His brashness became an "albatross" around his neck and has now largely destroyed his standing with the thinking Australian public.

With the "Tampa" and the 460 asylum seekers already at Christmas Island the common-sense thing was to let them land and be processed and dispersed as they now will be to Nauru and New Zealand. The "Tampa" would have sailed away and our relations with Norway would have remained in tack.

Australia then instead of being criticised by the United Nations, Australia would be seen as a country that handled a difficult situation in a proper and approved civilised manner.

The stationing of naval vessels between Christmas Island and Indonesia could still have been proceeded with.

**UNION AGREEMENTS DELIVER MORE THAN AWAs**

A recent study conducted by the University of Sydney's industrial Relations research body has found, what most workers' were already aware of, "that Union negotiated agreements deliver higher wages and improved conditions" to workers.

It found that 82.2% of Union collective agreements provided for quantifiable wage increases, compared with 23.9% for those on AWAs.

The study was also able to verify that Union agreements on average delivered wage increases of more than 30% higher than those on AWAs.

**FREELADING SCABS TO PAY FOR UNION SERVICES**

Australian unions have been given the green light by the Industrial Commission to make freeload non-union scabs pay a fee for the services provided by Unions winning wage increases and improved benefits.

Ironically, the Commission's decision flows from the Howard Government's industrial police force's attempt to remove a clause in hundreds of enterprise agreements that allows for a Union to pursue a bargaining fee from non-unionists.

Vice-President Tony McIntyre rejected the Employment Advocate's attempt to remove the provision from 236 Electrical Trade Union agreements.

The Howard Government's anti-union industrial watchdog had claimed the clause was unlawful, but it blew up in his face.

This is a victory for all Trade Unionists and a slap in the face for the scabs who freeloader on decent union workers.

The Employment Advocate is considering an appeal while Workplace Relations Minister Tony Abbott is planning to change the laws to allow the scabs to freeloader.

**WORKPLACE RELATIONS MINISTER AN IR DUNCE**

Tony Abbott didn't take long to prove what a dork and Industrial Relations dunce he is.

At a recent swearing in of four new Industrial Commissioners, in front of what were described as "the leading players in the Industrial Relations community - Abbott's speech was so bad that "his audience responded with a mixture of shock and wry amusement", commented the Workplace Express.

While excuses may be made for Abbott's speech, Trade Unionists know, "he is just another Howard dork foisted on us".

**HIGHER WAGES AND 30 HOUR WEEK - NOW NEEDED**

Back in the 1890 when shearers in Western Queensland were struggling for a greater share of the values they were creating, one of their visions was for higher pay rates and a shorter working week.

Mainly because the squatters were able to use the State machine against them the shearers were defeated and their leaders jailed. From that dispute arose the belief that if the workers had their own political party then the State machinery could be used to support them in future industrial disputes.

This led to the founding of the Labor Party and the election of workers to Parliament. One thing workers have since learned is that unless there is determined, well organised and active support around an issue they will get little help from the politicians.

It is now universally agreed that the capitalist world is heading into a recession if not a depression. This is because the workers have produced such an abundance of material goods of all types, but do not have the purchasing power to buy and use the goods now produced and piling up.

An increase in pay rates and a 30 hour week will not solve the problems confronting the capitalist system, either in Australia or world wide, but it will alleviate the position in the short term and help create jobs.

To create jobs and solve unemployment, governments must undertake substantial and continuing public works programs. Only in this way can the difference between the value of production and the community purchasing power be balanced.

Unless the Labor Party comes up with a "policy program" that accords with the requirements of the working class it will continue to be lose support and be seen as just another upholder of the capitalist system.

**LABOR STALWART RESIGNS FROM LABOR PARTY**

A further sign of the crisis besetting the South Australian Branch of the Labor Party is the resignation from the Party of Labor stalwart Murray DeLaine.

Murray Delaine in announcing his resignation, will continue as an independent member of Parliament and then run as an independent for the seat of "Cheltenham" when the State elections are held.

Murray Delaine is a Trade Unionist, a Labor Party member for 40 years, a former member of the Woodville Council and member of the South Australia Parliament for the past 16 years. At the time of his resignation he was Parliamentary Labor Party whip.

Murray has an exemplary record of service to the working class, the Labor Party and the people of the Cheltenham area in particular.

Murray Delaine fell foul of the Machine Faction in the ALP when he supported the findings of Mr Justice Mulligan in 1999 in the Supreme Court, who had found them guilty of "stacking local ALP sub-branches".

To get square the Machine Faction then broke with Labor Party convention, by passed the sitting member and endorsed one of their supporters for Cheltenham in the coming elections.

Murray Delaine has done the honorable thing for the electors of Cheltenham in standing as an independent. The Labor Party will be the beneficiary as Murray Delaine has announced that he will continue to work and support the Labor Party.

**LABOR DAY MARCH - FRIDAY 28TH SEPTEMBER**

Marchers to assemble in Victoria Square at 12.00 noon

And march to Federal government offices on King William Street.

JOBS FOR THE UNEMPLOYED - SECURE JOBS FOR ALL

Prepared and issued by:

Jim Doyle JP

Life member of The Australian Workers' Union

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PHILOSOPHY AND TAXES

Lying hidden in the recent Howard Government budget is a carefully crafted tax plan, partially obscured by softly spoken mind-numbing platitudes which are designed to cover a major revaluation of the role and purpose of government.

The "General Services Tax" (GST) has opened up for the Liberal-National Party Conservatives a whole new area of taxation which they are exploiting for the benefit of the wealthy and the corporations.

The big losers are the unemployed, minimum paid workers, pensioners, women, the sick and the disadvantaged in society, who are now required to pay the GST on items and services which were previously tax free.

Because there will be an election towards the end of this year the Howard government is unashamedly trying to buy the "pensioners" vote by making a one-off payment to pensioners from the unjustified taxes it has accumulated.

Should the Howard government be successful in the coming elections, future GST taxes will be used to further reduce taxes for the rich and the corporations.

The Howard tax plan represents a sharp lurch rightward and will lead to the undoing of the ideological foundation of Australian society, "that it is government responsibility to assist those who cannot help themselves".

It is the strategy of Howard and his henchmen to "lock" a future Labor Government into continuing the GST, along with the tax reductions and concessions granted to the rich and the corporations. The Treasury cupboard will be left bare.

It will be a test of the ideological integrity and solidarity of the Beazley-Crean leadership of the Labor Government as to how they handle the position Labor will inherit.

"Howard plays to the centre, but rules from the right". The behaviour of Howard and his cohorts in Parliament unmistakably reveals their true colours and intentions. For anyone confused about Howard's ideological posture, the covers are now off.

A major battle both philosophical and practical is unfolding in Parliament and across the country. The stakes are enormous. Will we go lurching toward Gomorrah, or will the resources and resolve be found to resist and defeat Howard's plans.

The time has come to build all-people unity, to unite, fight and defeat the right personified by the Howard government.



COMPENSATION CUT BY LABOR GOVERNMENT

Workers in New South Wales have had their Compensation entitlements drastically cut by the Carr Labor government despite strenuous objections by Trade Unions.

Drawn up by John Della Bosca, the Minister for Industrial Relations, the cuts were enthusiastically supported by the employers and corporations.

Prior to this further blot on his reputation, Mr Della Bosca is remembered for comforting the Howard government on GST with his claim that the GST should apply to all "food" without exception.

Mr Della Bosca seems to be a strange type of person to be in the Labor Party, with ideas that are more in keeping with the policy and aims of the Liberal Party.

May be its time that the Trade Unions and the grass roots members of the Labor Party took a good look at the quality and qualifications of people who seek endorsement and support for election to Parliament.



WORKERS PENALISED FOR WAGE INCREASES

Australian workers are being penalised by employers when they are awarded pay increases by Industrial Commission decisions.

By down-sizing their work force, Australian employers are able to maintain their rate of profit by placing further burdens onto the backs of the workers by requiring the remaining work-force to make up the production lost by the sacked workers.

Under pressure from the French Trade Union movement the French Parliament recently passed a law making it harder for French employers to down load staff.

The idea behind the French "social modernisation" bill is that if an enterprise is profitable, it must meet wage increases from the profits of the enterprise.

In this way if there is a down turn in the economy, then it is also shared by the enterprise or company.

Its an idea that should be looked at by Australian trade unionists, where for too long Australian employers and companies have continued to enjoy buoyant and record profits, simply by having the working class shoulder heavier workloads and worsening work conditions.



THE GROWING CRISIS OF U. S. CAPITALISM

Despite the efforts of spokesmen of the leading industrial countries to talk up the system by claiming the prospects and viability of the capitalist economies is bright, it is becoming more apparent each day that they "whistling in the dark".

As the leading capitalist country, what happens in the United States sooner or later is reflected in other countries, including Australia.

A report in the "Washington Post" on Saturday 7th July makes gloomy reading that all is not well in the land of the free.

A further 114,000 workers in the manufacturing industry lost their jobs in June. Since the beginning of 2001, three-quarters of a million workers in manufacturing have lost their jobs in the U.S.

Unemployment for whites now stands at 4% rising from 3.8%. The unemployment for blacks rose from 8% to 8.4%. Unemployment for Latinos rose from 6.2% to 6.6% and for teenagers from 13.6% to 14.3%

"The job report failed to suggest that the economy has begun to recover," said Maury Harris, chief economist at UBS Warburg in New York.

This type of comment has also been made by economists at other stock-brokers, when explaining the fall in the Dow Jones of 277.18 points or 2.17%.

"When America has a cold, Australia begins to sneeze"



UNION INFLUENCE IN LABOR PARTY WANS

Trade Union influence in the Labor Party, already at a low level is to be further eroded, according to Kim Beazley. Ever since right-winger Gareth Evans succeeded in eliminating the "nationalisation objective" from the Labor Party rules at Terrigal in 1975, Labor is veering further to the "right".

The Labor Party grew out of the workers struggles in the 1890's, and has now been high-jacked by people anxious to serve the capitalist class.



RANK AND FILE UNION DEMOCRACY

Union members are the grass-roots power of the union movement. Even with the changes taking place in the labor movement, building rank-and-file participation and union democracy are key tasks.

The best guarantee of Union democracy is a militant job rep and shop steward system backed by a grievance procedure giving the union the authority to settle beefs in the workplace. Corporate lawyers and negotiators have helped shift the grievance system away from the job or workplace floor.

Too many issues are "resolved" away from the job or workplace floor. Too many issues are "resolved" in arbitration in offices rather than by workers on the job.

This takes the rank-and-file power of the Union membership out of the process. It also ties up valuable union staff time in lawyer-like work rather than mobilising and involving the the membership in enforcing the award or agreement.

It is the responsibility of union leadership to ensure that the union is not a "business" relationship of maling and dues. Real union democracy means that the members set policy.

Union democracy means better ways of mobilising and involving members in the work of the union. Some unions are now experimenting with part-time and volunteer organisers from the ranks.

Even more, unions need to bring the issues of the day to the job and shop floor. Members need to be mobilised for elections, demonstrations, solidarity actions, mass protests and organising.

Union democracy also means beefing up health and safety enforcement on the job or shop floor. The right to refuse unsafe and unhealthy work is essential and critical.

**TIME TO MUZZLE THE THE RABID RIGHT.**

Ever since the election of the second Howard government the Trade Union movement has been under constant attack and abuse from the "rabid-right" that constitutes the majority personnel of the Liberal-National coalition government.

The "rabid-right" is well aware that it is the Trade Union movement that has always been the main organisation exposing and fighting the plots of the Liberal-National government with its attacks on workers awards and conditions.

Because the "rabid-right" fear the ability of the Trade Unions to unify and inspire the working class to halt any further down grading of working and living standards the "rabid-right" are now working themselves into a frenzy with their attacks on the Trade Unions and the Labor Party.

With a Federal election due before the end of the year, there are some ugly noises coming out of Canberra. Despite having been in government for the past 7 years, the Liberal-National misfits continue to blame the Trade Unions and the Labor Party as a cover of their short-comings and failures.

Tying his government to a political strategy devised by the OECD, International Monetary Fund and World Bank the Howard government has imposed the General Services Tax (GST) on the Australian working class and people.

The fundamental purpose of the GST is to stabilise the capitalist system by taxing the working class and passing on tax reductions to the wealthy and the corporations. Which means longer working hours for workers and lower living standards.

The well-being of all working Australians is at stake whilst the Howard government is in office and the return of another Liberal-National Party government is too horrible to countenance.

A broad all-peoples coalition must be achieved in this new stage of the democratic struggle to defeat the Howard government. It needs to be broader and better organised than the anti-Howard-Costello campaign of 1996 and to embrace the Labor Party, Trade Unions, small businesses, women, youth and all democratic forces, which together can muzzle the pit bulls of the "rabid right".

**INTERNATIONAL LAW MUST BE UNBIASED**

There is a growing belief throughout the world that the Court set up in The Hague to try war criminals is concerned only in handing down decisions acceptable to the United States and other members of NATO.

It is beginning to look more so as indicted or convicted war criminals are all citizens of small, poor countries.

Slobodan Milosevic is accused of using military force to wage a campaign of terror against the civilian population of Kosovo.

In 1960 Robert McNamara, the American Defence Secretary, declared the largest part of the Vietnamese countryside, populated by peasants, as a "free fire zone." It is estimated that 2,000,000 Vietnamese were subsequently killed.

When Richard Falk, professor of international law at Princeton University in the U.S. was asked whether Ariel Sharon, Israeli Prime Minister was guilty of a war crime in the massacre of Palestinian refugees in the Sabra and Shatila camps in Lebanon, he answered, "No doubt whatsoever."

Sharon has now compounded his criminality by his use of US supplied gunships to massacre the people of Palestine and continues to thumb his nose at the world.

Former Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet is under arrest and is to appear before a Chilean Court when mentally and physically fit to stand trial.

Sooner or later someone like Kissinger, McNamara, Sharon or Wesley Clarke are going to have to be indicted and brought before an international criminal court to answer for their actions, just as being done to Pinochet and Milosevic.

**UNION TICKET IN STUNNING VICTORY**

Officials of The Australian Workers' Union have had a magnificent victory in the recent Union ballot. Despite their opposition having the support of right-wing Labor politician Michael Atkinson and Liberal Party MLC Hon Legh H Davis.

Led by the Secretary, Wayne Hanson the official ticket candidates completely routed the right-wingers.

High hopes had been pinned on a former Secretary John Dunnery, who stood for the position of Branch President, he was thoroughly defeated by Council rep Terry Langham who was overwhelmingly supported by the union membership.

Having eliminated this clique of right-wing puppets the Union can now get on with the job of looking after its members pay rates and working conditions.

**LABOR WIN SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN FOR GRANTED**

With both South Australian state elections and Federal elections due within the next 6 to 9 months it should not be assumed that Labor wins are a certainty.

There is a widespread disenchantment with the two major parties and here in South Australia this could lead to independents holding the balance of power.

From a Labor point of view this would be unsatisfactory, but it is a reality. The action of the right-wing machine faction in denying Labor endorsement to popular and trusted sitting members like Ralph Clarke and Murray DeLaine does nothing to assist Labor's cause.

Its not too late for Jay Weatherill and John Rau to withdraw their nominations in the interests of Party unity. The Labor Party then to endorse Labor stalwarts Murray DeLaine and Ralph Clarke for the electorates, thereby enabling Mike Rann to lead a united team in the coming elections.



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THE ROLE OF IDEOLOGY IN CLASS STRUGGLES

Ideology is not something abstract or neutral. It is class generated, and a class used body of principles, beliefs and ideals that guide class political strategies. Ideologies reflect the material interests, views and aspirations of classes.

Accordingly, in the history of class struggle, class ideologies, like the classes that spun them, have been conservative or progressive; conservative when serving an oppressive ruling class to maintain its power, progressive when serving a rising liberating class to achieve power.

The most progressive ideology in our time is the socialist ideology of the most progressive class in our time – the modern working class.

Socialist ideology comprises two related elements. (1) The Marxist theory of social evolution through class struggle and the decline of capitalism and the capitalist class; and (2) its succession by the working class and a socialist society.

The first is a scientific analysis, precise and explicit. The second is a conclusion deduced from the first. It anticipates a society to be envisioned, aspired to, struggled for, and ultimately planned and built. It is what has been sometimes called the utopian aspect of Marxism.

It is important not to confuse "utopian" in the Marxian sense, with the "utopian socialists" who renounce the need for class struggle and claim that capitalism will collapse because of its internal systemic contradictions.

The structure of a future socialist Australia cannot be predicted, for it will be determined by the historical conditions prevailing at the time and will be influenced by the specific realities of the moment.

Those who struggle to-day for transforming capitalist society to a socialist one will be that future's past. We need to envision and assert how the social needs the working class is deprived of to-day will be fulfilled in a socialist Australia.

Envisioning the future is essential to the struggle to-day. Fighting only for what the working class is against, without a vision of what it is for, makes for a defensive strategy.

But victory presupposes an offensive. An offensive requires a goal. Working class vision of its ultimate goal and the will to reach it, is therefore crucial to the struggle to-day.

Workers come by this ideal of a socialist society subtly, by gut reaction to their daily oppression. But it takes more than gut feeling to perceive it in depth and embrace it in struggle.

It requires knowledge, organisation, strategy and tactics to ultimately bring it about. It is for this reason that Trade unionists, Labor Party activists and everyone interested in social progress must read, study and learn from the social science of Marxism and the arts it inspires.



DON'T DENY THE BRUTALITY OF HISTORY

If we accept the truth of Australia's history, one conclusion is inescapable. Australia has been built by depriving the aborigine people of their land and the near destruction of their native culture.

This policy was not accidental, but the conscious decisions of people out to enrich themselves at the expense of others.

There is no honour in glorifying a genocidal past. There is no integrity in ignoring the plight of the aboriginal people now.

There is honour in facing the past honestly. There is integrity in understanding that our history has left us with a society in which systematic injustice remains.

We must now set about correcting the social wrongs.



NEW IRC OFFICIAL GUILTY OF DISCRIMINATION

One of Peter Reith's last acts as Minister for Workplace Relations was to appoint Rob Cartwright to the Industrial Relations Commission. The Federal Court has found that Cartwright discriminated against union members when he was Telstra's employee relations director.

The full bench headed by Chief Justice Michael Black, questioned Cartwright's evidence to the court, finding it had "a degree of improbability" and ordered that a previous decision favouring Telstra be set aside and the matter be reheard.

The Federal Court found that Cartwright, using E-mail had instructed 275 Telstra managers to favour employees on individual contracts when shedding 10,000 staff.

Federal Labor spokesman on industrial relations Arch Bevis said senior deputy president Rob Cartwright should now reconsider his position in view of the Federal Court decision that he had discriminated against unions last year when Telstra's employee relations director.

"What the court has now decided is that the newly appointed deputy president has acted in a manner contrary to the law", Arch Bevis said.

The Workplace Relations Act says members can only be removed from the commission by a vote by both houses of Parliament.

With a record like Cartwright's unions are unlikely to receive an impartial hearing from him. Unions should call for his resignation from the commission.

If he fails to do so, unions should prevail on the Labor Government to do so following the next election.



MOBIL SETS UP TRAINING SCHOOL FOR SCABS

Mobil Oil, operators of the oil refinery at Port Stanvac has set up a training school for scabs in Sydney and plan to use them should they not be able to coerce a group of AMWU workers employed at the Port Stanvac refinery into accepting its will.

Mobil Oil is part of Exxon-Mobil Oil the giant American oil company. Exxon-Mobil is the largest corporation in the world with an income greater than all but a few of the largest industrial countries.

Exxon-Mobil is the current name of what was originally the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey. It is a Rockefeller Company which has a long and frightful anti-social history towards working class organisation, not only in America, but in all countries in which they operate.

But this is the 21st century and there is a growing awareness among all people that creating profits for rapacious companies is not the prime function of labour.

The workers at Port Stanvac are fighting for their jobs, their families, security and the right to work in healthy and safe conditions.



CHAGOS ISLANDERS EXPELLED FOR U.S. BASE

The British High Court has ruled that 2000 inhabitants had been illegally expelled from their homeland islands so that America could set up a naval, and missile base on Diego Garcia.

Diego Garcia is in the middle of the Indian Ocean, about 15,000km from continental America.

The islanders were bundled off the islands and allowed to take only what they could carry. They now live on Mauritius in poverty and degradation.



BUSH IS A THREAT TO THE WORLD

The spy plane row is just one more reason to believe that the US President is a serious danger to world peace and the environment.

The collision between an American spy plane and a Chinese fighter jet triggered a chain of events that has left diplomats and people of all countries reeling.

During the presidential election campaign Bush sought to project himself as a compassionate thoughtful consensus-builder. In reality he has emerged as the most dangerous head of any state since Adolf Hitler.

The American people some of whom voted for Bush will pay a significant price for having been misled by his rhetoric, with dramatically reduced social spending, tax breaks for the wealthy and an energy and environmental policy driven entirely by industry concerns.

The Bush administration has fundamentally altered the way in which the United States relates to the rest of the world. Any compassion in foreign policy has been replaced by self-interest. Collaboration has been replaced with coercion.

Bush has renounced the 1997 Kyoto Protocol. US government scientists are agreed that global warming is happening and faster than previously thought. Bush doubts science.

With the cold war over, the US military-industrial complex, led by Bush, Vice-President Dick Cheney and Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, America desperately needs new enemies to justify further military spending to give the economy a kick.

The continuing bombing of Iraq is aimed at provoking Saddam Hussein, but instead is drawing criticism from Arab countries, plus Germany and France.

The only real hope for preserving world peace and protecting the environment lies with the middle powers such as Germany, France, Italy, Britain, prevailing on the US to drop its unilateralism and universal "bullying".

Opposing "bullies", especially those as powerful and ideologically committed as George W Bush & Co, takes courage and conviction. Allowing them to succeed is the best way to ensure they will continue to "bully" again and again.

**LET THE UNITED NATIONS DO ITS JOB**

In the weeks since Ariel Sharon took power, the tension has risen in Isreal-Palestine. Over 500 people have now been killed, most of them Palestinians. Why then is Bush vowing to block the best chance available to halt the bloodshed?

When the UN Security Council, with strong international support considered the deployment of a "protection force" to calm the situation, the US at Ariel Sharon's request, said it would veto any such effort.

A lasting peace in Isreal-Palestine must be based on international law and enforced with international oversight. Instead, for 7 years the US spurned outside involvement, singularly promoting the Oslo process.

Oslo promised an Isreali withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza, but led to 50,000 new settlers and the bulldozing of a 1000 more Palestinian homes.

It pledged a sovereign Palestinian state, but left all infrastructure (electricity, telecommunications, gas, water) in Isreali hands.

The proposed Palestinian state consisted of an archipelago with no free internal passage, surrounded by Isreali settlements, bypass roads and military checkpoints. The Palestinians demanded their home back and Isreal offered rooms for rent with police stationed in every doorway.

The Isrealis want and deserve security. But to get it they must end the occupation immediately. Expanding settlements moves in the opposite direction. Each new settler planted on Palestinian territory requires Isreal to garrison a platoon of soldiers around him.

To have security for all Isreal must withdraw to the 1967 borders, as mandated by international law.

**WORKERS SHORT CHANGED – AGAIN**

Workers have again been short changed in the decision on wages handed down by the Industrial Relations Commission, the \$13 a week increase in the minimum wage has been branded by the ACTU and unions representing low paid workers as "mean spirited".

ACTU President Sharon Burrow blamed Prime Minister John Howard, who promoted a \$10 a week rise for the "mean spirited" decision.

The increase which represents about a 3% rise is below the average enterprise bargaining outcomes and is below Australia's inflation rate.

"This is a real pay cut. This will give no comfort to working families struggling to make ends meet" said Sharon Burrow.

The Liquor Hospitality and Miscellaneous Worker's Union assistant national Secretary Tim Ferrari said it was "a poor result for workers, struggling daily to cope with high inflation caused by the GST, petrol price rises and company profit taking".

Liberal Party Workplace Relations Minister Tony Abbott said "it's a balanced decision, it's a good result for low income earners."

Abbott and his cohorts are now in line for a \$150 to \$200 a week rise in their take home pay.

**BUSH FEAR OF "ROGUE" STATES IS LAUGHABLE**

Like Adolf Hitler before him, Bush is conjuring up threats from small countries to justify America's huge expenditure on weapons of mass destruction and the National Missile Defence (NMD) project.

There is no country that poses a threat to America and Bush knows that. It is because of the contraction in the American capitalist economy that it is necessary to create "enemies" so as to justify the expenditure that weapons and the NMD entails, estimated at \$60 billion to \$100 billion and which is to enable the fantastic profits of American corporations to continue.

America to-day has military bases around the world and these constitute the greater threat to world peace.

America sees itself in the role of a world policeman with the task of preventing any social change taking place in any country that is not in accord with the American concept of "democracy" and "capitalist" society.

It is not in Australia's interest to go down the path of "sheriff" or "lackey" for the Americans and is a further reason that the Liberal-National Party government must be thrown out.

**SHADOW ATTORNEY GENERAL RECANTS**

"The Plod" has been critical of the ALP Member for Spence, Mr Michael Atkinson and his suitability for the important post of Attorney-General in a Rann Labor government.

Mr Atkinson's problems arise from his penchant to shoot off his mouth without thinking what he's saying and then after being warned of the dangers of such behaviour to make an abject apology.

A recent example was his use of Radio station 5AA to attack the popular ALP Member for Ross Smith, Ralph Clarke with completely unsubstantiated insinuations.

Mr Michael Atkinson now withdraws his implications and says "I acknowledge Ralph Clarke to be an outstanding Labor member of parliament, especially at the committee stage of bills, and I unreservedly apologise to Ralph Clarke for the comments made by me."



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THE SYSTEMIC NATURE OF THE CLASS STRUGGLE

The class struggle has its origins in material exploitative practices. It is traceable - sometimes directly, other times in more roundabout ways - to the system of wage exploitation.

The ceaseless accumulation of capital and the exploitation of wage labour are two sides of a single coin. This inner urge is reinforced and sustained by competitive rivalry among competing capitals.

The "race to the bottom," a race that is ratcheting downward wages and conditions of workers across the globe, is endemic to capitalism and the "Trans National Corporations" (TNC's) which are capitalism's main structural underpinning at this stage of its development.

Left to its own devices, capitalism's logic is to extend in a thousand ways, through speed-up, overtime, job combination, race and gender discrimination and so forth, the "unpaid portion of the work day. Or to put it differently, its insatiable urge is to appropriate an ever larger quantity of surplus labour from the working class worldwide.

After all, when it comes to exploitation, present day capitalism has no boundaries. More than at any time in its history, it is nearly a uniform system, even penetrating and exercising a considerable influence on the economic policies and life of the countries of socialism.

But its global dominance has not ushered in an era of peace and prosperity for the world's people. Indeed, mass impoverishment of hundreds of millions, widening race and gender inequality, the ravaging of entire nations and regions, the explosion of child and contingent labour, the massive displacement of unionised workers from the production process, along with intensified racism and national chauvinism are the hall marks of unrestrained markets and global capitalism.

Given the exploitative nature of capitalism and its miserable attempts at solving social problems its easy to see why the thinking of people is towards a revolutionary change in the social system.



US's DOUBLE STANDARDS ON SADDAM AND SHARON

Israel has just elected a prime minister who, brought before the bar of International justice, would be judged a war criminal because of his association with the massacre of Palestinians at Sabra and Shatila during the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982.

Sharon calls Yasser Arafat "a murderer and a liar" but, in the run up to Sharon's election, the liberal Israeli press copiously illustrated the deceit and sanguinary brutality which have been the twin pillars of Sharon's career.

Within a week of the emergence of this disreputable character as Israel's prime minister, the Americans and British carry out a bombing raid on Iraq and Saddam Hussein.

Coupled with the rise of Sharon, there could hardly have been a more blatant, a more richly symbolic, display of double standards which typify the American treatment of these two zones of perennial Middle East crisis.

Each crisis has its own origins and dynamics, but they are intrinsically connected. Saddam pioneered "linkage" when, immediately after his invasion of Kuwait in 1990, he offered to withdraw in return for the immediate, unconditional Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories.

This offer was greeted with outrage by America and the west. But in due course "linkage" asserted itself when George Bush Sr promulgated a "new world order" whose cornerstone was to be a just and lasting Arab-Israeli settlement. The world awaits.



LIBERAL-NATIONAL COALITION IN DISARRAY

Two electoral defeats in rapid succession has the Liberal-National Party coalition in disarray with massive dissension widespread among the back benches, who are now conscious that their time in Federal Parliament is limited.

Gone is the jaunty step and condescending manner that was the hallmark of John Howard and Peter Costello as they strode across the political stage in Canberra.

There is no question that saddling the ordinary Australian people with the General Services Tax (GST) is a major cause of their undoing and fall from grace.

Conceived as a sneaky underhand method of having the ordinary Australian working people pay for the massive tax reductions and financial benefits it has handed out to the Corporate Sector and their Chief Executives.

The whole iniquitous scheme has now backfired on the instigators, as small business people, farmers, workers, housewives, unemployed and pensioners understand and experience the damaging effects of the GST on their living standards.

False claims by John Howard that people now have more money to spend is an indication of the depth to which he will descend in an attempt to justify his double-cross of the people with his GST.

John Howard and Peter Costello have been guilty of "mugging the ordinary Australian people".

The positive aspect of this whole sordid exercise is that Kim Beazley and Simon Crean and the Labor Party now have the opportunity to come up with some new and original ideas to solve the most pressing problems confronting the Australian people.

The creation of proper full time jobs at Union rates and conditions, provision of a complete hospital and health service fully funded and staffed, a complete overall and upgrading of the public educational service to be open to all. The withdrawal of subsidies and handouts to private schools.

Only by acting in the interests of ordinary Australians around their most immediate and vital issues will the Labor Party be able to win and retain the allegiance of the ordinary Australian working people.



PRIVATISATION OF PUBLIC UTILITIES A DISASTER

The disasters that have overtaken electricity privatisation in Australia, particularly South Australia and California, along with rail privatisation in Britain is now a cause of much comment and reassessment of the general ideology of privatisation.

Privatisation became a fashionable method of providing an avenue of investment for the huge amounts of capital amassed by the banks, insurance companies and wealthy investors and for which they required safe and lucrative profits.

By privatising public assets the thinking of governments was enhanced by the appeal of the amounts of money they so obtained and which was then available to spend on getting themselves reelected.

To some extent it worked, but the pursuit of maximin profit and the down-sizing of the maintenance work force along with a reluctance to upgrade facilities has led to increased prices and blackouts in the case of electricity in South Australia and California.

Britain's railroads are an example where ruin is almost complete and where the defenders of privatisation bewail that it was mishandled. That privatisation of public facilities is intrinsically wrong is still inadmissible.



ALP MACHINE FACTION BEGINS TO FRACTURE

Cracks have begun to surface in the Machine faction of the ALP which could have a negative influence on the Party in the run up to the State elections due to be held between now and this time next year.

From its beginning the Machine has been under the control of the "right", which is dominated by the political philosophy of the National Civic Council, usually referred to as "groupers".

The Groupers have a long history over the years of causing disunity in the Party by opposing progressive discussion and action within the Labor Party. Their main use of the Party is as a vehicle to set up their members in cosy safe seats in Parliament.

This is now coming to the attention of ALP rank and file members which is spilling over and causing concern among the Parliamentary members, as the "groupers" endeavour to enforce their will on the Parliamentary Labor Party and from which some of the Machine members are now rebelling against subservience to the "groupers".

Members have reason to be alarmed at the attitude of Michael Atkinson, the Labor Party shadow Attorney General towards the concept of "free speech". Michael's quaint outlook on this vital and essential "right" raises the question as to his stability and suitability for this important position in a Rann Labor Government.

Atkinson is supportive of the campaign to "gag" Ralph Clarke which could limit his exercising the privilege of free speech in Parliament thereby preventing him informing the people of South Australia as to what is going on in the Labor Party.

Maybe it would be good politics for members of the Parliamentary Party to look around and shift Michael to a less demanding and controversial position more in keeping with his political outlook.

A disturbing feature of the reported "gag" on Ralph Clarke is it forbids him, as a member of Parliament from discussing any matter raised by a constituent or Labor Party member without first receiving permission from the Party Branch Secretary.

If true, this is carrying a "gag" too far and indicates the depths to which the Machine or sections of it, are prepared to go to silence any exposure or criticism of their obnoxious and despicable conduct.

If persisted with this kind of behaviour could seriously impede or even destroy Labor's chance of winning the next State elections.



AUSTRALIA SLIDES INTO RECESSION

It is now official, Australia is sliding into recession. This now acknowledges what Trade Unions and unemployed workers have been saying for some time.

John Howard and Peter Costello have differing views as to the cause of the down turn in the economy. Howard says it is because the Reserve Bank put up interest rates last year.

Costello claims it is because Australia hasn't exported enough manufactured goods.

The facts are that Australian workers, along with workers from other countries have over produced goods.

This is the recurring nemesis of the capitalist system. Overproduction and not enough money in the hands of the workers to buy the goods they have produced.

The indications are that things are likely to get worse, with more down sizing of employment in all branches of industry.

Any Government that wants to arrest this drift and stimulate the economy should immediately institute a program of massive public works, carried out with Union labour on a thirty (30) hour week with increased pay rates.

The alternative is too horrible to contemplate.



UNION'S MUST ACT IN SUPPORT OF ACTU CLAIM

If the ACTU wage claim of \$28.00 per week for Australia's low paid workers is to succeed there needs to be widespread organised support from the Unions most concerned.

The Howard Government has responded to the claim by indicating it will support a \$10 a week increase.

The ACTU has released survey material from the Australian Bureau of Statistics which confirms the perilous living conditions of the 1.7 million low paid workers.

Here's some samples:

* 30,000 went without meals or could not heat their homes due to lack of money.

* 41,00 households sold or pawned something due to a shortage of money.

* 220,000 feel their standard of living is worse than two years ago.

* 115,000 bought second-hand clothes because they couldn't afford new clothing.

* 284,800 could not afford a holiday away from home for at least a week a year

* 119,000 could not afford a special meal once a week.

Tony Abbott who replaced Peter Reith as Minister for Workplace Relations is a ring-leader in the campaign to deny workers the \$28.00 per week increase.

Abbott is in line for a \$200.00 per week increase later in the year.

BHP boss Paul Anderson is on \$7.1 million a year and is trying to force the BHP work-force to cop individual contracts and speed-up conditions dictated by BHP.

Frank Lowy of Westfield gets \$8.4 million per annum, while the two One-Tel bosses get \$7.5 million each

Coles Meyer boss Dennis Eck picks up \$4.5 million per year and can expect a big increase if he can continue to keep the lid on shop assistants pay rates and can further reduce their working conditions.

The nurse's in South Australia have set a magnificent example to the Trade Unions and workers generally by taking on the Government. By their unity, solidarity and determination they have succeeded in overcoming the intransigence of the government and obtained a settlement to their advantage and the people of South Australia.

In the final analysis only by organised action involving the members and their Union can Courts and Tribunals be influenced to pay attention to the needs of the workers.



QUEENSLAND LABOR GIVES BALLOT RORTERS SHORT SHIFT.

When Peter Beattie kicked the "ballot rorters" in Queensland ALP out of Parliament and the Party there were people who claimed that he would have no hope of being returned to government.

Beattie was returned to office with an overwhelming majority and just about wiped out the Liberals, Nationals and Pauline Hanson.

It goes to show that where a Party takes action against illegal and unlawful practices it strengthens its standing in the community

By defending the instigators of unlawful behaviour in the South Australia ALP and punishing those who exposed these nefarious practices, the South Australia ALP Branch Executive is placing the winning of the coming State election in jeopardy.



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GLOBALISATION – THE NEW PHASE OF IMPERIALISM

There is nothing about globalisation that changes the normal laws of capitalist development. Rather it confirms that capitalism has now reached a more advanced stage in which the biggest corporations exploit all countries on an organised and massive scale.

The basic contradiction between the social and cooperative nature of "work" versus "private profit" is intensified.

While still in the early stages, many diverse and powerful anti-monopoly, anti-corporate coalitions are developing. Much of the development of these movements so far has been spontaneous.

Capitalist globalisation has hurt so many people that it produces angry victims with many diverse concerns – workers, farmers, environmentalists, peace activists, women, youth and students, religious people, small businesses, independent mass media, cultural workers and scientists.

Unity and mass action so far has been based on identifying a common enemy. Every group can agree that the WTO (World Trade Organisation), the IMF (International Monetary Fund) and the World Bank are harmful to their interests.

However, at this stage most have differing and even conflicting views on what should be done with them.

Already the mass demonstrations from Seattle to Melbourne, and from Singapore to Prague have backed up the multinationals and forced serious debate in the ranks of global capitalist organisations.

Against this background Trade Unions and mass movements must ask themselves, "What's next?" A healthy debate is taking place and people are saying there should be a demand to abolish the WTO.

Should there be a more democratic and transparent method of regulating world wide trade?

How can Trade Unions effectively fight multinational corporations spread all over the globe?

What is the role of Nation-States in the new global economy?

The basic problem facing the Trade Unions, Labor Party and working class, along with all those opposed to capitalist globalisation, is to arrive at a positive program of demands and actions to curb and roll back capitalist globalisation.

We need a policy of "reform demands" to unite and grab on to!



RIISING AND SAVAGE INEQUALITIES

World inequalities have been rising steadily for the last century. They are accelerating today.

In the world income distributions between rich and poor countries the pattern is this: In 1820, the ratio of rich to poor countries was about 3 to 1, that is rich countries had about 3 times the assets and wealth of poor countries.

In the 1950, it was 35 to 1. In 1973 it rose to 44 to 1 and in 1973, it had risen to a ratio of 72 to 1.

Here are some startling statistics on the poverty that imperialism and globalisation leave in its wake. Nearly 1.3 billion people on this planet have no access to clean water.

One child in seven of primary school age is not at school. More than 840 million people are malnourished with a very high percentage being women and children. The UN estimates that 1.3 billion people live on incomes of less than \$1 a day.

In the industrial countries, though often hidden, human poverty and exclusion are also on the rise. In the eight richest countries, one out of every eight people is stricken by one or more of the main poverty indicators.

Such as long-term unemployment, lower life expectancy, an income below the national poverty line and illiteracy. Wage inequality, the gap between the highest and lowest continues to widen.

LABOR PARTY HI-JACKED BY RIGHT WING!

The Labor Party continues to be racked by internal dissension and corruption. In these circumstances the Labor Party is finding it difficult to convince the Australian people that it can be trusted and have their support.

In all States and at the Federal level the "right" is turning the Labor Party into the opposite to what was envisaged by its founders. The "right" seeks to use the Labor Party as a means to solve the career and economic future of a select few.

The need for a working class political party grew out of the experience of the the workers in the class struggles of the 1890's. It was then realised that the working-class movement could not advance on the basis of economic struggle alone.

Trade Unions remain the basic organisations of class struggle. It is the issues raised and gains made by the trade union movement that serve the interests of workers and the community at large.

If the Labor Party is to serve the working class it is vital that it has representatives in Parliament that are prepared to speak on behalf of the working class and Trade Unions.

By dumping Ralph Clarke and Murray De Laine, two highly respected and competent Labor members of Parliament, the Labor Party and working-class are the losers.

The endorsement of inexperienced "right-wing" candidates to take their place is not in the best interests of the people of Enfield or Cheltenham and could lead to electoral upsets when elections are held.

There is some conjecture that Ralph Clarke and Murray De Laine should consider running as "independents" in Enfield and Cheltenham when an election is called. Their election as "independents" would strengthen the Labor Party.

Both are supporters of Mike Ram and retain the support and confidence of the honest and decent elements in the Parliamentary Labor Party, Trade Unions and working-class.



THE TRADE UNIONS AND TODAY'S STRUGGLES

A united Trade Union movement is vital to the advance of the working class. Australian workers have built their own trade union organisations to protect their economic interests as wage workers.

The Australian capitalist class through the Liberal/National Party and their agents Peter Reith and Tony Abbott have launched an attack to destroy the Australian Trade Union movement.

This is part of the capitalist drive to lower real wages and living standards. Using mass unemployment and the intervention of the State, monopoly capital reduces labour's bargaining strength to extract concessions.

The struggle to enlarge the scope of collective bargaining is an integral part of the struggle against finance capital.

The most pressing task facing the trade union movement is to unite its ranks around class-struggle policies and militant actions to confront the capitalist offensive and to bring about democratic and anti-capitalist transformation and to shift the balance of class forces.

To combat the power of the capitalist class, the trade union movement must be completely sovereign and independent, with the highest level of coordinated action.

Trade Unions must return to the principles of the past, "when an injury to one was an injury to all" thereby placing the interests of the movement above the sectional interests of individual affiliates.

Unions should oppose raiding and resolve jurisdictional disputes in the interests of the affected workers and the movement.



IS THIS AMERICAN DEMOCRACY!!

For years the rest of the world has had to endure lecturing by Americans on the virtues of their method of voting. In most cases citing the election of their President as an example.

The recent Presidential elections were a fast. The candidate with the most votes did not win and when George W Bush would not agree to a recount of the Florida votes, the Republican dominated Supreme Court declared Bush the winner by one (1) vote.

Subsequent unofficial counting of the disputed Florida votes gives Gore the win in Florida.

In the long term it probably doesn't matter which of the candidates won, they are both products of the American corporations, which donated heavily to both campaign funds.

If the American people end up with a proper transparent democratic voting system as a result of this shemuzzle then all may not be lost.

It is believed that Somalia, Zimbabwe and Nigeria have offered America help in drafting an improved voting system.

**ISRAEL, LAND OF PEACE OR WAR?**

When World War 2 ended and people learned of the terrible treatment metered out to the Jewish people by the Nazi's there was world wide sympathy for the Jewish people.

When the Jews came to the Middle East and laid claim to a part of Palestine, they were looked on benignly and most people expected them to settle in as hard working peaceful people.

But just as the German people fell for the Jew hating policies of Adolf Hitler and carried them out on the Jewish people, we now have the Israeli people being led by a group of Arab hating Generals who are carrying out a similar policy on the Arab people.

Israel thumbs its nose at the United Nations and refuses to recognise the rights of the Arab people to land that the Israeli's grabbed in 1967, nor will the Israeli's agree to the return of the two (2) million Arabs they dispossessed and robbed at the same time.

American attempts to mediate a settlement of the problem have failed because America has sided with the Israeli's and tried to have the Arabs accept the Israeli's terms.

Just on 360 Arabs have now been killed by the Israeli's. It high time the United Nations stepped in and enlisted the help of countries like: France, Germany, Italy, Russia, India, China and Japan to bring this slaughter of the Arab people to an end.

**LABOR DUMPS PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

The Liberal/National Party Government has got the go ahead from the Labor Party for its plan to funnel \$700 million of Federal funding away from the public schools to the wealthy private schools.

The Labor campaign crumpled when the Liberal Party Education Minister Dr Kemp claimed that the Labor Party leaders were sending their children to private schools and would therefore benefit from the Liberal scheme.

The first responsibility of any government should be to completely fund the public school system, without any "buns" or other excuses.

If any family wants to send their children to "private" schools that should be at their total expense.

John Battams, General Secretary of the Queensland Teachers Union, has pointed out, that despite repeated attempts by Dr Kemp to justify Liberal Party policy: 65% of Federal funds go to private schools which cater for only 30% of total students.

Dr Kemp's policy is ideologically driven and means that 62 "elite" private schools will each receive increases about \$800,000 per year, public schools will receive increases of less than \$4000 per year.

**LIBERALS OUT TO DESTROY THE ABC**

If there is one thing Liberal/National Party government ministers dread, is trying to defend their anti-people policies when being interviewed by ABC news reporters.

Its the old story, when you have a shonky policy it does not matter how skilful you are it is well neigh impossible to defend it. So the Liberal/National Party bosses have decided to destroy the effectiveness of the ABC.

For a start they surreptitiously appointed a number of Party hacks to the ABC Board. The Board then appointed Jonathan Shier as Managing Director.

Senator Alston then initiated a cut of 31% in the ABC funding. This has led to over 1000 staff losing their positions at the ABC including some of the best Interviews, and Radio and Television reporters in the industry.

The ABC staff have carried "votes" of no confidence in Jonathan Shier and the ABC Board should sack him before he damages the ABC irrevocably.

Send your protests at the destruction of the ABC to your local politician, Senator Alston, Kym Beazley and John Howard at Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600

**MEMBERSHIP RORTING ENDEMIC IN THE ALP**

Since Ralph Clarke courageously lifted the lid on the membership rorting scandal in South Australia and exposed the sordid methods resorted to by the perpetrators in South Australia to obtain names and addresses for their "bogus" membership roll the "virus" has surfaced in other Branches of the ALP.

The latest is Queensland where the rorting is on a massive scale and to-date has resulted in a number of State politicians resigning their parliamentary seats in disgrace.

One of the features of the Queensland rorting, according to witnesses before the Shepherdson Inquiry was the need "to stop anyone on the left".

One witness claimed that former Branch Secretary Mike Kaiser would regularly regale Young Labor recruits with "war stories" as to how he would enroll members at an address to boost numbers for the purpose of ensuring the right person gained the ALP endorsement in a ballot.

The Queensland Branch of The Australian Workers' Union has long been regarded as being a right-wing union and bitterly opposed to the "left".

There is a ring of truth in the accusations being made by former AWU henchmen that the AWU was bank rolling the whole exercise.

Examples are quoted where Mike Kaiser as ALP Secretary would ring the AWU office and advise that he had a further number of names. He would get the OK to send someone around and they would pick up the "brown" envelope and take it back to Mike.

On one occasion a witness claims he was handed the envelope by AWU Branch Secretary Bill Ludwig, who exhorted him "to keep up the good work".

Peter Beattie has a herculean task to clean out the ALP stables in Queensland and all grass roots Labor people will wish him well.

The Labor Party in all states must get back to the position where candidates are endorsed on merit and dedication to the fundamental objectives for which the Party was founded.



Prepared and issued by:

Jim Doyle JP

Life member of The Australian Workers' Union

THE PLOD

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A FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WITH SAFE GUARDS

The general attack by the Liberal-National Party government on the social and economic programs that play such an important role in the lives of the working class is causing widespread hardship to ever widening sections of the community.

The abdication of Howard/Anderson from any attempt to solve unemployment, coupled with their dismal record in the area of health, hospital, public education and child-care brands this government as the most reactionary and uncaring government we have had for a long time.

The Liberal/National government is using two general approaches to rob the working people of federal benefits and their entitlements to the national tax dollar.

The first is to privatise revenue producing social assets such as banks, telstra and transport and to partly privatise, for the present some sections of health and hospital services.

A second strategy is to make state governments responsible for public hospitals and public education and then to starve the state government for funds.

By adopting these methods the Howard government has been able to gloat that it has achieved a \$13 billion surplus this financial year.

State governments even if they wanted to deliver on the needs of the people, in most cases simply cannot do it.

It is the responsibility of the Federal government to finance public work programs so as to provide jobs at union rates and conditions, as the corporate sector and private enterprise are unable to do so.

The Federal Government must accept the responsibility for health and hospital services, education, housing and child care facilities along with other human needs for everyone in Australia.

These benefits must be universal and uniform regardless of the State or the willingness of state officials to accept national laws and regulations.



AMWU LAUNCHES 'LOG OF CLAIMS' ON INDUSTRY

The decision of the Australian Manufacturing Workers' Union to re-activate the negotiating method of serving a "Log of Claims" on employers is long overdue and should be picked up and adopted by other Trade Unions.

This method of negotiating with employers was widely used by Australian Workers' Union 'rank and file' shearers from 1945 to the 1980's and with much success.

In the Pastoral Industry the method was for the "Log of Claims" (LOG) to set out the award areas requiring attention and then for the shearing teams to insist on those LOG rates and conditions at each shearing shed.

It was an eminently successful system and relied on the active participation of the pastoral workers themselves.

For instance it was from such a "Rank and File" LOG that the 40 hour week was won by pastoral workers in Queensland in 1946.

From Queensland the LOG spread into the other States, where it was also successful, the Graziers conceding the 40 hour week in the Federal Pastoral Award in early 1947.

AMWU members are fortunate in that their Union officials are supporting their "Log of Claims". Pastoral workers had to battle not only the graziers, but also AWU officials.



WORKERS RIGHTS IGNORED IN AUSTRALIA

While Australia joins with the United States in pressuring countries around the world to recognise the rights of workers to form trade unions, bargain collectively and strike, it is manifest that these basic rights are systematically violated here in Australia by Peter Reith and the Howard Government.

From fruit-pickers, rural workers and factory workers, workers who try to unionise their jobs, are spied on, harassed, pressured, threatened, suspended or sacked. Many workers lose their jobs each year simply exercising the right to organise a union at their work-place.

When workers do manage to unionise, employers often refuse to bargain in good faith, by dragging out negotiations in the knowledge that the penalties are minimal - no fines - no jail - and at worst back pay and possibly reinstatement.

The deterioration of workers' rights coincides with the free-trade agenda promoted by both the Labor Party and the Liberal-National Party. Its an agenda that encourages employers to move jobs overseas.

While most unions still cling to the Labor Party as the "lesser of two evils" they provide the Labor Party with funds and foot soldiers, especially during elections.

Both the Labor Party and the Liberals also fill their campaign coffers with corporate donations and abandon the working class and people. It was the Labor Party that privatised the Commonwealth Bank and Qantas.

As workers rights are eroded and bargaining power declines, it is no wonder that Union membership has plummeted.

The precipitous decline in unions, which historically have been the engine that pulled Australian workers to improved living standards, has been particularly devastating at the lower end of the wage ladder.

In Australia, more workers earn poverty-level wages than a decade ago. The obscene inequality in pay rates of workers and corporate bosses is another reflection of the shifting balance of power between workers and employers.

The present disequilibrium between workers and employers represents a serious danger to our democracy. We need to fight for changes in our Labor laws that will shift the scale to restore workers rights.

These to include, employers to remain neutral during union organising drives, workers to show support for a union by signing authorisation cards, and an end to the permanent replacement of striking workers by scabs.

Workers must have a voice in the public debate over economic and social policy, this will go a long way towards reversing the dangerous economic polarisation that now exists. Indeed it is essential for the long-term health of Australia.



SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

Rats are sweet, gentle, hardworking, likeable, and intelligent animals.

"Anyone who had encounters with rats as a kid, in the class room, as pets, or in a union, need to be watchful or could find themselves voting with or supporting him and not knowing exactly why".



LABOR MUST RE-INVENT ITSELF TO SURVIVE

The winning of working-class unity and political power requires a working class ideology. This involves a long struggle for a genuine working class policy, forged in the process of combating capitalist ideology in the labour movement.

Right-wing policies of class collaboration must be challenged and replaced with policies of consistent class struggle. This means upholding militant trade union principles and democratic involvement in decision making.

The main purveyor of reformist ideology and class collaboration within the Labor Party is social democracy as expressed and practiced by the "right wing", various individual opportunists and supporters of the teachings of B. A. Santamaria.

The capitalist class and these "left-right" freaks cultivate the false idea that capitalism has the capacity for continuous social advance, by meeting the ever expanding requirements of the Australian people.

The Labor Party at Terrigal in 1975 dumped the socialist objective and its commitment to building an Australian society for the benefit of all. It then went on to embrace a policy of upholding the capitalist structure of society and profit.

This has led to the position where the captains of corporate Australia now contribute to the funds of both the Liberal-National Party and the Labor Party and consequently call "the tune to which both parties dance".

It has led to the leadership of the Australian Labor Party putting the interests of corporate profit ahead of the vital interests of the Australian working class and people.

Naturally this has led to ever widening sections of the voting population and working class claiming that there is no discernible difference between the Conservative Parties and Labor.

It is a question to which the Trade Unions and the genuine "left" in the Labor Party must devote serious attention and take steps to remedy.

As a first step in developing an understanding as to where we are going, the Trade Unions and Labor Party supporters should meet in conference to explore the issues around which we can, at this stage unite for the common good.

**TRAINING GROUND FOR CORPORATE LAWYERS**

Law schools and Universities are becoming nothing more than training grounds for corporate lawyers and other supporters of the capitalist system.

Three years of law school in the present University system and the students are solidly indoctrinated into the moneyed life of corporate law.

Some of these graduates who fail to make it with the corporate sector or in private practice turn to politics.

When seeking endorsement, especially in the Labor Party there are promises to enter government to rewrite unjust statutes and to use their education to help the working poor.

Dust off the personal statements and you will find compelling statements about putting their legal know-how to work for people can't afford the \$200.00 an hour fees.

How they will help people write wills, hammer out child custody terms or fight in Court against some wrongful personal injury claim or help Unions with workers wage claims.

These are worthy causes, but speakers should save their words.

On past performances and once in Parliament the next step for these people is to get in government and then a Ministerial Portfolio. From then on it is servile service to the corporate sector.

And to hell with the working class and their traditions.

**AWU SECRETARY NEW MEMBER OF UPPER HOUSE**

Fresh from his stint as AWU Branch Secretary, Bob Sneath now finds himself in Parliament, appointed to the South Australia Legislative Council.

Workers who expected Bob to use the occasion of his "maiden speech" to signal his support for a 30 hour week without loss of pay and for a substantial upgrading of public works at Union pay rates have been saddened and disappointed.

Bob knows that unemployment (lack of jobs) is the number one problem confronting the Union movement in South Australia. And that it will not be solved by wishful thinking, inspecting Sydney bordellos or the Olsen Government.

Bob now has a golden opportunity to lift the ideological thinking of the Labor Party and the Parliament and to serve with distinction the class to which he gives allegiance.

**MIKE RANN SHUFFLES HIS SHADOW MINISTRY**

Mike Rann's decision to move Stephanie Key from the Shadow Ministry of Industrial Affairs to Shadow Minister for Housing, Local Government etc has met with mixed receptions.

There is a belief that Stephanie was moved at the behest of the right-wing who consider she is too close to the Trade Union movement and that this is unacceptable to the right-wing and their boss class supporters.

Mike Rann who obviously recognises Stephanie's dedication and abilities has in fact now promoted Stephanie to a Shadow Ministry of greater responsibility and where her knowledge and experience can be utilised to the full, for the benefit of the people of South Australia.

It is well known that the right has been urged by Clyde Cameron to replace Mike Rann. Now is the time for Rann to stamp his authority on the Parliamentary Party.

Rann's position has never been more secure as there is no one in the Party within a "bull's roar" of having the capacity, ability or understanding to replace him.

**IS BALLOT RORTING ENDEMIC IN PARTIES ?**

It now seems that "rorting" membership rolls in political parties is endemic. The deadly virus is in the process of destroying the Queensland Labor Party and could destroy the Labor Government.

In South Australia the Liberal Party is now tearing itself to pieces as Branch stacking is exposed of fantastic proportions.

Thanks to Ralph Clarke the Labor Party membership rolls in South Australia are now the cleanest they have been for years. Unfortunately some of the perpetrators of the "rorting" in South Australia are still in office.

Until the Party rids itself of these people, it will be difficult for the Party to convince the community at large, that the Party is reformed and can be trusted with government.

When a Party takes away endorsement from sitting members for no other reason than because they support working class principles and clean ballots, its high time that the membership takes a good look at where it is going.

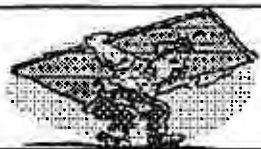
One thing is certain, if the Party can't clean up its act by presenting, honest, decent grass roots members to the electorate, then the people will when they vote.



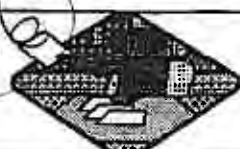
Prepared and issued by:

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THE PLOD



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OBJECTIVES OF THE LABOR PARTY STILL TO BE WON

The need for a working class political party grew out of the circumstances in which Australia was settled. Beginning as a penal colony, there was a built in conflict between the jailors and the prisoners from the very beginning.

On Tuesday 28th July 1789, John Callaghan and five other convicts signed a petition, claiming that as their time had expired, they expected as newly free men to receive rations from the public store and to be paid wages for their work.

Governor Phillip informed Callaghan his "papers" had been left in England, in the meantime he would have to work for his provisions and would receive no wages.

For his "impertinence", Callaghan subsequently received 600 lashes and was required to work in irons for six (6) months.

Then there is the case of James Straite, an assigned convict, who was sentenced to 500 lashes and solitary confinement on bread and water for inciting his "master's" servants to combine for better rations and higher allowances.

This is part of the history of the beginning of the class struggle in Australia since 1788, a constant fight for justice and a fairer return of the values that the workers create.

It was the maritime and shearers' strikes of the 1890, which bought the struggles of the previous 110 years to a head and led to the formation of the Labor Party in Barcaldine in 1890.

The need for a Labor Party was further consolidated in the thinking of Australian workers with the raising of the Eureka Flag at Barcaldine in May 1891, the miners strike at Broken Hill in 1892 and the burning of the "Rodney" on the Darling River in August, 1894.

From its very foundation the thinking and essential direction of the mass of the Labor Party membership has been to create a better society for the Australian people.

To achieve these fundamental aims the Labor Party membership will have to reject the activities of the self-styled Machine faction, who see the Labor Party as a vehicle to provide themselves and their "mates" with lucrative well paid positions and pensions.

We live in a nation of great wealth with the material capacity to solve the many problems of poverty, unemployment, health care, hunger, racial and gender inequality. Yet these conditions go begging for solutions.

Many Australians believe that this is because, under the capitalist system corporate profits have priority over human needs. The gap between rich and poor is growing. Racism is increasing and because of these factors social instability will grow.

There is nothing conspiratorial or unpatriotic about challenging the economic system. In fact, in light of the real conditions facing thousands of Australians to-day, it is the duty of every decent and honest minded Australian to do so.

The point is the Labor Party must return to its revolutionary past with a program for a peaceful transition to a more equitable social economic system.



BE HAPPY – DUMP CAPITALISM – SUPPORT SOCIALISM

Working people would be happier if they were not dominated by profit hungry corporations. They would enjoy life qualitatively better if they lived in a society built on a concept of "one for all and all for one" instead of "me first".

Workers would be happier if they knew their jobs were secure and could truly provide a decent life for their families. They would be happier if their children received a quality education and had good health care. Socialism is the ultimate solution to every problem the working class face.

Socialism will be more democratic, it will be just, it will be fun. Socialism will stir creativity from Australian workers beyond anything we can imagine now.

DECLINE IN TRADE UNION MEMBERSHIP HARMS LABOR

The continuing decline in membership of the manufacturing and production Trade Unions is a matter of concern to all thinking workers, as it is these Unions that create the values and inspiration for improved pay rates and working conditions for all workers.

The Shop, Distributive & Allied Employees Association (SD&AEA) is reported to have bucked this trend and to have increased their membership.

Whilst this is good news, the SD&AEA has never taken a leading role in the struggle for improved pay rates and working conditions, preferring to sit on the side-lines until improvements are won by the progressive unions and then flow on to SD&AEA members at the convenience of their particular employers.

It's the increased influence of the SD&AEA in the Labor Party that now poses the greater danger to the working class and the Labor Party generally.

The SD&AEA has close connections with the National Civic Council (NCC) which was formed by B.A. Santamaria. Santamaria, was the inspiration for the Democratic Labor Party, which kept the anti-working class Menzies Government in office and continually sabotaged the election of a Labor Government.

There is reason to believe that the NCC has now penetrated the Labor Party and in co-operation with the Bolkus Faction are changing the Labor Party into a party concerned with the provision of safe parliamentary seats for their "favoured" friends.

This has led to highly respected and capable Labor members of the State and Federal Parliaments being dumped and replaced by Bolkus Faction and SD&AEA candidates.

The indications are that by their irresponsible action the Bolkus Faction and the SD&AEA have undermined the unity of the SA Branch of the Labor Party and created doubt in the mind of the community as to whether Labor is ready for government.



MAY DAY BELONGS TO WORKING PEOPLE !

May 1st as a special day goes back into the mists of time. In the Middle Ages the festivities involved dancing around the May-pole, honouring the May Queen and fertility rites for bounteous crops as winter gave way to spring.

What was the first May Day march in Australia was held at Barcaldine in Central Queensland in 1891.

The Sydney Morning Herald, May 2 1891, reported, that 1340 unionists took part. Of this number 618 were mounted. Led by the Oddfellows Band, then came men carrying the banner of the Australian Labor Federation and men carrying samples of the trades they were employed in.

Shearers and rouseabouts marched behind the banner of the Shearers Union. On a wagon drawn by six horses, shearers demonstrated their art.

At the conclusion of the march the chairman of the Shearers Strike Committee addressed the assembled crowd and advised them of the progress of negotiations with the pastoralists.

MAY DAY 2000

There will be a May Day Dinner at the Hilton Hotel corner of South & Burbridge Roads, Hilton on Monday 1st May commencing at 7pm. Cost \$15 per head.

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER: Ms Jenny George
Ring Ms Cheryl Scopazzi on 83444788 for further details.

There will be a Rally and March on Saturday 6th May
10:30am – Victoria Square to Rymill Park

At Rymill Park – Speakers and the Trade Union Choir



MACHINE FACTION DESTROYING LABOR UNITY

The ancient Greeks had a belief "That those who the gods will destroy they first send mad", it seems that 'the unseen hand' of the gods are now working on the Bolkus/SD&AEA faction. In the Labor Party referred to as the "Machine".

As a result of their senseless action at the Labor Party Convention on Saturday 11th April, the Machine has split the Party and in the opinion of many Labor members and supporters has severely damaged Labor's standing in the community.

A number of theories have been advanced for this strange and damaging behaviour by the Machine.

One centres around the desire of the Machine to get right-winger John Rau in to Parliament. Rau appears reluctant to standing in any seat where he would have to build support for the Labor Party. Ralph Clarke has consolidated Enfield for Labor.

But to ensure such a seat for John Rau was not easy. They picked on the new seat of Enfield, which is the new name of the extended electorate of Ross Smith. Ross Smith is held by a very competent hard working Labor member, Ralph Clarke.

Because Clarke would not "cop" the unlawful falsifying of Branch membership rolls with the "stacking" of sub-branches, the Machine decided he had to go and be replaced by Rau.

Now came the contemptible part. To be sure Rau would have the "numbers", some deals had to be made.

To be sure of the "numbers" it was necessary to have the AWU on side. The heavies leaned on the Hon George Weatherill, who is reported to have agreed to resign his position in the Legislative Council, provided his son Jay, was supported by the Machine for Cheltenham, the new name for Murray De Laine's seat of Price.

This enabled the Machine to promise Bob Sneath, an appointment to the Legislative Council to take Weatherill's place and so consolidate the AWU support.

Murray De Laine, is a long time member of the Labor Party and the highly respected member for Price. He is the present "whip" for the South Australia Parliamentary Labor Party. By any standard or convention Murray De Laine was entitled to be endorsed for Cheltenham.

Such is the lack of any semblance of principle in the Bolkus/SD&AEA dominated Machine faction, that they are prepared to split and wreck the Party to gain their own narrow and selfish ends.

A further example of their destructive intent is the relegating of Senator Chris Schacht to third position on the Labor senate ticket. Solely because he opposed unlawful Branch stacking.

It has always been the practice in the Labor Party, not to oppose a sitting Labor member whilst they carry out Labor policy.

With the pattern of deceit and irresponsible conduct which characterises the Machine it seems that the "gods" are well advanced towards achieving their objective.

**HOWARD GOVERNMENT UNDER PRESSURE**

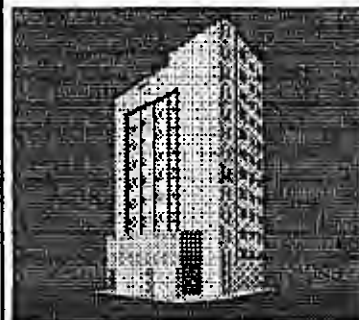
The Howard Government is lurching from crisis to crisis, which is causing plenty of unrest in the back benches, where many of the troops are feeling that the chances of their re-election are getting mighty doubtful.

Howard and his "minders" are aware of this, hence the campaign to portray Howard as a caring, benevolent person wanting to do good for everyone. But it not what they say that counts, but by what Howard does that he will be judged.

Howard cannot be trusted. His treatment of the aboriginal people and denial of a stolen generation exposes his duplicity on that count.

After claiming there would be no "Goods and Services Tax" (GST). Howard has now imposed the GST on the Australian working people. Howard knows that to reduce tax on the corporations and give tax concessions to the rich, he must make up the tax short fall from the working class and that's what he is doing.

The GST is a primarily a tax on the working class, the poor, the unemployed, pensioners, small business and farmers.

**CFMEU - BUILDING WORKERS SHOW THE WAY**

Building workers throughout Australia are waging a mighty campaign for wage increases and a 36 hour week.

This is their answer to Liberal Government Minister for Workplace Relations Peter Reith and his second wave attack on their working conditions.

Victorian building workers are "in sight of total victory" now that a number of employers have agreed to the Union demand for the 36 hour week along with improved wages and conditions.

Here in South Australia the Master Builders Association is trying to hold back the tide, but its a forlorn hope in view of the unity, solidarity and determination of the South Australian Building workers and the leadership of their Union.

Now is the time for other Unions to grasp the opportunity and organise their own campaign for increase pay and shorter hours.

It is now 54 years since the shearers in Queensland set the ball rolling for the 40 hour week, which was taken up by other Unions and which led to a 40 hour week for Australian workers.

During that campaign the cry of the employers was that the economy could not stand shorter hours. Despite their objections Australia went on to enjoy one of the greatest and longest periods of economic expansion and prosperity in history.

There is no evidence that shorter hours act in any way but as a beneficial pick-up for the economic system.

Shorter hours and increased pay rates will do more to stimulate business activity and solve unemployment than all the talk and quack schemes at present being promoted by the Liberal Government, John Howard and Peter Reith.

**PARTY MEMBERS NEED TO KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON**

The Labor Party is not a secret society, where only a privileged few can be informed as to what decisions are being made and who is making them.

Take the recent cases in the Supreme Court where the Secretary tried to defend Branch stacking. The "stacking" was manifestly wrong and was conceived for the express purpose of deceiving Party members and gaining an advantage for the perpetrators.

It was contrary to the spirit and intention of the Party rules and constitution. When this was brought to the notice of the Secretary he should have immediately condemned the procedure and taken steps to eradicate any flow-on from the exercise.

Instead the Secretary tried to defend these illegal activities, which resulted in Labor Member of Parliament Ralph Clarke, having to take the Party to the Supreme Court to have the Officials obey and carry out the Party Rules.

Party members are entitled to know who they were who advised the Party to defend the Branch Stackers.

This exercise in defending the indefensible is believed to have cost the Branch at least \$160,000.00. To find out something that is common to any member of an organisation. That the Rules and Constitution are binding on all members.



Prepared and issued by:

Jim Doyle JP

Life member of The Australian Workers' Union



THE PLOD



Volume 3 Issue 2 March 2000

LABOR PARTY MEMBERS HAVE HAD ENOUGH

There is an urgent need for Labor Party "true believers" to stop and take note as to where the Machine faction is heading.

As capitalism matures, its ability to meet the needs of the people lessens. Great wealth and great poverty exists side by side. The top one percent of the population controls 75 percent of Australia's wealth.

We are living in the era of economic polarisation. An era where CEO's are being paid hundreds of times what workers are being paid. The more technology is advanced the greater the polarisation.

This is a reflection of the on going crisis of capitalism, and more frequent and deeper economic downturns are inevitable. Therefore the struggle of the working class for a better life becomes more and more critical.

These struggles of necessity are taking on a more radical and more militant character.

Whilst Trade Unions are primarily concerned with the issues of wage rates and working conditions, it is important for the Labor Party to adopt a policy of active support for workers in struggle.

In the day-to-day struggle for a better life the Labor Party should endorse and support:

1. A minimum wage of \$500.00 per week
2. Full employment with a 30 hour week at Union wage rates
3. Universal Health and Hospital care
4. Complete funding of public education
5. Restrictions on corporations and the transfer of Capital to low wage countries.

All of the above proposals are reasonable and within Australia's present resources. What these proposals require is that the Labor Party put the interests of the Australian People before the profits of the corporations.

Some in the Labor Party need to get off their high horse and realise that united struggle is the only way to achieve change.

Only out of struggle will the working class emerge with the mass confidence and organisational skill and resources to achieve a mass Labor Party and the Socialist objective of the working class.



WHAT IS IDEOLOGY?

Ideology is one of the most important arenas of working class struggle – right up there with economic and political struggles. There is a constant bombardment of ideas coming from the capitalist class, which seeks to dominate and continue its rule and influence.

The arena of ideas and ideology is an arena of struggle, of which the working class is part. So is Rupert Murdoch and Kerry Packer, through their control of the press and the electronic media, along with the Liberal Party, the Allan Jones's and John Lawes's.

Ideology gives you a longer term view. It's related to, but much different than, tactics, strategy and even philosophy.

If you think of ideology as a "highway" then ideology gives you a direction. Tactics on the other hand are the way you drive along the "highway".

Like the class struggle, ideology has two sides, the ruling class side and the working class side. The "left" side leads to Socialism. The "right" side to the dust-bin of history.



MACHINE FACTION GOES FOR LAWYERS.

The Machine faction is going all out to replace the sitting Labor members of the SA Parliament for Ross Smith (now Enfield) and Price (now Cheltenham) with lawyers.

Both Ralph Clarke (Enfield) and Murray DeLaine (Cheltenham) are trade unionists from way back and have remained loyal to their unions and principles, the working class and people of South Australia on every relevant issue in Parliament.

Lawyer John Rau, who is opposing Ralph Clarke in Enfield has no record of service to the South Australian people or trade unions and is best known as the Labor candidate who lost the "unlosable" seat of Hindmarsh to the Liberals.

Hindmarsh was a "Blue-ribbon" Labor stronghold for over 90 years, that is until John Rau was the Labor candidate.

Murray DeLaine is the Labor Party "whip" and rock solid sitting Labor member, now standing for Cheltenham and is being opposed by lawyer Jay Weatherill.

Jay Weatherill seems to have gained brownie points with the Machine faction as a result of his leading the disgraceful attack on other Party members at the Labor Party convention in October 1998.

Weatherill tried to cover up the incompetent handling of the Federal election campaign in Makin by the Machine faction by blaming other hard working Party members for its failure.

Weatherill has endeared himself to the bosses of the Machine faction, but has earned the contempt of grass roots Party members.

Tertiary educated Party members should leave the industrial seats for Trade Unionists and concentrate their legal prowess and campaigning skills by standing in marginal Liberal held seats.

In the Federal arena the Machine faction are now going after sitting Senator Chris Schacht. In this case Schacht is being opposed by two legal eagles for the top positions on the Labor senate ticket. As the sitting senator and by past practice, Schacht is entitled to the number one position on the Labor senate ticket.

The Bolkus Machine faction is after Schacht for no other reason than that he supports Ralph Clarke and Murray DeLaine and had the guts to oppose the Machine factions unlawful Branch stacking campaign.



LABOR CAN REGAIN MAKIN

With the Liberal Party in deep trouble with all sections of the population, there is a possibility of Labor winning "Makin" in the next Federal elections, with the right Labor candidate.

Such a candidate is Tony Zappia, the Mayor of Salisbury and a long-time member of the Labor Party.

Mayor Zappia is the ideal candidate for Makin. He knows the electorate well, is popular with all sections of the community and is on first name terms with many of the electors.

Tony Zappia is no "johnny-come-lately" to the Labor Party and does not require any special dispensation or bending of Party rules in order to nominate for Makin.

His decision to nominate for Makin, has been welcomed by wide sections of the Party membership and it is to Mayor Zappia's advantage that he has excellent relations with Council worker members of The Australian Workers' Union and Transport Workers Union.

At a time when it is necessary for Labor to ensure that it fields the strongest possible candidates in all electorates, Tony Zappia is the candidate nonpareil for Makin.



THE AWFUL TRUTH

As people throughout the world learn the awful truth about the **World Trade Organisation** the greater their anger and more diverse are the people participating in the protests.

The WTO operates in the interests of the IMF, World Bank and Transnational Corporations and as such is subject to the control of the American ruling class.

One fact about the WTO, however, remains pretty simple. It has no place in a democracy.

If any country has a beef with the WTO, its dispute is sent to a three-member panel of "trade experts" who meet in secret. Amicus briefs are not allowed, and the public has no means of access whatever.

Under the WTO rules the panel's decision is adopted within 60 days unless **all** members reject it. A unanimous rejection is impossible, however, because a country that wins a favourable ruling is not about to vote to reject it.

This is the position Australia and particularly Tasmania face in view of the WTO ruling that Australia must allow Canada to export "fresh salmon" into Australia.

By this ruling the WTO will just about destroy the salmon industry developed in Tasmania.

Australia can of course appeal the WTO ruling, but unless upheld **unanimously** by the full WTO membership within 30 days is rejected. Canada would not uphold such an appeal.

Under WTO rules Australia will then be liable to **sanctions** if it does not buckle under and allow unrestricted access to Canadian fresh salmon imports into Australia.

The WTO is no longer a debate about trade at all, but rather a debate about **globalisation**, a process that affects not only traditional economic factors such as jobs and incomes, but also the food that people eat, the air they breathe, the quality of medical care, and the social and cultural milieu in which we live.



KARL MARX: THINKER OF THE MILLENNIUM

The British Broadcasting Corporation, **BBC**, towards the end of 1999 conducted a poll over the Internet to find "the greatest thinker of the millennium". The winner was **Karl Marx**. In second place was **Albert Einstein**, who also believed in socialism.

These results are a testament to the power of Marx's ideas, which continue to grip the minds of millions. "The Communist Manifesto", which Marx co-authored with Frederick Engels in 1848, is the world's most widely read masterpiece of political literature.

In his major work "Das Capital" Marx laid bare the laws of motion of society, of class struggle and capitalist exploitation.

His proof that the source of capitalist profits is "surplus value", unpaid labor power, is the most liberating of all scientific discoveries.

It strikes fear among capitalists everywhere, who continue to hire armies of well paid scholars to try to refute it.

Marx once said that philosophers have attempted to explain the world, "the point is to change it". Marx combined thought with action.

Marx died poor in London, but his ideas are immortal and will shape the socialist millennium to come.

It was Marx who coined the slogan, "Workers of the world unite. You have nothing to lose but your chains. You have a world to win".



BHP TO LEAD ATTACK ON AUSTRALIAN WORKERS

Fresh from the United States, it hasn't taken long for the new American management of BHP to commence an attack on BHP workers pay rates and working conditions.

Admittedly slack management and shocking investment decisions have landed BHP in trouble with its big investors, the banks and insurance companies.

BHP workers in the steel, iron ore and coal sections of BHP are now expected to pay for the past mistakes by accepting a worsening of their working conditions.

What Anderson and his cohorts are out to achieve is to increase BHP share values for the banks and insurance companies by exploiting the workers more intensely.

This has led to the vicious attack on AWU and CFMEU members in the Pilbara iron ore fields and in the coal industry. BHP is seeking to impose individual agreements on unionists, instead of negotiating a collective award with the Unions.

In the coal fields, BHP has agreed to cut the price of coal to the Japanese by \$3.40 per tonne and now expects the coal-miners to pick up the tab.

Mine workers in both iron ore and coal have delivered productivity gains of over 20% to BHP over the past year and are now being "rewarded" with a demand to accept job losses, and an intensification of exploitation.

Paul Anderson, the American boss of BHP is reported as being paid \$3,000,000 per year plus perks and six (6) of his cohorts are receiving in excess of \$1,000,000 per year.

There is no law or rule that says a company must be concerned only with the welfare of executive officers and shareholders.

The workers who produce the wealth are entitled to a share of the extra wealth they create and the recognition of their Union as the organisation to negotiate on their behalf.

This essentially is what the Union members are upholding in their struggle with BHP.



LIBERAL PARTY IN TROUBLE OVER THE GST

The more people think about the General Service Tax (GST) being imposed on the Australian people by the Liberal Party, the more people realise its oppressive and obnoxious nature.

The GST is a tax aimed at the working class and is for the benefit of the corporate sector and the wealthy.

Small business, the unemployed, pensioners and wage earners are being taxed, so that tax reductions can be given to big business, such as the banks, insurance companies, mining companies and the like.

The widespread discontent surrounding the GST and its unfair and discriminative application gives Kym Beazley and Shadow Treasurer Simon Crean an opportunity to come up with a "tax program" acceptable to and in accord with the requirements of the Australian people.

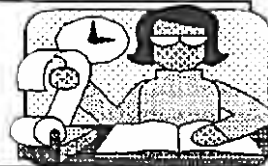
Kym Beazley has already promised to "roll back" the GST. Now is the time to get behind Kym and nudge him to take the courageous action and repeal the GST and its application in its entirety.

What has been devised by the Liberals can be replaced by Labor, all that's required is dedication and determination to serve the interests of the majority and not be beholden to the narrow, selfish ends of the corporate sector and the wealthy friends of the Liberal Party.





THE PLOD



Volume 3 Issue 1 January 2000

TRADE UNIONS, BRANCH EXECUTIVE AND SUB-BRANCHES MUST REIN IN THE COWBOYS

Unlawful activities by a section of the "Machine" faction in the the Labor Party if allowed to continue will destroy the ALP SA Branch and make it virtually impossible for Mike Rann to defeat the Liberals in the next State elections.

An end must be put to this group of Party corrupters and membership fakers. Having siezed control of the Party, they have sought to consolidate their control by encouraging and defending widespread "branch stacking" of membership rolls.

Their conduct in trying to defend the indefensible in the SA Supreme Court has cost the SA Branch at least \$100,000 in legal fees, and brought the Branch into ridicule and dispute.

Don Dunstan, a former SA Labor Premier and highly respected elder Statesman warned the Party of this inherent danger when he spoke on the ABC Statewise in December 1998.

"The Labor Party is now absolutely beset by factions which is far less about policy than it is about personal fiefdoms in handing out the measly spoils of defeat".

That sums up the position of the section of the Machine faction for which Senator Nick Bolkus is the main strategist and chief spokesman.

In accordance with this Bolkus strategy there is a move to replace loyal and eminent sitting members in the South Australian Parliament with inexperienced "cowboy" mates.

Ralph Clarke is the sitting member for "Ross Smith", which has been absorbed into the new electorate of "Enfield". Clarke is a Trade Unionist and one of the best performers on the floor of the State Parliament.

In such circumstances Clarke has nominated for Enfield and on performance deserves to be supported by every sincere and honest member of the Party.

The Bolkus section of the Machine faction also has it in for Murray DeLaine. Murray DeLaine is the member for Price, which has been incorporated into the new electorate of Cheltenham.

Murray DeLaine is the Party whip in the present Parliament and has a vast knowledge of the working of Parliament. His know-how and experience will be of inestimable value with the election of a Rann Labor Government.

The Bolkus section within the Machine faction cannot be trusted to uphold the democratic aspirations of the Party membership. They do not understand that the political goal of the Labor Party is to defeat the Liberal Party and the anti-labor forces and return a Rann Labor Government.

At the Labor Party Convention in 1997, leading members of the Bolkus section of the Machine faction mounted an attack on other members of the Party, as a cover-up for their own failure and incompetency in running the Labor campaign in support of candidates in the recent elections.

The Bolkus section of the Machine are not interested in developing Labor Party policy and getting a Rann Labor Government into office. They are more concerned about getting their "mates" into Parliament so as to ensure their "mates" financial security.

Because of this attitude we find Trade Union and country candidates being elbowed out of winable seats, that have traditionally been held by grass-roots working class ALP members.

The Bolkus section of the Machine faction will have a lot to answer at the forth coming Labor Party Convention. Members are entitled to be told "who put up the money to pay for the 2000 stackees membership" and what promises were made to these "financiers".



OECD REBUFFS REITH AND HOWARD

The OECD has given a stinging rebuff to the Howard Government and Peter Reith in their campaign to force the CFMEU members to sign individual agreements dictated by the mining giant Rio Tinto.

The OECD has upheld the right of Unions to promote collective bargaining and to negotiate on behalf of its members all matters concerning the pay rates, working conditions and all industrial matters concerning the welfare of its members.

The year 1999 has finished on a bad note for Peter Reith and his "second wave" Industrial Relations Act". Not only has it been thrown out by the Senate, but now sections of his Act has been ruled to be in breach of the OECD guidelines.



BHP STIRS UP TROUBLE WITH ITS WORKFORCE

BHP management seems to be determined to stir up trouble with its work force from the iron ore fields in WA to the steel mills in NSW and SA.

The trouble stems from BHP management refusal to accept the right of its employees in the Pilbara iron ore fields to negotiate through their Unions, pay rates and working conditions.

BHP employees in the steel mills have been quick to recognise that if the BHP succeeds in imposing its will on the workers in the Pilbara they will be next in line to feel the "tender breath" of BHP bosses.

BHP is now under effective control of people imbued with American ideas of how a company should be run. No social conscious or obligation is allowed to intrude and interfere with the pursuit of maximum profit.

BHP is trying to con the Pilbara workers into signing "Individual Work Contracts". The prime aim is to increase BHP profits by paving the way for BHP to "introduce change in working conditions swiftly and without negotiation with Unions".

That's the American way and Australian workers are determined to maintain and protect the Australian way.



EMPLOYERS MUST FIND ANOTHER BOGEY-MAN

One of the myths carefully nurtured by the ruling classes and employers over the years is that "workers" are a happy lot and when they take any action for a better deal in life, it is only because they have been cajoled and fallen under the spell of trouble makers, Moscow agents or outsiders.

Back in the 14th century, an English priest John Ball, was hanged when he maintained those who "work and strain lived in pain and travail" and "they baked, but others have eaten". If they complained they "they be beaten and we have no sovereign to whom we may complain, nor that will hear us nor do us right".

Naked before wolves, the serfs were expected to hand their master the rod with which he flogged them.

Nevertheless, what did appear then and would be repeated ad infinitum down the long corridor of years was the charge that as good servants of the realm, or members of the Church, such thoughts could not arise from their minds and souls but had been injected by sinister strangers who worked their evil by demonic means.

There were no Moscow agents, trouble makers or outsiders in those days.



SA LABOR TO SUPPORT CHANGE TO UPPER HOUSE

The Labor Party has declared its support for changes to the Legislative Council.

It was once the aim of the Labor Party to abolish the upper house which was the preserve of the ruling class, with property restrictions which just about ensured that the "big end" of town remained in control of the political agenda.

They still do, but now it is largely by default, where members are elected for instance under the Labor Party label and then desert to the class enemy for the sake of the rewards which the "big end" of town offer.

Any changes made to the Legislative Council must be to make it a thoroughly democratic institution and eliminate the present rot whereby a member who resigns is replaced by a person from the same Party, without any reference to the voting public.

One way to overcome this undemocratic procedure would be to divide the State into a number of Legislative Council electorates, each with approximately the same number of voters.

Should a vacancy occur for any reason, including when a member changes his political allegiance, then the election is held in that Legislative Council electorate from which he was elected.

In the meantime any salary and other allowances to which the position is entitled can be credited to consolidated revenue and paid to the new member on his election.

Any parliamentary chamber that claims to be democratic must be open and transparent and completely free from any avenues which can be exploited by organisations or individuals who are contemptuous of the democratic process.

**IS AUSTRALIA A HAVEN FOR NAZI WAR CRIMINALS?**

The return to Australia of Konrad Kalejs, a former lieutenant in Hitler's feared Latvian Araj Kommando unit and which is alleged to have been involved in the killing of 30,000 Trade Unionists, Communists, Jews, Gypsies, Russian soldiers etc., raises the question as to why so many of these people flocked to Australia.

There are many former members of the Nazi SS units in Australia and it appears that they gained their Australian citizenship during the period of the Menzies Liberal Governments.

Menzies, himself was an ardent admirer of Hitler and the Nazis and in 1938 when he returned from a visit to Germany, Menzies was fulsome in his praise for Hitler and the Nazi system.

In 1939 as Prime Minister, Menzies had to declare war on Germany and in 1941 was replaced as Prime Minister by John Curtin.

Menzies and his Liberal Party regained government in 1949 and almost immediately, Menzies embarked on a policy almost identical to the policy pursued by Hitler from 1933 and which was in full swing during Menzies visit to Germany in 1938.

As Hitler had done in Germany, Menzies launched his attack on the Australian working class by attacking the Communists, left wing Labor Party members and Trade Unionists.

This was the environment prevailing in Australia when these former Nazi officers gained their Australian credentials.

**UNEMPLOYMENT STILL NUMBER ONE PROBLEM**

A recent editorial in the "Advertiser" cited unemployment as the number one problem confronting Australia.

Everyone knows that but as usual the "Advertiser" is unable to come up with any solution to the problem.

The "Advertiser" if it was sincere would be calling on the Federal and State governments to institute a massive public works program, with a 30 hour week and Union pay rates.

**ALBERT EINSTEIN: "PERSON OF THE CENTURY"**

Albert Einstein, German scientist and refugee from Nazi Germany has been declared "Person of the Century".

It is interesting to note that Einstein in 1949 wrote an essay for "The Nation" entitled "WHY SOCIALISM" Below we print an extract from that famous document.

"Production is carried on for profit not use. There is no provision that all those able and willing to work will always be in a position to find employment, "an army of unemployed" almost always exist.

The worker is constantly in fear of losing his job. Since unemployment and poorly paid workers do not provide a profitable market, the production of consumers' goods is restricted, and great hardship is the consequence.

Technological progress frequently results in more unemployment rather than in an easing of the burden of work for all. The profit motive, in conjunction with competition among capitalists, is responsible for an instability in the accumulation and utilization of capital which leads to increasingly severe depressions.

Unlimited competition leads to a huge waste of labour, and to that crippling of the social consciousness of individuals which I mentioned before.

This crippling of individuals I consider the worst evil of capitalism. Our whole educational system suffers from this evil.

An exaggerated competitive attitude is inculcated into the student, who is trained to worship acquisitive success as a preparation for his future career"

**AWU SELLS OFFICE BLOCK ON MAIN NORTH ROAD**

The AWU has finally rid itself of the "Dunnery Blunder", the office block on Main North Road.

Whilst the sale of this property to the AWU, when the SA Branch was under the control of the Dunnery-Tinson clique, may have been a good deal for the vendors, it was not a good deal for the South Australia AWU Branch.

With a valuation of \$900,000 the Dunnery-Tinson clique are reputed to have paid the lucky vendors \$1,100,000 for the building.

Dunnery then had the ownership of the building transferred over to Head Office along with other AWU Branch assets.

Some good work by Branch Secretary Bob Sneath and Branch President Wayne Hanson has succeeded in restoring the ownership of the assets to the Branch.

The Branch Executive has now sold the building and are on the look-out for a suitable building for the AWU SA State Branch.

It has been a custom of the AWU to name its office building after a former official who has served the Union well.

When the Branch Executive finally purchases its new headquarters it should consider naming the building for one or the other of, Jack Wright or Jim Dunford, both of whom served the Union honestly and each left the Branch financially sound.

**PETER REITH AND HIS SECOND WAVE !!**

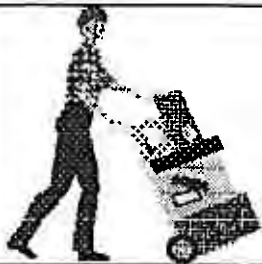
Speaking to a group of business people in Perth recently, Peter Reith had this to say;

"Never forget the history of politics. And never forget which side we're on, we're on the side of making profits. We're on the side of people owning private capital".



Prepared and issued by:
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THE PLOD

NOV 1999



Volume 2 Issue 6 November 1999

WHY SOCIALISM IS INEVITABLE

True blue socialists know that socialism will inevitably replace the capitalist system. The capitalist system has served its purpose, but no longer meets the needs and requirements of the growing majority of the Australian people.

Socialism in Australia will be built according to the traditions, history, culture and conditions of Australia. It will be different from any other socialist society in the world and will be uniquely Australian.

Since its inception capitalism has been fatally flawed. Its inherent laws – to maximise profit on the backs of the working class – gives rise to the class struggle.

History is a continuous story of people rising up against those who exploit and oppress them, to demand what's theirs. Australia began as a penal colony and our history has been one of struggle, inspired by the ideals of justice, equality and fair play.

Up until the time of Karl Marx, those who advocated socialism were "utopians", that is, motivated by ideals only. It was Marx and his longtime friend and collaborator, Frederick Engels, who uncovered the inner laws of capitalism, where profit comes from and how societies develop.

They transformed wishful thinking for socialism into socialism with a scientific, materialist basis.

Socialists believe that capitalism won't be around forever. Just as previous societies weren't around forever either. Slavery gave rise to feudalism and feudalism to capitalism. So, too, capitalism gives rise to socialism.



ACTU TO LEAD CAMPAIGN FOR WAGE RISE

The ACTU is to lead a campaign for a \$24.00 per week increase, which will embrace about four (4) million workers.

The Prime Minister John Howard has unwittingly become one of the best advocates that such an increase is overdue. The PM is supportive of a \$300.00 per week increase for all back bench politicians.

The PM says that with higher rents, electricity, gas and cost of living, the politicians are entitled to the increase.

The ACTU should consider calling the PM as a witness in support of their case, as all the reasons, the PM cites to justify the increase for politicians, apply with equal justification for the four (4) million workers.

Any opposition from the "bosses", with the claim, that it will increase unemployment, can be met by the ACTU, amending the claim to include a six (6) hour day or a thirty (30) hour week.



AN AUSTRALIAN OR THE ENGLISH QUEEN ?

An Australian or the English Queen, as the Australia Head of State, that is the question that Australians will decide at the referendum next Saturday 6th November.

The basic question we have on November 6th is whether or not we want a **REPUBLIC**. By voting **YES** we ensure that Australia declares its independence as a nation.

The Australia Head of State will continue to exercise the same ceremonial and precedural powers as the present Governor General and will be appointed by two-thirds of a joint sitting of both Houses of Parliament.

This method will ensure that the democratically elected parliament and government, remains the highest deliberative authority in the country.

If the Head of State is elected in his or her own right, we will be setting up two centres of "power", with each able to claim a "mandate" to act as they deem necessary to govern the country.

This will constitute a danger to democracy and could pave the way to a dictatorship after the style of Hitler and Mussolini.

MAKE YOUR VOTE COUNT ON SATURDAY

VOTE YES FOR AN AUSTRALIAN REPUBLIC



DEMOCRACY IN A CAPITALIST SOCIETY

In a society characterised by class conflict, what does rule of the people mean? In Australia under capitalism, the economic and political institutions, most decisive in how we live have no democratic control at all.

The capitalists are in a position to dictate much of government policy, affecting all major social issues. The constitution and legal system largely forbid the government from interfering with company or corporation policy.

Any approach that is not based on class struggle cannot achieve full democracy because it ignores the fundamental feature of capitalist society that a few people own the country's productive wealth.

The working class has interests opposed to that of the capitalist class. For the working class, democracy has to mean working class power including ownership of the economy as well as representation in the political field.

THAT'S WHAT SOCIALISM IS ABOUT

TRADE UNIONS MUST ASSUME LEADERSHIP

Recent decisions in the Supreme Court, which found that the ALP Branch leadership was in breach of the Party Constitution and Rules, does not seem to have sunk in with some of the officials.

At a recent meeting of the Branch Executive, a motion which sought to endorse a call by Federal Leader Kym Beazley, "condemning branch stacking and for Party rules to be amended to incorporate the changes", was defeated.

The time has now come for the leaders of the Trade Unions and responsible sub-branches to inform the "Machine Faction" that enough is enough and that they drop their campaign of denigration against, Murray De Laine and Ralph Clarke.

Murray De Laine MP and Ralph Clarke MP are Trade Unionists of long standing and in both cases since entering State Parliament have at all times upheld working class and Trade Union principles.

Both have been loyal supporters of Mike Rann, the Parliamentary Leader.

If the Trade Unions fail to put a stop to this divisiveness within the Party by calling the "Machine" to order and at the same time endorsing, Murray De Laine and Ralph Clarke as sitting members for their new electorates, the chances of a Labor win in the next State elections will be placed in jeopardy.

THE TIME TO ACT IS NOW



SHOWDOWN IN SEATTLE

The ministerial meeting of the World Trade Organisation - WTO - in Seattle towards the end of November looks like being a pretty rowdy affair.

Far from being the benign organisation which the media portrays it, the WTO is a front organisation for the Transnational Corporations.

Here in Australia not much is published about the WTO, but overseas, especially in the U.S. and Europe, the working class, Trade Unions and citizen organisations are aware of and have experienced the effects of some WTO decisions.

When the WTO meets in Seattle in November, it will be greeted by protesters from around the world.

AIDS activists, organic farmers, food safety defenders, environmentalists, Trade Unions and hundreds of others.

The WTO consists of 134 member countries, with 33 observers. Decisions are made in secret by a panel of unelected, unaccountable trade bureaucrats who are not subject to conflict of interest laws.

Since its founding in 1995, the WTO has been remarkably consistent, virtually every single time a public health or environmental law has been challenged, the WTO ruled it illegal.

The WTO can also be counted on to lower public health standards at every opportunity. Under WTO rules, countries are not required to have minimum food safety standards - but they can be penalised for setting standards that are higher than guidelines allowed under global trade rules.

If the multinationals and other WTO boosters get their way, those rulings are just the beginning. There is a move to expand the WTO authority into areas such as investment, competition policy and government procurement.

There is also talk of deregulating the trade in forest products - "free logging". Plus an attempt to resurrect the "Multilateral Agreement on Investments".

Organised labor is planning to turn out in force. The Teamsters Union and the American AFL-CIO plan to take over the Seattle Kingdrome for a massive rally.



OIL COMPANIES A LAW UNTO THEMSELVES.

When the Howard government deregulated the oil industries in Australia, there was a belief that petroleum prices would level out in accord with the cost of crude oil.

That is not happening. The same old gang of Western powers that gave us the Slave trade, colonialism, two world wars this century and now a World-wide drive for power under the cover of humanitarian concerns is alive and kicking.

Defending the selfish interests of monopoly capital is now the prime activity of both Britain and the United States of America.

When Nato was bombing Belgrade we were told it was for humanitarian reasons.

It is now seen as a desire of U.S. and British Imperialism to open the way to and to extend their control over Caspian Sea oil.

Coincidentally world fuel prices jumped dramatically during NATO air raids, as world supplies were frequently disrupted.

Both Britain and the U.S. continue to bomb Iraqi oil pipelines and infra structure, for the precise purpose of limiting Iraqi ability to export the small amount of oil allowed by British and U.S. sanctions.

By controlling the amount of Iraqi oil exports allowed on the world market, this is to the benefit of Shell, Exxon, BP, Texaco and the other oil corporations, who are able to manipulate the crude prices to suit themselves.

The oil companies are now so powerful that no government can effectively control them.

This results in consumers being forced to pay prices for petrol and oil, that has no relationship to the cost of crude production, but is governed by maintaining the rate of profit for the Oil companies.



"MACHINE " FACTION DESTROYING THE SOUTH AUSTRALIA LABOR PARTY

The membership "rotting" campaign by the "Machine" faction has financially embarrassed the SA ALP Branch.

Some supporters of the pseudo-left (Bolkus) faction, try and dismiss, the serious nature of their behaviour, by claiming that "membership stacking" has been going on for years.

Now would be a good time for them to come forward with tangible proof.

On the other hand the perpetrators of this series of "branch stacking" have been caught "red-handed" and eventually will be named.

The attempt by the Branch office to cover-up and defend the stackers, is estimated to have cost the Branch at least \$100,000 in legal expenses.

It is wasting Branch funds defending unlawful activities by the stackers and trying to destroy loyal ALP members like; Murray De Laine MP, Lyn Breuer MP and Ralph Clarke MP.

This money would have been better spent financing electoral campaigns to defeat the Liberal Party governments.

The ancient Greeks use to say, "Whom the Gods would destroy, they first make mad".

Are the Machine faction leaders mad? Perhaps. But mad or not they are destroying the South Australia Labor Party.

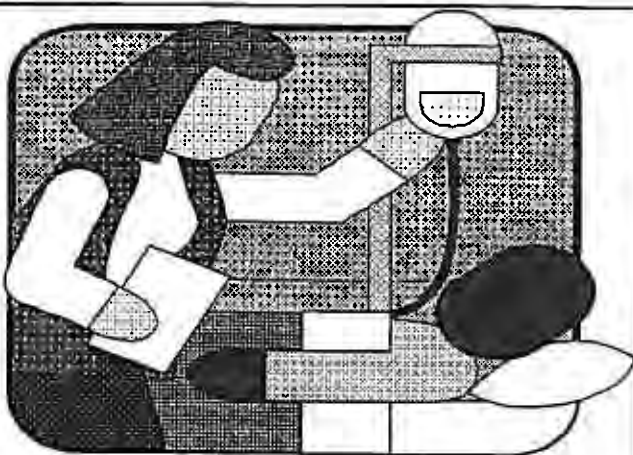




THE PLOD



Volume 2 Issue 5 September 1999



GLOBAL CAPITALIST MELTDOWN ROCKS AUSTRALIAN HEALTH SYSTEM

The crisis in the quality of life facing Australian workers, pensioners, the poor and homeless continues to escalate.

Educational costs, especially in higher education, are making it more and more impossible for working class people to send their children to college.

Public schools are being financially drained and discriminated against by the Liberal Governments in favour of private schools.

As housing costs and rents escalate the number of homeless across the country increases.

The Howard Government has given up doing anything practicable to alleviate these conditions and provide worthwhile and proper jobs for the unemployed.

The best the Howard Government can do is order workers to work for the "dole" and provide subsidised workers for employers.

Whilst the Howard Government publicly claims that it is committed to retaining both Medicare and Medibank as the National Health system, it continues to starve the system for funds.

At the same time it subsidises the Private Health carriers to the tune of at least \$1.5 billion a year.

The mean spirited and biased attitude adopted towards the National Health system by Howard and his cohorts, contrasts with the special treatment of private carriers.

Workers, pensioners, poor people and the unemployed, have to endure long waits before receiving necessary medical, surgical and hospital treatment.

At some hospitals, nurses and hospital staff have made valiant attempts to prevent the closing of wards and much needed beds, but to date their efforts have been largely unsuccessful.

This is an area where the Trade Unions, the ALP and community activist organisations should render every support to the nurses and hospital staffs in their struggle to provide proper medical and hospital treatment for everyone.



CHINESE PRESIDENT TO VISIT AUSTRALIA

The President of the Peoples' Republic of China is to visit Australia for five days commencing on September 6.

China is now one of the most important trading nations around the Pacific rim and it is imperative that the Australian Government takes this opportunity to press for the maximum development of Trade on a reciprocal basis.

As a developing nation of 1.2 billion people with a steadily rising standard of living the possibilities for a massive lift in trade are simply enormous.

China is a the market for the purchase of rural and agriculture products, such as wool, wheat and meat. There is also the growing demand for coal, iron ore and natural gas.

No doubt the Chinese President will be seeking clarification as to where Australia stands in relation to the renegade Chinese province of Taiwan and the answer to this question, by the Australian Government, could well decide how we fare in China's future trading relations.

Taiwan is a province of China, always has been and this was confirmed at conferences during the second World War.

The fact that a defeated remnant of the anti-communist forces retreated to Taiwan in 1949 in no way alters or limits the sovereignty of the legitimate government over Taiwan.

The Howard Government should quickly state Australia's position, "that Taiwan is a province of China" and in no circumstances would Australia support in any way action by any country interfering in China's internal affairs.

Such a clear and unequivocal statement would allow negotiations to proceed in an atmosphere of friendship, trust and respect, to the advantage of both countries.



WORKING CLASS POLITICS

Working class history makes two things clear, one, that in the exploitation of labour, economics and politics are closely related.

Underpayment for our labour at the point of production is matched by overpayment for the goods and services we must buy at the point of consumption.

Thus our exploiters force us to defend ourselves on two fronts - by means of unions, for higher wages, shorter hours and improved working conditions at the point of production and by means of politics, to cut living costs and better living conditions at the point of consumption.

Political struggle is, in effect, economic struggle by other means, as we cannot trust the majority of established politicians to defend us.

When they need our votes they are full of promises, but the most we ever get from the majority of them is pretended sympathy and token favours.

Among many working-class people, "politics" is an ugly word. It has come to mean "playing politics" and "dirty politics" - the same intrigues and fraud typical of ruling-class politicians, covered up with pompous posturing and double talk.

In short, politically unarmed, we are like being without a Trade Union at the point of production.



SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ALP BRANCH RACKED BY MEMBERSHIP "RORTS"

Since the beginning of the year the South Australian-ALP Branch has been in turmoil as it has sought to come to terms with rampant 'branch stacking'.

The failure of the State Branch Executive to deal with this breach of the Rules and Constitution in an open and transparent manner raises serious doubts as to the competency of the present Secretary and his "advisers" to lead the Branch.

Known as the "Machine" this faction has control of the Branch office and is more interested in securing safe seats for themselves and mates, than administering the Branch in a proper manner.

That's the crux of the matter. The "Machine" needs the 2000 "stackees" to make up the numbers in the sub-branches, so as to carry out their nefarious plans.

This scramble for "safe seats" has lead to Senator Nick Bolkus and Bob Sneath appointing themselves as custodians as to "who should survive and who should die".

Bob Sneath has been promised appointment to the Legislative Council, but it is dependent on George Weatherill resigning and George will not do so unless his son Jay Weatherill gets the endorsement for Cheltenham, (New name for Price) a safe working-class seat.

Hence Bob's call for Murray De Laine to drop out. This is playing with fire, Cheltenham is a working class area and needs a Trade Unionist as its member. Murray De Laine, has a long history of loyalty to the Labor Party and his decision to fight on will have the support of every honest and decent "true-blue" grass roots member in the Party.

Clyde Cameron has joined in the frenzy for seats and has come up with John Rau to replace Ralph Clarke. John Rau lost the "blue-ribbon" Labor seat of Hindmarsh to the Liberals and hardly qualifies as talent or new blood.

Both Clyde Cameron and Nick Bolkus were heavy supporters of Rau on that occasion, now it seems they want to risk losing another safe seat to the Liberals.

Nick Bolkus who has been particularly vocal in handing out gratuitous advice to sitting members, could set an excellent example by resigning himself. Bob Sneath could then be appointed to the vacant senate position.

Nick's contribution to the Trade Union movement and working class political movement leaves much to be desired.

Whilst employed as an "adviser" by Clyde Cameron, when Cameron was Minister for Labor in the Whitlam Government an amendment was drafted to the Conciliation and Arbitration Act, which had the effect of validating actions, contrary to the rules of The Australian Workers' Union.

The end result of this amendment was that a "de facto" union member was able to oppose a "bona fide" union member, and then subsequently helped to destroy the political effectiveness of the S.A. Branch of the AWU.

Bolkus threat that irrespective of whether Ralph Clarke wins the case in the Supreme Court over Branch stacking, "that he will still lose his pre-selection", is indicative of the high-handed, undemocratic and dictatorial style he seeks to impose on the ALP South Australian Branch.

A long time member of the Australian Labor Party, and a Trade Unionist, Clarke has the runs on the board. Clarke opposed the privatisation of the Commonwealth Bank and Qantas.

Clarke is easily one of the best performers on the floor of the Parliament and a loyal supporter of the Parliamentary Leader Mike Rann.

Clarke is being crucified by Bolkus and his band of crucifiers, because he wouldn't go along with their scheme of things and opposes Branch and Sub-branch "stacking".



TEXTILE WORKERS LEFT IN THE LURCH

Seventy workers, mostly women employed by the Pelaco Shirts in Melbourne are the latest workers that look like losing their entitlements.

Their total accrued long service, holiday, redundancy and other entitlements are estimated to total \$1.8 million.

There is something wrong in a society when an employer is able to use or misappropriate in running his business, what is part of a worker's pay rates and entitlements.

The miners at Cobar and Oakdale have been successful in receiving their entitlements, but it was a hard and consistent struggle by the miners and their Unions that won their settlements.

The Pelaco Company says it is 'bankrupt' and has no money, at the same time announcing it is shifting off-shore. If this is so, surely the authorities can put a "holding order" on their cash and other assets and ensure that the workers receive their entitlements.

The time has come for all employers of workers to be required by law to place in a fund, each week, the entitlements which accrue to a worker, and which can only be released to pay a worker with the authority of a properly set up statutory body.



TIME FOR GRASSROOTS ACTION

Trade Unions, Labor Party activists and Community active organisations need to prevail on their elected officials Local, State and National and let them know that a progressive domestic agenda for education, housing, jobs at union rates and proper health care must be fulfilled.

The way to end inaction by State and Federal Governments is by direct "grassroots" action by the people.

The miners at Cobar and Oakdale didn't get their superannuation, long service leave, holidays and other entitlements by sitting around, when the mine owners did a "runner" with the their entitlements.



REITH'S SECOND WAVE LEGISLATION WILL BE DEFEATED

Reith's second wave legislation will be defeated with an all out campaign.

Reith's second wave legislation aims to reduce wages and working conditions, permit unfair dismissals, take away basic trade union rights, and open the way for employers to force workers on to individual contracts.

Reith's second wave legislation violates the "United Nations Declaration on Human Rights"

Article 23.4 states:

"Everyone has the right to form and join trade unions for the protection of his/her interests".



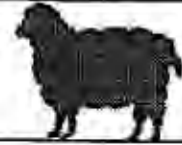
STOP PRESS: Ralph Clarke, Labor M P wins case in Supreme Court on "Branch stacking". ALP Branch Executive must abide by and uphold the Party Rules and Constitution. ALP Branch Secretary Ian Hunter and Senator Nick Bolkus should now seriously consider their positions.

Prepared and issued by:

Jim Doyle J.P.

Life Member of The Australian Workers' Union

THE PLOD



Volume 2 Issue 4 July 1999

THE FRAGILE ECONOMY

The size, scope and extent of the Globalisation process is literally changing the world economic structure.

Globalisation will most likely bring on the next crisis of capitalism.

This process has already spawned a new form of American and world imperialism.

It is finance capital, banks and financial institutions, backed up by the US owned IMF and World Bank, that make mega-mergers and globalisation possible.

Smaller banks and institutions are also being acquired, liquidated and closed down.

The resulting financial empires are wielding enormous power which they use to dominate and control whole countries or vital areas of the economy.

They are having a bigger and ever growing impact throughout the world.

In the United States there is an ever higher convergence of finance capital, monopoly, the state and military, that is vastly increasing the reach and power of American imperialism.

There is a restructuring of capitalism taking place.

In all history there has never been anything like it. Marx predicted the historic development of capitalism into monopoly capitalism.

But not even Marx could have predicted the incredible magnitude of to-day's mergers, acquisitions and take-overs.



THE CLASS STRUGGLE

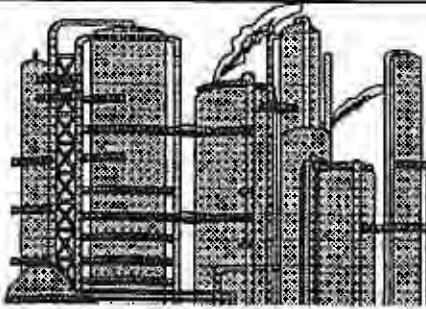
More and more the working class is shaping the political direction of Australia. Its imprint is on nearly every economic and political struggle in recent years.

With the active participation by workers in these struggles has come a realisation that greater attention must be paid to the class standing of people elected to leadership in Trade Unions and to Parliament.

South Australian workers and people have been let down badly by the actions of Terry Cameron and Trevor Crothers, both of whom "ratted" on the Labor Party and forever have condemned themselves to wear the "scab" label, for supporting ETSA privatisation.

Cameron and Crothers were formally high fliers in the "Centre-Left" faction, which was a major cause of disruption in the Australian Labor Party.

They are now bringing comfort and succour to John Olsen and the Liberal Party.



PORT PIRIE UNIONISTS GET 10%

When Pasmenco management called for a secret ballot of workers employed at the Port Pirie smelters in the recent struggle for a wage increase the workers supported the Unions with a massive 82% majority.

Led by the AWU, CFMEU and other Unions the workers busted a 2 year wage freeze by Pasmenco who had refused to enter into collective bargaining with the Unions.

Pasmenco was endeavouring to starve the workers into accepting individual contracts, but when the workers stood solid with the Union leadership they got the message and met with the Unions.

The workers have now had their 10% wage increase endorsed by the Industrial Commission.

Port Pirie workers have set a fine example to all workers by refusing "individual" contracts and insisting that their Unions be involved in negotiations.



THE STEEL CRISIS

The steel industry world wide is in a crisis situation that keeps getting worse.

Thousands of Australian steel workers have lost their jobs in Newcastle, Port Kembla and Whyalla and yet there are literally thousands of jobs which need to be done and in which steel would be a basic component.

The steel industry is a perfect example of the effects of globalisation.

The American owned steel conglomerates have become so huge, so powerful and dominant that they control everything in the steel industry worldwide.

The U.S. is restricting steel imports from Australia. The facts is that many of the foreign steel exporters to the United States are U.S. owned.

The crisis in the steel industry, along with continuing down-sizing in other industries has led to the high level of unemployment.

A program of public works must be undertaken if any real reduction in unemployment is to take place.

WOMEN' EQUALITY

Women have been, and still are, a large and growing sector of the labour movement. Community organisations almost always depend largely on women for active membership and leadership.

There are more women, though not nearly enough, in trade union and mass organisation leadership positions.

Historically women tend to vote overwhelmingly Labor on the issues. Women are responding strongly on such issues as wages (equal pay for equal work), welfare, unemployment, social security, health care and education.

The gender gap between Liberal and Labor was an important factor in the recent elections. To day women generally identify less than men with either political party.

It is important to recognise that working women have the same issues as working men.

In addition they have to deal with discrimination in hiring, wages and advancement, the burden of work and care for home and children, inadequate representation in their unions.

The years of work by the various women's organisations has borne some fruit as witness the changed positions in the ACTU and a number of Unions.

But much more must be done to bring working women in to the Trade Union and political movement and be encouraged to participate at all levels of activity by exercising their democratic rights



JACK LONDON ON "SCABS"

"No man has a right to scab as long as there is a pool of water deep enough to drown his body or a rope long enough to hang his carcass with.

"When a 'scab' comes down the street honest men turn their backs, the angels weep tears in heaven and the 'devil' shuts the gates of hell to keep him out".

"It signifies that it is impossible for its owner to descend to lower depths".



THE PRESENT ECONOMIC STATE

Notwithstanding media headlines claiming a booming economy, living and working conditions continue to deteriorate.

Australian workers are working longer and harder with less to show for it.

Thousands are unsure that their job will last from one week to the next.

Between 1975 and 1995, the purchasing power of Australian workers has fallen by 30%.

In this same period productivity has risen in excess of 30%.

Meanwhile, there are more millionaires than ever, as more poverty and declining wages on one side of the tracks begets ever greater concentrations of wealth on the other side.

The most recent figures show that corporate profits have taken an unprecedented jump in the past few years and corporate salaries have gone through the roof.

This is what the Trade Unions refer to as a "jobless recovery" and employment remains stagnant.

Currently, there are over one (1) million workers jobless or on involuntary short time.

Severely affected by this crisis are Aborigine and Ethnic workers, many of whom experience higher rates of unemployment, but also for a longer duration.

Now with another cyclical downturn looming on the horizon, joblessness can only worsen.

Instead of rehiring laid off workers, most firms are using forced overtime, temporary workers and speed-up to meet production demands.

It appears that highly profitable companies compete to see who can "downsize" their work force the fastest, even as they expand production.

Since the Howard Liberal-National Coalition Government came to office thousands of jobs have been wiped out.

All of which makes the employers' claim that profits and jobs go hand in hand, ring as phoney as Howard's promise "that no worker will be worse off under his government".

Corporate Australia is determined to eliminate as many permanent jobs as possible while replacing them with contingent, part time and temporary jobs, paying minimum wages and providing no paid holidays or other benefits.

And perhaps most important for the Corporations, contingent labour is overwhelmingly non-union labour.

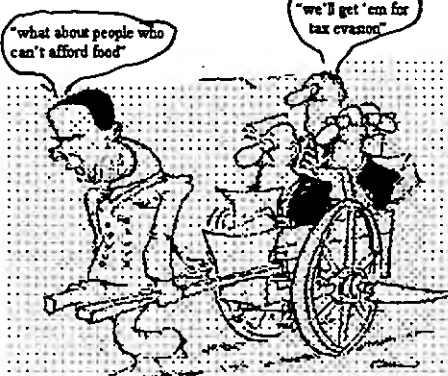
Even where there are full time jobs, they are mainly in the low wage category.

There is a growing number of full time workers whose take home pay is less than the minimum required to keep above the "poverty" line.

GST - A REGRESSIVE TAX

The GST is a regressive and unfair tax and is aimed directly at the working class, who are to be taxed, in many cases on commodities which are vital to the standard of living.

Senator Lees the Leader of the Democrats was no match in the "negotiations" with Howard and Costello.



Whilst correctly claiming that the government had no mandate for a GST, Senator Lees then went ahead and meekly agreed to the institution of a General Services Tax, which will further reduce workers purchasing power by adding to the cost of living.

If it is acceptable that the Government and the Democrats can meet and decide that some food qualifies for the tax, then it will be in order for any subsequent Government to add to and or delete from the items now attracting the GST.

The Trade Unions, Labor Party and community organisations must now keep up the pressure to at least have all food stuffs free of the GST.

What a government had created can also be amended, altered or deleted and it should be the aim of a future Labor Government to do just that.

LEGISLATIVE ACTION REQUIRED

The ease with which employers can rob workers of their entitlements and leave workers stranded is something that requires urgent legislative attention.

As things stand employers are able to tap into "entitlements" belonging to workers, use them as they think fit and then declare the company "bankrupt" with the workers having no way of regaining their entitlements.

This has happened to coal miners at the Oakdale Mine in NSW. The miners have been left high and dry as a result of the company, using the "miners" entitlements for the company's running expenses.

It is unlikely that the Howard-Reith Government will do anything about it.

With Reith about to launch his second wave of amendments to the Workplace Relations Act, the future looks dim for workers.

That is unless the Trade Unions take united action to nullify his scheme.

REITH'S SECOND WAVE RAID

The Reith second wave attack on the Trade Unions and the Australia working class has been described as "based on class war and division".

Still smarting from his exposure and defeat in last year's military-style attack on the Maritime Union, Reith now intends to use his venom on other sections of the Australian working class.

If Reith is able to get away with his "second wave" attack, then all workers are in for a bad time. Reith aims to strip from the working class any semblance of organised resistance to the demands and wishes of the capitalist class and their agents.

Now is the time for the ACTU and the Trade Unions to take delegations to the Labor Party, The Democrats, The Greens and Independents and ask for their support in rejecting Reith's vicious legislation.

If despite all effects by the Trade Unions to have this legislation thrown out of the parliaments should fail, then workers should look to their organised strength, in solidarity, as being the only way left to rid the country of this fiendish legislation.



ILO CONDEMNS HOWARD GOV

The International Labour Organisation (ILO) has severely criticised the Howard Governments anti-Union laws.

The ILO is a United Nations organisation comprising equal representatives from employer groups, national governments and unions.

The latest report is an embarrassment to Australia's reputation as a country, which in the past has championed the rights of workers throughout the world to fundamental democratic practice.

The ILO is especially critical of the Howard-Reith proposal that limits workers right to take strike action in support of their claims for pay increases and improved working conditions.

One ILO representative commented:

"It's time now for the Government (Australian) to act to fully restore the basic human right of working people to organise together and engage in collective bargaining, instead of continuing to defend the indefensible".



ABBATOIR JOBS GO

350 Adelaide abattoir workers have had their jobs scuttled to satisfy the pursuit of higher profits.

It's about time that employers are made to accept some social responsibility and whither closing down a job is in the National interest.





THE PLOD



Volume 2 Issue 3 May 1999

CAPITALISM IN CRISIS

The financial storm now ripping through world markets is raining misery on hundreds of millions as it intertwines with a world wide cyclical crisis, either in its early stage or further along, depending on the country and region.

Cyclical crises are inherent in the capitalist system and regularly reoccur as production periodically outstrips mass purchasing power.

The financial meltdown began in Thailand and then spread to other countries in Asia with devastating force. The contagion has now spread, in varying degrees to the rest of the world, including the European, US and Australian economies.

Perhaps the country bleeding most profusely is Russia. The economic meltdown and collapse is so extensive and deep that John K Galbraith, the eminent American economist wrote in the *New York Times* "it took the Russian experience of capitalism to make Soviet Communism look good".

Capitalism has been a global system from its earliest days, because of its unceasing drive to accumulate capital.

The process of globalisation has reached a new stage which is qualitatively different from the position that existed a few decades ago.

To account for this change we have to look to the emergence and growth of transnational corporations (TNC) and banks (TNB).

Since 1960 the transnationals have come to dominate the world economy and this dominance has become more extensive and deeper with each passing decade.

The integration and globalisation of world markets is not a seamless and technologically determined process.

The TNCs rely heavily on the State apparatus of their originating country to penetrate the economies of other countries, as witness the use of military power by the United States.



REITH TO FACE COURT???

There is every possibility that Work-place Relations Minister Peter Reith will be required to front the Federal Court and justify some of his statements and actions during the Marine Workers Union dispute.

Lindsay Tanner Federal Labor MP has filed affidavits in the Court seeking to obtain the Govt consultancy reports involving the sacking of Patrick's workforce.

The ACTU's Greg Combet said: "We believe that the true extent of Mr Reith and the Govt's involvement in the plot to sack the Patrick's workforce must be revealed".

Reith's WR Dept had until May 14 to respond to the filed affidavits.

At the present time Chris Corrigan Chairman of Patricks is under investigation by the Australian Federal Police.

Corrigan claimed, during the dispute that he had no financial involvement in the scheme to train scabs at Dubai.

This is now contradicted in an affidavit lodged by Mike Wells, who was contracted to recruit the "strike breakers" for training in Dubai and actually took a group to Dubai for training.

It is believed that the Federal Police have completed their investigations, but won't release findings.

It's not only the Maritime Workers Union who are interested in Reith's and Corrigan's anti Union destruction campaign, so are other Unions.

There are reports that Reith has sent some operators to SA, who are urging employers to "get tough" with the Unions to refuse "right of entry" to work places to Union Officials and to refuse to make Union membership deductions from workers wages.

LEFT FACTIONS MUST UNITE

If the left factions are to play a role in formulating ALP policy for the future it is imperative that they come together and present themselves as a united left group within the Party.

Now, with the re-affiliation of the Australian Manufacturing Workers' Union SA Branch to the ALP would be the opportune time for such a move.

As a first move towards unification each faction ought to hold a meeting and **democratically** elect the representatives to the initial re-unification discussions.

One thing both sections of the faction should realise is that the Labor Party does not exist for the benefit of a select few to use the Party to endorse their personal mates, brothers, sisters, sons or daughters for safe positions in Parliament.

The showing of the SA Labor Party in the last Federal elections was a disaster and was the direct result of the leadership of what has become known as "the machine".

It is important that the Party rally behind Mike Rann as Parliamentary Leader and remember that it was Rann who pulled the Party back from near oblivion.

With the retirement from Parliament of people like Anne Levy and Frank Blevins the Party now has a shortage of people experienced in government.

For Rann to form a credible government he will require the support and advice from tested members like Murray De Laine, Carolyn Pickles, Terry Roberts and Ralph Clarke.

He will need to be weary of unstable, Johnny-come-lately's who act as the "head-kickers" for "the machine" at present.



WORLD MASTERS MEETING

Billed as the **World Masters of Business** event to open in Brisbane on May 23, has cobbled together the following speakers:

Al (chainsaw) Dunlap

Mikhail Gorbachev

Ex General Norman Schwarzkopf

Kevin Trudeau

Rene Rivkin

What a line up - workers beware?

HARRADINE'S KING HIT

Both Prime Minister Howard and Treasurer Costello are reeling from the decision of Senator Brian Harradine to reject their "General Services Tax" (GST).

Howard and Costello can now either delete the impost on food, accept the wisdom of Senator Harradine, the Labor Party and the Democrats or call another election.

Howard now has the "trigger" for an election, but, it is something that a lot of his colleagues dread, just when they are settling in to their "cushy" well paid jobs.

The GST on food is the most iniquitous form of taxation ever devised by man and in the case of the Howard Government is for the sole benefit of the "Big End of Town" at the expense of the working class.

The GST is a tax paid on goods purchased, notably food and not on income. Those on low wages which include Council, Factory, and those on fixed incomes such as pensioners would be squeezed mercilessly.

If Howard and Costello are to give big tax cuts to the Corporate sector, the High Rollers and the Casinos they must get the finance from somewhere, and the GST is to reduce the living standards of the working class.

That's the special role that has been allotted to Workplace Relations Minister Peter Reith, who was given a discount of \$50,000 on the unit he purchased from Casino Boss Lloyd Williams.



PORT PIRIE WAGE DISPUTE

Port Pirie smelter workers have been forced to consider taking action in defence of their working conditions and pay rates.

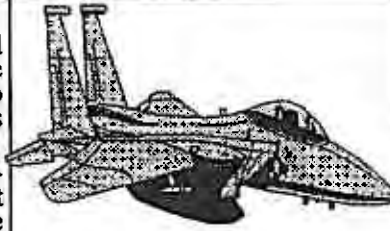
After accepting a series of redundancies, resulting in increased work loads, workers are now being squeezed to accept a lesser wage rise than what the workers consider reasonable

Originally claiming a 18% wage rise over two years, the workers subsequently reduced this to 15% and then to 10%.

Pasminco now offers 7%, but the workers are adamant that they will accept nothing less than 10%

Both parties are to meet before the Industrial Relations Commission this week.

Pasminco is one of the most powerful and wealthy companies in Australia



AMERICA STIRS DRAGON

The American bombing of the Chinese Embassy in Belgrade has touched a raw nerve with the ordinary Chinese and is the sort of irresponsible action that could trigger a third World War.

It is easily the most dangerous error committed by America during its on going aggression against Yugoslavia, excepting, of course, its decision to go to war in the first place.

Whilst President Clinton has apologised to the Chinese and says the bombing was a mistake, he is stretching everyone's credibility to the limits.

Given the type of targeting technology America says it is using, high resolution satellite imagery plus spies on the ground, it is hard to believe they did not know the precise location and shape of the Chinese Embassy.

There is a growing belief that America's action in the Balkans is not the altruistic mission it would like people to believe.

There is a similarity of American tactics and strategy to those of Hitler and the Nazis in the leadup to the 2nd World War.

To strengthen his position Hitler gathered together the capital class of European countries, either by agreement or by invasion, in preparation for his thrust into Russia and the seizure of Middle East oil.

It's been known for some time that the American Oil Companies have long coveted Middle East oil and American hostility to Iran and Iraq lends weight to that belief.

The present systematic bombing and destruction of Iraqi oil pipelines and pumping stations is designed to increase the price of oil by preventing Iraq exporting even their meagre quota

Don't be surprised if the next American "altruistic mission" is in the Middle East or around the Caspian Sea.

"That's where the oil is"



COSTELLO BUDGET A RIP OFF

With or without the GST the Costello budget is a class budget and a "rip off" of the working class.

There is no attempt to do anything about solving the unemployed position. The Liberal-National Govt is prepared to leave the jobless to the mercy of the market.

Both Costello and Howard believe that 7% to 8% is the desirable percentage of unemployed having regard to the current level of industrial activity.

Their answer to the jobless is an extension of the "work for the dole" which they try and justify by claiming it will teach the worker to be punctual and job conscious.

What these workers want is a steady worth while job with a wage that allows them and their families to take their rightful place as members of society contributing to their own maintenance and sustenance.

Private enterprise is incapable of providing these opportunities, so it is the responsibility of the government to undertake a massive public works program to create jobs make up the short fall in the working class purchasing power.

The finance can come from the same place as it would come if we were involved in a war.



THREAT TO BUS EMPLOYEES

The Olsen Government has called tenders for the operation of the Public Transport System, which threatens the jobs of workers employed within the system.

A meeting of about 1200 members from the Unions involved have decided that they will not accept a wage cut or any worsening of working conditions.

The meeting elected a Committee from the Unions immediately concerned and authorised it to call any further meeting as required.



RAILWAYMEN STRIKE!

French railwaymen on strike for shorter hours without any trade offs or loss of jobs.

This seems to be the pattern of Unions in Europe to rising unemployment.

Prepared and issued by:
Jim Doyle J.P.
Life Member of
The Australian Workers' Union



THE PLOD



Volume 2 Issue 2 March 1999

LAWS AND LIFE

Corporate profits come only from one source, exploitation of workers. The more exploitation, the more profits. Speed up means squeezing more production for less pay.

Corporations keep downsizing to save money on labour while forcing the remaining workers to work harder for less.

Corporations support privatisation for their private profits of the public services, systems, and institutions like hospitals, schools, sanitation, transportation, prisons, public lands and property.

Thus, the gap between the haves and have-nots in Australia is one of the widest in the world.

Over the past 100 years of fierce and bitter class struggles by workers and their Unions have won an economic safety net of government programs - Social Security, unemployment insurance, welfare, medibank, disability payments and the dole.

In order to get rid of hard-won entitlements altogether, Howard and his new-right in Canberra, along with corporate interests are scheming to privatise welfare Social Security and Medibank

Their assault on Social Security and Medibank has created hunger, homelessness and permanent poverty for many families.

To-day the most reactionary section of the Liberal-National Party coalition, led by Howard, Costello and Reith are pushing to gut all the programs that have served as an economic safety net for the unemployed the very poor, the sick, disabled and elderly



TRADE UNIONS BULLIED

Trades Unions are being bullied and abused by the Liberal-National Party as it seeks to ensure the profits of the capitalist class and place the burden of the capitalist crisis on to the backs of the working class

No matter whether the Trade Union has a leadership of the Left, Right or Centre, the ultimate aim of Peter Reith, the Minister for Workplace Relations is to render all Trades Unions impotent and unable to defend even the most basic rights of their members.

It is imperative that the Trade Union movement rekindle that spirit of the past and declare that "an attack on one is an attack on all".

The strategy of Reith and his cohorts is to cut down the Unions "one by one" and at present they have the "building and construction workers" in their sights.

Trade Unions must come together and formulate a "Log of Claims" which corresponds to the problems of the times and the needs of the working class.

- * Shorter working week, with no reduction in pay
- * Six weeks annual holidays
- * Employer to pay employees "medical fund" contributions
- * No overtime, except in an "extreme emergency"



UNEMPLOYMENT !!!

Unemployment remains the single most pressing problem confronting the working class in advanced industrialised countries.

Whilst unemployment, along with corruption are endemic to the capitalist system, it can be alleviated, where there is a determination to do so.

The problem is that the capitalist class require a large reservoir of unemployed workers, to keep wages down and to boost profits.

In the present social and political environment, both the Liberal-National Party government and the Labor Party, along with the capitalist class are prepared to tolerate things as they are with unemployment at 8%.

Should the rate of profit fall, then the working class can expect another round of "downsizing", with an increase in unemployment to stabilise the "rate of profit".

The time is fast approaching when the Labor Party has to decide where it stands in relation to unemployment and the "class struggle".

Whether it is more important to "maintain the life style and profits of the capitalist class and their hanger-ons" or to "maintain the well being of the Australian working class and people".

To enable the working class and people to share in what is the present level of wealth creation in Australia, requires that there be inaugurated a massive "public works" program and a stop put to the export of capital from Australia.



Peter Reith the Federal Minister for Workplace Relations is stepping up his campaign against the Trade Unions.

Reith wants individual employers to contact his office for "concise, no-nonsense and personalised briefing" "which he would organise to help them use the present regulatory framework to introduce major reforms."

Reith chided his listeners for not denigrating Union membership in their workplaces and suggests that companies should not participate in automatic payroll deductions of Union fees, "without any contingent policy underpinnings?"

Reith is assuring the capitalist class that he has the necessary *regulations* in place and that the State forces stand ready to assist them fight the working class and destroy the Trade Unions.



With unemployment at 8% a shorter working week of 30 hours is one logical answer to the question of jobs.

Shorter hours of work and massive public works programs are imperative if we are to solve the unemployment problem.



The myth that private enterprise can do things better and more efficiently is used as a cover to hand over profit making public utilities to the private sector. ETSA is a case in point.

Electricity generation and distribution must remain in public hands. Water treatment must be returned to the public sector. Improve public transport instead of handing over to private enterprise.

Public ownership is best



The right of workers to join unions, collectively bargain and take industrial action in defence of their jobs and conditions is a basic democratic right.

Only comprehensive awards, not individual agreements, and united action by Unions and their members can protect workers' pay and conditions.



The Murdock press seems to be intent on destabilising Mike Rann's leadership of the A.L.P. and is being ably assisted by Clyde Cameron.

Never one to have seen the "big picture", Clyde has always had a stunted view of the Labor Party and the political mission of the working class.

May be that is what appeals to Murdock and explains why he brings Clyde out every now and then, dusts him off, and then as from an "oracle" receives the "good oil" on who should lead the Labor Party.



Rio Tinto is both the wealthiest and most aggressive anti working class mining company in the world.

Rio Tinto took over the Gordonstone Coal Mine from the American company ARCO. ARCO was owned by Atlantic Richfield, a company with an equally appalling record in its treatment of employees.

Rio Tinto is attempting to re-open the Gordonstone Mine with scab labour.

This is in conflict with a ruling of Industrial Commissioner Errol Hodder, who has stipulated that the workforce must be recruited from the ARCO workforce on the basis of seniority.

To date about 90 miners, their wives, an ALP MP and supporters have been arrested from the picket line. ♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦

Prepared and issued by:
 Jim Doyle J.P.
 Life Member of
 The Australian Workers' Union

THE PLOD

Volume 1 Issue 5 November 1998

WHICH WAY FOR LABOR ?

The return of the Liberal-National Coalition to government led by John Howard and his New Right cohorts poses serious theoretical and practical problems for the Trade Unions, Labor Party and the working class.

It is because Labor no longer has a vision for the future which is the prime reason why it is unable to inspire and devise policies which have universal appeal to the working class and voters

This raises the question of the Trade Unions and Rank and File members of the Party getting control of the agenda and restoring the original aims and objectives of the Party.

It is the aim of National Party Coalition Labor Party and regions to impotent ad-alist system.

Unionists and were shocked and behaviour of some recent SA ALP Con-

Instead of with the issues con-and working class, ment and deteriorating living standards, they were more intent on attacking other Party members in an attempt to cover up their own short comings.

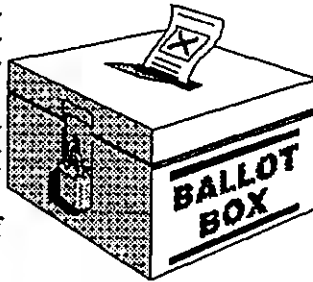
At the present time the SA Labor Party is racked by two "left" factions and numerous "right" factions.

These inner party differences and confusion was a further cause of the poor showing of SA Labor in the recent National elections.

It is crucial that the supporters of both "left" factions meet in a combined meeting to discuss and iron out the differences, keeping them apart and without any reference to personality differences.

For the "left" to become a progressive and decisive force in the Labor Party, it is imperative that the Trade Unions and "left" supporters in the Party become active participants in devising strategies and formulating policies.

The conditions that workers have to-day have been won by the Trade Unions and the struggles and sacrifices of past generations of workers. We have a duty to protect and continue that tradition.



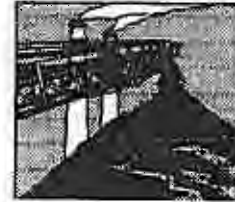
the Liberal-ation to destroy the duce the Trade Un-juncts of the capi-

Party members disappointed at the politicians at the vention.

coming to grips fronting the Party such as unemploy-

UNION MEMBERS RESIGN

Despite efforts by South Australian AWU Branch Secretary Bob Sneath, acting for the National Executive over 300 AWU members employed by BHP in the Pilbara Iron Mines have resigned and joined the CFMEU



Bob Sneath and the AWU are now paying the price for the years of discrimination, nepotism and collaboration with bosses, which was the modus operandi of both Clyde Cameron and Tom Dougherty during the crucial years 1950 to 1970.

The AWU National Executive is to send a "high powered" delegation to the BHP project in WA to win back these members.

The former AWU Organiser, now a CFMEU Organiser, says they have a "snowball's chance in hell" of achieving that.

The CFMEU has been given the "green light" by the ACTU to re-unionise Rio Tinto's Hamersley Iron Mines, where AWU members were neglected and also lost to the AWU.

AWU members have always had a willingness and tradition to fight against injustice, both in the economic and political arenas.

There is now an opportunity for AWU officials like Secretary Bob Sneath and President Wayne Hanson to rekindle and foster that spirit in the AWU

Unless there is a change in the thinking of AWU officials, nationally, the haemorrhaging of members will continue and the AWU will become a shell with fewer members and a superfluous of officials.

HOWARD'S DISMAL RECORD

- * Reduced worker rights
- * Promotion of individual contracts
- * Rising unemployment
- * Education funding cut by over \$1 billion
- * Public hospital funds slashed by \$800 million
- * Medicare rebates slashed regional offices closed.
- * Child care funding slashed by \$1 billion
- * 86,000 public sector jobs lost

UNIONS SEEK GOLD PASS

Unions which built the Melbourne City Link are negotiating with the tollway builder for Gold Passes for the 10,000 workers employed on the project.

The Victorian Government has issued Gold Passes to the politicians, who did nothing to build the City Link.

If its good enough for polities to get free passage on the tollway, so too should the builders.



NSW ALP DUMPS PRIVATISATION OF ELECTRICITY INDUSTRY

NSW Premier Bob Carr has announced that plans to privatise the NSW power industry have been abandoned and will not be part of the Labor policy for the March State elections.

Apart from public opinion and the "strong current" against foreign ownership of public utilities, Bob Carr also had a problem selling the privatisation plan to the Labor Party.

Both left and right factions united in rejecting "privatisation".

ALP members and the public generally have now seen the terrible damage privatisation of the power industry has caused in Victoria, Queensland and New Zealand.

To say nothing about the "privatisation" of Gas in Victoria and Water in South Australia and NSW.

There is an abundance of evidence that "privatisation" is a colossal failure and leads to the loss of jobs, an increase in price, along with a serious fall off in the quality of the product and the service provided.

Despite this there are still some people wanting to go down the privatisation path.

Liberal Party people like, John Howard, Peter Reith and John Olsen along with their New Right backers are particularly vocal supporters of "privatisation".

In the SA Parliament Labor Party renegade Terry Cameron welshed on his Labor Party pledge and threw in his vote with John Olsen and the Liberals in supporting the "privatisation" of ETSA.

NEW FORMS OF STRUCTURE

Step by step, the way in which production is organised is changing under the impact of the scientific and technological revolution and the new level of inter-capitalist competition.

Under the old system it was normal for nearly every phase of the production process to be carried out under the roof of the parent company, but that is not the case now.

Companies are trimming down their in-house operations to what they call "core competencies". Mean-while, production tasks are outsourced to an outer-ring of low-wage, non-union producers on a local, regional or global scale.

This new form of industrial organisation translates into growing income inequality, widespread impoverishment, ruthless intensification of labour, the growth in part-time and contingent workers and the massive displacement of workers in the production process.

The Trade Unions and the Labor Party, are pursuing an approach that slows down, but does not stop, the loss of jobs. Its more like an orderly retreat.

What adds to the problem is outsourcing, new technology and job loading - the main cause of the job crisis - is pushed down to local Union level.

This suits the corporation bosses who use it to whipsaw and squeeze concessions from the local Unions.

The job crisis is a long term structural problem that operates during all phases of the economic cycle.

The ACTU and the Labor Party must adopt a different approach to the problem of job creation by adopting and advocating a four day work-week without loss of pay.

HE RICH GET RICHER

"The rich get richer and the poor gets poorer". Its an old saying, but to-day, after a recent tax case in Sydney, which left Kerry Packer grinning its time for a change and could be, "the rich get richer and everyone else gets poorer".



Kerry Packer was in the Court over his income tax.

The Tax Commissioner claims Kerry owes the Tax Department \$240 million tax on the past four years income.

Kerry filed a return for the years in question to show he owed tax of about \$32.00

The judge upheld Kerry's return, hence Kerry's big grin

Rupert Murdoch works another sort of scheme. Rupert gains most of his profits in the United States.

Rupert locates News Limited for business purposes in Caribbean tax havens and does the accounting for News Limited under Australian rules, which Americans claim "confuse even savvy analysts".

In America they say News Limited sings with a Caribbean lilt.

The irony of both Packer and Murdoch is they both operate within the present Australian law.



REITH OUT TO GET UNIONS

Peter Reith, the Workplace Relations Boss in the Howard Government is making no secret of his aim to destroy the role of Trade Unions in looking after the welfare of Australian workers.

Since Reith introduced his Workplace Relations Act, Awards have been stripped; conditions destroyed; union rights crushed; security abolished; victimisation entrenched; non-unionism promoted; and the traditional industrial umpire, the Industrial Commission, down graded.

Reith's present repressive laws, which have been internationally condemned are still not enough for the Howard Government and big business.

Reith's "hit-team" comprises Mike Angwin, senior Rio Tinto executive, Paul Houlihan, of National Farmers Federation fame, and who played a key role in employing scabs during the MUA-Patrick's dispute and Professor Charles Mulvey, a top adviser to the viciously anti-union Court Government in WA.

The "Second Wave" of repressive industrial laws is now ready to be introduced as soon as possible.

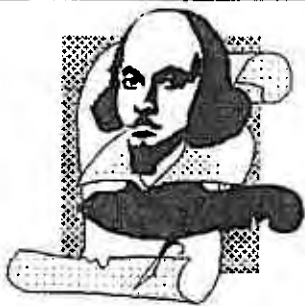
The "Second Wave" includes:

- ◇ Further stripping back of Awards and reduction in "detail" clauses;
- ◇ Scrapping Awards as the benchmark of a "no advantage test", instead legislating for "core" minimum standards;
- ◇ A new approach to minimum wage fixing, using taxation and social security as the "safety net", not Union negotiated Awards;
- ◇ Restrict Union use of "protected" bargaining provisions;
- ◇ Further reduce the role of the Industrial Relations Commission and open it to competition with private mediators;
- ◇ Give employers easier avenues in "Common Law" actions against Unions ie: abolish the need to first seek 'conciliation and arbitration'
- ◇ Give employers more options than just lock-outs when facing protracted industrial actions.

Trade Unionists can defeat this class dictated attack by the Liberal-National Coalition and New Right on living standards and democratic rights.

What is now required is ACTU co-ordinated, persistent and determined action similar to that taken in the Clarrie O'Shea case.





THE PLOD

2 JUL 1998

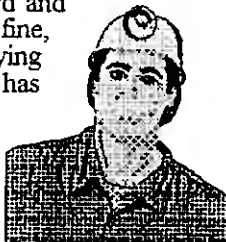
Volume 1 Issue 3 July 1998

EVERYTHING IS CHANGING

There are profound and dramatic changes taking place in every area of life, in every area of the world. Everything is in a process of flux, of transition and change. The working class and Trade Unions must examine all questions and reasons for this process of development and change.

In Australia, despite claims by Howard and his cohorts, that everything is going along fine, workers are being laid off and jobs are drying up, in some areas the position of families has become desperate.

The Australian working class and Trade Unions are under attack from the corporate sector egged on and assisted by the Liberal-National Party Coalition Government.



The conspiratorial attack on the Maritime Union is indicative of the depths to which the Liberal-National Party Coalition will sink to serve the interests of the corporate sector.

The attack on the Maritime Union and the continuing attack on the Construction and Mining Unions, along with other sections of the Trade Union movement has been triggered by the world economic crisis and the globalization of capitalism.

The Trade Unions are seen by the corporations as the main barrier in their rampage to maximize profits. Unions are exposing the law of profits gone wild. Unions are exposing the irresponsibility, anarchy and chaos of the capitalist system.

As shown in the attack on the Maritime Union, the working class is capable of defeating these attacks, but, it will continue to require, the political and ideological vigilance by all sections of the Trade Union and working class movement.

In the forth-coming Federal elections the defeat of the Liberal-National Party Coalition and its surrogate One Nation Party must be the **Number One** priority of the Trade Unions and the working class.



EUROPEAN WORKERS DEMAND RIGHT TO WORK

Massive meetings, demonstrations and marches are taking place in European countries by workers demanding jobs and the right to work.

In Germany, which was recently being hailed as an example of a prosperous capitalist state, there are now 4,500,000 unemployed and rising. Hardly a day goes by that workers are not demonstrating in one or the other major city, and are marching and demanding jobs.

The same thing is happening in France, where unemployment is now 12% of the work force.

A meeting and march by 500,000 workers in Rome on the 19th June, laid it on the line that they have had enough of glib promises by politicians to create jobs and then do nothing about carrying out their undertakings, whilst the politicians carry on and enjoy the "perks" of office.

Unemployment in parts of Italy is running at over 22% and the signs are that Italian workers have had enough.



INDUSTRIAL REGISTRAR TO PROBE AWU FUNDS

The Industrial Registrar has announced that he will conduct an inquiry into the financial affairs of The Australian Workers' Union covering the past three years.

AWU members will welcome this announcement, as for many years AWU members have been questioning what is happening to Union funds, but have not been able to get clear answers to their queries.

For the past three years the Union executive has not bothered to file a balance sheet with the Industrial Registrar as required by law.

In a 40 page affidavit prepared by former National Secretary Mr Ian Cambridge, for filing in the Industrial Relations Court, Cambridge claims "the AWU is the victim of probably the largest ever defrauding of a Union."

Mr Cambridge alleges that \$370,000 paid by a State Government to a building company for training, then disappeared within the AWU. Mr Cambridge further alleges that some of it was paid to a Melbourne Law Firm as a deposit on a house bought by a former Victorian AWU official.

Mr Cambridge then goes on to say that womens' clothing worth \$17,000 was bought from AWU funds. Overall Mr Cambridge says that his investigations reveal that up to \$750,000 of AWU funds have disappeared.

It appears that these mysterious disappearances of AWU funds occurred during the period of Central Funding. Despite there being no provision in AWU Rules authorizing the "pay out" of the remainder of an official's term of office, should that official resign, but that was done on a large scale.

The method used to cover these unlawful payments was to say it was a redundancy payment, even though there was no redundancy and the position was immediately filled by another official.

Another artifice resorted to entails a retiring official taking delivery of a new motor car on the eve of his departure. In one case the official got a new "Fairlane" cost to the Union \$42,000, and for which the official paid the Union \$20,000. When the Union had to purchase a new car for the incoming Secretary, the Union had to pay full tote odds, as there was no 'trade in car'.

The Industrial Registrar has said that if necessary he will go to the Industrial Relations Court to get orders for access to the Union records he requires.

What is really needed is a "judicial inquiry" or a Royal Commission, so that all aspects of what has been going on in the AWU can be uncovered and exposed.

Before Mr Cambridge was able to proceed with his application to the Industrial Relations Court, he was made an offer by the NSW Carr Government which he could not refuse. Consequently Mr Cambridge is no longer an AWU official.



Power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely. Great men are almost always bad men.

Lord Acton 1834 - 1902



COALITION POLITICIANS BAD FOR HEALTH

Public hospitals are being starved for funds, to such an extent that hospitals are turning patients away as they struggle to cope with winter illness and bed closures caused by budget cuts.

What few people really fathomed at the early stages of the Liberal-National Coalition attack was the attempted takeover of the health care system by profiteers.

Besides cut backs to hospitals by the Liberal-National Coalition there have been dramatic cut backs to Medibank.

Millions of dollars have been wasted by trying to pressure people into private medical health schemes, but people continue to leave private health schemes and rely on medibank and public hospitals for their health care.

What we require is a total government financed system of public, democratically run hospitals, community (both urban and rural) health centres, staffed with salaried doctors.



DEMOCRATS AGAINST ETSA SALE

The Democrats have joined Labor in rejecting John Olsen's plan to sell ETSA to the profiteers. Privatising ETSA is a sure fire way of ensuring that the cost of electricity will increase for ordinary working class people and small business.

You need to look no further than the higher charges for water, despite Olsen's claim at the time that there would be no increase in the cost of this vital item.

One of the disturbing developments since the Democrats and two of the independents have announced their opposition to the sale of ETSA, is the claim by some Liberal Party heavies that they expect to gain support from some Labor Party members when it comes to a vote.

This might be kite flying by the Liberals, but just in case Mike Rann should watch his back.



WIN FOR THE MARITIME UNION

The Maritime Union has come out of the recent dispute on the water front with its principles, integrity and standing unblemished.

This is in stark contrast to the position of John Howard, Peter Reith, Chris Corrigan and Don McGauchie from the National Farmers Federation.

What a miserable bunch of selfish, small minded individuals they have been exposed as being.

Documents that have come to light in the past few days make it abundantly clear that both Howard and Reith mislead the Parliament when they claimed they knew nothing of the plans being hatched.

The facts are that Howard and Reith were central to the planning of the scheme and Corrigan and McGauchie were the means of putting it into operation.

There was a time when there was some honour and decency in the Parliament and a minister would resign his position when exposed for mis-leading the house. But not Howard and Reith.

The "MUA is here to stay", but it would be a optimist, who would say the same about Howard and Reith.



CLASS STRUGGLE IN THE RAW

The Liberal-National Party victory in the 1996 elections, marked the beginning of open, no-holds barred class warfare in Australia. Reith's Industrial Relations legislation is a prime example.

Not since the 1890 struggles of last century have we seen such an open brutal attack on the working class, trade unions and people.

The assault is total, legislative, political, legal, economic, psychological. Ugly brutal racism is at the very centre of it as witness the manner in which Howard is pursuing the Aborigines through the Wik legislation.

The overall strategy is to reverse - and more than that - to wipe out the industrial, political and social gains made by the Trade Unions and working class during the past 100 years.

It is universally accepted that governments have a responsibility to care for the sick, the old, the poor, the unemployed and disadvantaged sections of the community.

It comes as a shock to workers to learn that the *right* which the working class gained as a result of struggle costing much blood and sacrifice - the right to organize and join Unions - now stands in jeopardy, under the Reith Industrial Relations legislation.

So accepted has been the idea of organized workers that you could hardly find anybody, who would cross a picket line. That is now under attack, we saw what we had not seen for years - the attempt to use scab labor to man a section of the Australian water-front.

Using scabs is a move whose ultimate aim is to reduce workers to peonage. If any worker can be replaced by a scab - then no workers job is safe. It means that workers can no longer collectively bargain with their bosses. But must accept what they are given by the employer.

Howard, Reith and Co are threatening to call an election. The working class must ensure the defeat of the Liberal-National Party Coalition, by putting One Nation candidates last and Liberal-National Party Coalition candidates second last.



UNEMPLOYMENT MUST BE TACKLED

By now just about everyone is convinced that the concept of an **export led** recovery in Australia is dead and to create jobs a more realistic and common sense approach to job creation must be taken.

The fundamental cause of unemployment is over production of commodities and lack of purchasing power in the hands of the working class.

This can be redressed by a change in government fiscal policy and the commencement of a massive public capital works program, which will absorb the unemployed and give a much needed boost to industry.



PREPARED AND ISSUED BY:

JIM DOYLE

LIFE MEMBER AUSTRALIAN WORKERS' UNION



THE

PLOD

Volume 1 Issue 2 May 1998

JIM DOYLE File

THE AUSTRALIAN ECONOMY

Economists, statisticians, political pundits and stock exchange spinmen are all trying to put a cheerful face on a pretty gloomy looking Australian economy.

The micro increase in the economic growth for 1997, together with continuing layoffs, downsizing and insecurity in 1998, is the reason consumers are keeping a tight grip on their wallets.

Ignoring the patent failure of the Howard Government policies to lift the economy, Howard, Costello, Kemp and Reith continue to promise "pie in the sky", as the position of the working class and jobs becomes more precarious.

There is no comfort, or fact, in their economic gibberish. It is no wonder that so many have so little confidence in the Liberal-National Party government, including small business people, farmers, growing sections of the middle class and racial groups.

What are the economic facts? The Australian people are facing both long-term and short term problems. In the short term, people are forced to deal with the specific problems flowing from the Howard government policies. In the long term, people have to deal with the continuing overall decline in their living standards and quality of life.

More and more people are aware that their children are less likely to have an education, a job, a career, a home and an income to raise a family. In fact, today both generations, parents and their children, are the long-term victims of a dying system.

The Australian economy is suffering from a terminal structural crisis. It is a long-term systemic crisis that cannot be cured, except by exchanging capitalism for socialism.

We thus have two kinds of crises, different but related. The Howard, Costello, Kemp, Reith Liberal-National Party made crisis and the overall strategic, long-term crisis of a decaying capitalist system.



REITH PLAYS ROLE OF AGENT PROVOCATEUR

Australia is not a fascist country. But events on Australian wharves are taking on an appearance similar to what prevailed in Germany and Italy under Hitler and Musolini.

The dispute between Patricks Stevedoring and members of the Maritime Union of Australia, centres around Patricks mismanagement and the refusal of the MUA members to pick up the tab for Corrigan, the manager.

Australian wharf workers have a record second to none and both Corrigan and "Truthful" Peter Reith know this. Hence the need for "Truthful" Pete to embark on a campaign of misinformation about the Maritime Union of Australia.

Reith and a number of members of the Howard government are members of the HR Nicholls Society, a far right think tank, that has a pathological hatred of any form of working class organisation, such as the Maritime Union of Australia and poses a threat to all Trade Unions.

The use of scabs in an industrial dispute is anathema to every decent principled Australian worker. Reith and Corrigan are protecting their scabs with uniformed SS guards, armed with Doberman Pincher dogs, heavy batons and mace sprays.

Reith and Corrigan are getting a great run from the media, and Reith like the "brave" man walking past the graveyard, keeps ranting and raving to keep up his spirit as he begins to realise that he's heading for his own political graveyard.

SA NURSES GET RAW DEAL FROM GOVERNMENT

South Australian Nurses must be the most patient and caring group of people in our community. For the past four months they have patiently endeavoured to negotiate increases in their pay rates, to bring them into line with "best pay rates prevailing in the Eastern States.

Now because of the intransigence of the State Government and Health Commission the Nurses are being forced reluctantly, to take some industrial action in order to get the Government to sit down to serious negotiations.

In seeking "pay rates based on best rates prevailing in the Eastern States" the nurses are on sound grounds. This is precisely the grounds used by State Politicians to justify increases in their pay rates and conditions and has led to SA Politicians being among the highest paid in Australia.

Nurses perform essential and indispensable services in hospitals nursing homes and other vital areas in the community

The State Government and Health Commission should lose no time in sitting down with The Nurses Federation and bring about a speedy resolution of this dispute to the satisfaction of the Nurses.



HIT MEN GAIN FROM DOWNSIZING

It's been observed by some members of the Trade Unions and working class that whenever a company downsizes its workforce company shares and profits soar.

To-day the worker loses his job, the employers stock rises and the chief executive gets a fat bonus and pay rise. There is something wrong in our society, when shares keep rising on the Stock Exchange, while Main Street is littered with the bodies of workers discarded by the companies.

Australian workers are being screwed by Australian and Foreign companies and the Stock Exchanges. The Howard Government keeps announcing that they have created thousands of new jobs, but what they don't mention is that most of the new jobs pay less than the workers got before being laid off and thousands of these jobs are temporary, part time, minimum wage and non-union.

Since the defeat of the Whitlam Labor Government in 1975 to the present time it is estimated that workers purchasing power has fallen by at least 30%. Meanwhile there are now more millionaires than ever - poverty and declining wages on one side of the tracks beget ever greater concentrations of wealth on the other side



Scabs are being used on the wharves by the National Farmers Federation.

"Judas Iscariot was a gentleman compared with a 'scab' for after betraying his master, he had enough character to hang himself and a 'scab' has not".

American author - Jack London - 100 years ago

REITH CAUSE OF WHARF TROUBLE

The prime cause of the dispute on the wharves is the confrontational approach of the Prime Minister John Howard and Minister for Work Place Relations Peter Reith.

Reith has a pathological hatred of any form of organised Trade Union and of the Maritime Union in particular.

Reith believes that the working class is an appendage of the capitalist system and that workers sole role in society is to increase the wealth, privilege and power of the capitalist class and their agents, such as the Liberal-National Party.

The last Party that held such a view and for a time enforced such a role on its working class and society was the Nazi Party and Adolph Hitler in Germany.

It seems ironic that Peter Reith should be talking about "rorts" on the wharves. Eight of his Ministerial colleagues in the Liberal-National Party have set new standards for "rorting" and worked so hot that the Prime Minister had to accept their resignations.

Peter Reith himself had no compunction about taking a special "bonus" of \$47,000.00, when he bought a penthouse from the Crown casino people. It is a "bonus" that is not available to other people.

A recent report on the Australian waterfront shows that Australian wharfies are as efficient and productive as any in the world, having regard to the nature of the cargoes and the manner in which it is stowed on ships.

Both Reith and Howard are so biased and anti-working class that they prefer to ignore this aspect of the report and to go on peddling their liars and distortions about the wharfies.



PUBLIC WANTS RESOLUTION BY DISCUSSION

The High Court has made it clear in its preliminary comments concerning the dispute between Patrick Stevedores and the Maritime Union that they are dealing with the legal aspects of the matter only and that the Industrial aspects will have to be dealt with else where.

Sooner or later Patricks and the Maritime Union will have to come to some agreement that is workable and acceptable to them both.

Under Reith's legislation it appears that the Industrial Commission is now unable to carry out the function of arbitrating in industrial disputes of this type.

When this dispute is eventually settled, there will still be a system of relations based on employer and employee.

If the Liberal-National Party Government was acting in the best interests of the Australian people it would drop the biased confrontational approach of Howard and Reith and support the immediate re-employment of the sacked Union members.

The Maritime Union and Patricks could then meet and resolve their differences, free from the disruptive influence of Peter Reith.



AUSTRALIAN WORKERS' UNION SUPPORTS

MARITIME UNION STRUGGLE.

The support of the ACTU, Trade Unions and general public for the Maritime Union and its members is causing concern and divisions among sections of the capital class and within the Liberal-National coalition.

National Farmers Federation and its boss McGauchie have become so isolated from the ordinary working farmer, that they are resigning from the NFF and donating to the MUA strike fund.

Trade Unions are aware that if the MUA is destroyed by the Howard-Reith attack, then every other Trade Union and working class organisation in Australia will be in danger.

There is a similarity between the tactics being used by Howard and Reith to those used by Hitler in Germany in 1933. First destroy the Trade Unions, then the working class political parties.

Too late the German workers recognised what was happening. We must ensure that it is not repeated here.



MAY DAY MARCH BEST EVER.

May Day marches in Australia have attracted record crowds.

In Adelaide the march of 3000 to 3500 was the best ever, after marching to Rymill Park, the marches were addressed by Chris White, the United Trades and Labor Council, Secretary and Ricky Newlyn, Secretary, SA Branch of the Maritime Union.

Both speakers emphasized the dangers confronting the Trade Union and working class organisations and were well received by the thousands of marchers.

From the slogans on the banners and the enthusiasm of the marchers the anti-working class Liberal-National Party will have a losing battle in their proposed forth coming election.



COURT PUTS HEAT ON HOWARD AND REITH

The High Court in a judgement has ordered the re-employment of the 1400 Patrick workers sacked on the 7 April.

This now makes it three Court decisions against Howard, Reith, Corrigan and McGauchie the NFF boss. The next decision will be delivered by the Australian people when they have the opportunity in Howard's proposed election.

The decision of the High Court completely vindicates the the struggle of the Maritime Union led by John Coombs, the ACTU led by Jenny George and by the Trade Unions, the ALP and all the working class organisations that resolutely opposed the actions of Howard and Reith.

Howard should immediately call for the resignation of Peter Reith and Howard should apologise to the MUA.

As John Coombs has stated the Wharfies go back to work under conditions prevailing prior to 7 April and this means there is no place for "scabs" on the Australian wharves.

Whilst this is a terrific decision for Trade Unions we must remain alert for further mischief by Howard, Reith the Liberal-National Party and NFF's McGauchie.

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