

**THE PEOPLE CAN NEVER
BE REPRESSED – DEFEAT
NEW PENAL POWERS**



As people who, for three of us, over the last forty years (and one over the last 25 years) have personally and actively participated in the struggles of Australian working people, we urge all Australian working and other patriotic people to recognise their great strength. An all out attack is being made upon living standards. To carry it out, a whole new system of oppressive and restrictive laws is being created. This is a sign of the collapse of society. Such a society has no right to exist. All out struggle is the order of the day for working people. We see socialism as the solution. The way to socialism is through struggle against repression, against the multi-nationals and their partners and their agents like Fraser, Hawke and other Labor leaders. The people can rely only on their own struggle. Everything is to be gained by struggle. We should all welcome it. Nothing was ever won by the people without struggle and sacrifice. A new high tide of struggle is running today. It is splendid indeed.

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Australia is faced with ever intensifying struggle between its ordinary people and the great monopolies, the core of which are foreign multi-nationals.

Australian oil is owned and controlled by a handful of multi-nationals and their Australian partners. They can cut off oil and petrol at the drop of a hat. Australia comes to a standstill. There can be as many parliaments, as many elections, as many "independent" courts as you may choose. But what does it matter to the oil monopolies. They own the oil and petrol. They can cut it off, notwithstanding democratic elections, parliaments etc. In fact, they did so when they refused to meet the demand of transport workers for reasonable living conditions. The truth is they not only own the oil, but they own the parliaments, the courts, the police, the army, the governments whether Liberal or Labor.

General Motors' arrogant action in trying to force its workers to take a weeks holiday and retrenching workers, shows the hold of the giant motor vehicle manufacturers on Australia. These motor manufacturers were hailed as a great boon for Australians – cheap cars, more employment, advanced technique so it was said. There was something in each claim. But what about the other side? In the economic crisis for which central responsibility rests on such multi-nationals as General Motors, Australians are forced to take "holidays" and are sacked. Meantime unsafe vehicles kill and maim people, public transport is ruined (except for transport-

ing the products of these same multi-nationals), the air is polluted and cheap cars become dear cars.

The purchase of the cars is financed by a handful of giant finance companies owned basically in the U.S. They extract millions in usury from Australians.

Whatever field of production and commerce is taken, there is a similar picture.

The U.S. multi-nationals have a death grip on Australia.

Governments in Australia whether Labor or Liberal carry out the will of these decisive economic forces. These governments are their agents, their committees.

The Fraser government with its Industrial Relations Bureau (industrial police force) and amendments to the Trade Practices Act is simply renewing an age old attack upon the workers and working people and all patriotic Australians.

If workers struggle for better wages and conditions Fraser's new laws threaten new fines, new gaolings on workers, workers organisations and leaders. New penalties include fines of \$250,000 for unions, \$50,000 for individuals, actions for damages and injunctions with gaol.

It is all a sign of the terrible weakness of the multi-nationals, their Australian partners and their agents in the Fraser government and the Labor Party. On the other hand, it is a sign of the great strength of the workers.

The Fraser government and those multi-nationals and their Australian partners have lost confidence in their power to rule in the old way through "democracy". They reach out for the bludgeon. This is to "deal with" the new upsurge of struggle by Australian working people.

It has all been done previously.

In the thirties, Australian workers, working and patriotic people fought against the measures taken against them at the behest of the Bank of England – an all round attack upon living standards and liberties. Then they fought against gaolings, finings, censorship, etc. imposed on them when they struggled against nazi Germany, fascist Italy and imperialist Japan.

In World War II, Australian workers, working and patriotic people fought a united struggle against the Hitlerites, Italian fascists and Japanese imperialists.

After World War II, when the monopolies broke all their promises of democracy, these monopolies imposed new repression. In Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia, Tasmania, in short throughout Australia, workers and working people fought great struggles.

In Victoria, the Essential Services Act (similar to the present-day Vital Projects Act) was defeated in mass strike struggles. In the Commonwealth, the Chifley Labor government gaoled workers' leaders in the great coal strike of 1949. Mass struggle and unrest forced their release.

Throughout the late forties, the multi-nationals conducted an offensive against the workers and working people.

In 1950-51 under the guise of an attack on Communism, these multi-nationals, their Australian partners and government passed legislation which attacked all workers, working and democratic people. It threatened all the rights and liberties won by the people.

Mass struggle defeated it. Mass struggle was such it compelled a retreat. Even in their own referendum on it, on September 22, 1951, the multi-nationals and their government were defeated.

The power of the people knows no bounds.

In 1954-5 under the guise of the Petrov (Soviet diplomatic defection) affair, another all round attack was launched. It was wrecked on the rock of mass struggle of Australian workers, working and patriotic people.

Throughout the fifties and sixties, new penal powers against the workers, and working people were invoked. Pious resolutions were passed against them by official trade union bodies like the ACTU and Trades and Labor Councils and the Labor Party leaders. But these organisations **did** nothing. No action was taken.

Deliberately in 1969 the penal powers were challenged right outside this officialdom. A historic struggle developed. O'Shea's release from gaol was compelled by mass struggle and by nothing else.

Now in desperate economic crisis brought on by their own social system, the multi-nationals, their Australian partners and government, have launched this new attack with its Industrial Relations Bureau, Trade Practices Amendment, Western Australian repressive legislation, Victoria's Vital Projects Act and so on. There is an all-out attack to cut the real wages and conditions of the workers and working people. Fraser's repression is to enforce this and divert attention from multi-nationals, Fraser, Labor leaders and the whole social system of capitalism. The working people's wages and conditions are under attack in this new repression.

The governments are acting for those oil companies, motor manufacturers and other multi-nationals.

The recently disclosed activities of the CIA are part and parcel of it all.

The whole thing is monopoly against the people. It is made more desperate by the challenge to the U.S. hold in Australia by the new Soviet imperialists. The U.S. multi-nationals and their partners and government strive desperately to make Australia safe for themselves against the Soviet challenge of investment, penetration and interference in Australia.

Central to the plans of the multi-nationals and their Australian partners is the part played by Hawke and his ACTU. As soon as there is struggle. Hawke rushes to settle it. He breathes fire and brimstone against Fraser and Co. but always acts as a "reasonable" man, a

“restraining influence.” Reams and reams are written favourably about him in the daily press.

The workers will never get anything from arbitration. It is a complete blind alley designed to throw the dust of “justice” in the eyes of the people. Similarly they will never get anything from a mere “change” of government.

The daily press is but a mouthpiece for those arrogant multi-nationals and their Australian partners. Indeed it is true that its “news” is printed on the back of advertisements for these multi-nationals – General Motors, Fords, Chryslers, Esso-BHP, the giant tobacco monopolies, the Rockefeller Safeways etc. No wonder this press says the workers are “holding the country to ransom”, are “irresponsible”, “totally without merit”, “refuse to abide by the umpire’s decision” and other like clichés and stereotypes.

But there is no identity between Australia and these multi-nationals. The country is composed of black and white Australian people, workers, other working and patriotic people – the useful people. They are the real Australia and not this handful of scum constituted by multi-millionaires and their traitor servants.

No reliance can be placed on Hawke, the Labor leaders, the ACTU, arbitration.

Such people and such bodies have always sold the people out. They will do so again.

Transport workers in the oil industry, air traffic controllers, as examples, fought a patriotic Australian

fight. The workers, working people and other patriotic people are the Australian patriots, the only useful people in Australia. They have tremendous power, tremendous courage.

It is good that the multi-nationals, their partners, government and agents are forced to take repressive measures. It shows who are the real enemies of Australia, who are the enemies of democracy, who attack our rights and liberties. It clarifies the issues.

Let them use their army (air force) and other such instruments. It shows clearly how the army is the central weapon of the repressive state machine. Mr. Fraser is an excellent teacher. We should thank him.

Repression engenders opposition by workers and working people and other patriots. It unifies the ranks of the people. It enables them to see who are their friends. It exhilarates them. Their confidence in their own power.

The enemies of the people are paper tigers. They’ve always been paper tigers. Today their character as paper tigers is more evident.

Just as resounding victories were won in the thirties against the Dog Collar Act, against censorship, against gaolings and finings; in the forties in the Essential Services Act struggle, in the Miners’ Strike, later against the Communist Party Dissolution Act, the Petrov Affair, the O’Shea gaoling, so today great victories lie before the working people.

After the people's victory over the use by the Federal government of the penal powers against O'Shea, the workers developed a strong campaign for wage rises. They took the offensive against the enemy and workers all over Australia won substantial gains. The working people will do this again and will deal more powerful blows against the multi-nationals and their hangers-on. In doing so the workers will prepare the ground for even greater struggles which will bring the day of real national independence closer.

They must unite more closely, fight to the end, not be misled by Hawke and Co., Labor leaders, arbitration and so on nor in any way be intimidated. Australian workers are bound to be victorious if they persist in struggle.

They are all powerful.

They are the core of the movement that will solve recurring economic crisis and repression by throwing the multi-nationals and their partners right out of Australia. They will unite with all patriots.

They will carry on the great tradition of struggle highlighted by Eureka, the strikes of the nineties, the anti-conscription struggles and the struggles referred to.

Australia will be freed from multi-national imperialist grip. Its independence will be won.

- * The Eureka flag should be raised even higher.
- * We should fight for independence and socialism.
- * We should fight in preparation for it by fighting around

such slogans as –

*Make the Rich Pay. --

by increasing real wages, abolishing indirect taxation on all but luxuries, abolishing direct taxation on all incomes under \$10,000.

- * Nationalising GM, Fords, Chryslers.
- * Nationalising the oil monopolies.
- * Nationalising BHP.
- * No uranium mining.
- * No Omega base.
- * U.S. imperialism and USSR out.
- * Australia for Australian black and white people.

MELBOURNE, MAY, 1977.

*A COMMUNIST (MARXIST--LENINIST)
PUBLICATION*