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### **Chechnya Blood on Yeltsin's Hands**

The people of Chechnya are learning a lesson in blood. There are no rights for nations to secede in the so-called "Commonwealth of Independent States". Woe betide those peoples who want to defy the Yeltsin agenda. Many tens of thousands of lives have been lost in Yeltsin's bid to impose Moscow's authority. Three years ago Yeltsin expressed sympathy for the Chechen case. Irrespective of his sincerity then, today he realises that such sympathy he cannot afford.

Yeltsin has an agenda of establishing capitalism in Russia. This he is finding difficult. Virtually the whole of Russian industry cannot survive in a market economy. Yet the manufactured goods are still required. And CIS cannot afford to import. The former Soviet Union had a system of distributing goods within its boundaries. This has been broken down with the independence of states outside Russia. Due to this and the introduction of the market economy, those states without oil have a massive debt to those states which produce it. This debt has led to massive inflation. Yeltsin does not want to see the national breakdown continue. He therefore must clamp down on the people of Chechnya so other nationalities within the CIS do not follow suit. Shortages of commodities due to internal trading is the last thing he needs. Yeltsin fears that if he does not act decisively, national disintegration will continue.

The price of his actions is considerable. He has been exposed as being as bloody, as ruthless, as Joseph Stalin in repressing national rights. He faces resistance within the armed forces who don't want to be involved in another Afghanistan. At least in Afghanistan the Red Army fought for the liberal Afghan bourgeoisie. In Chechnya they are fighting for repression and an austerity programme. On the other hand, Zharinovskiy, that malignant ultra-nationalist, can "expose" Yeltsin for not fighting hard enough, for allowing the Russian empire to degenerate. The war costs money. It is contributing to Russia's austerity. It is being paid for out of the pockets of the workers and poor people. Understandably they resent paying this burden.

What is obvious is: Yeltsin cannot resolve the national question. For communists, nationalism will be overcome when we can undermine the material basis for its existence. We support the right to self-determination because we want to show, in action, that we believe in the equality of all nations. We believe in unity. But we want unity to be voluntary. It is extremely important that nations that were in a subordinate colonial relationship before the revolution be shown that they have the right to be

independent both before and after the revolution. Stalin violated the rights of nations to self-determination. And for that reason nationalism lives as a political force in the CIS today. Yeltsin is in a contradictory situation. His drive to capitalism exacerbates nationalist tendencies. Yet he requires the stability of the CIS. He resolves this by bloody repression. All this shows is that there was nothing progressive about the Yeltsin counter-revolution.

### **Gareth Evans goes to Cuba**

Gareth Evans likes to think he is a world statesman. He has successfully peddled Prince Sihanouk's pro-Vietnamese Kampuchean solution to the US imperialists. He's been a major apologist for Indonesia internationally. He's attempted to rationalise the Indonesian invasion of East Timor to the world. He's been an architect of PNG/Australian suppression of Bougainville for the benefit of Australia. His latest diplomatic adventure is to visit Cuba. Cuba is, at the moment, a country under siege. There is a major shortage of food and basic commodities due to the US imperialist blockade which is designed to starve Cuba into submission. When there was the USSR, Cuba used to trade, on favourable terms, sugar for petrol. Now the USSR is overthrown, Cuba has no major source of petroleum. Boris Yeltsin, leader of the Commonwealth of Independent States, is all the way with the USA. This means it joins in the imperialist campaign to starve Cuba. Cuba is deprived of not merely its source of petroleum but other manufactured goods and basic commodities also.

US imperialism has every interest in driving Cuba into submission. Cuba is a living example to the people of Latin America that there is an alternative to US domination, US-backed brutal dictatorships and imperialist austerity. The Cuban revolution was an inspiration throughout Latin America. It inspired rebellion in Nicaragua, El Salvador and Grenada. Unfortunately wrong lessons were learnt. Cuba was considered as another "proof" of the "success" of the two stage theory of revolution. This means, first fight for democratic demands, then socialism later. It was seen as a victory for an unprincipled alliance with the national bourgeoisie and for liquidating the working class behind the banner of the peasantry. It was with this stalinist strategy that the guerillas of Nicaragua and El Salvador fought imperialism.

In Nicaragua the revolution was victorious. But unlike in Cuba the national bourgeoisie were not overthrown. Nicaragua remained capitalist. The Sandinistas thought they controlled the national bourgeoisie. But on the contrary! The national bourgeoisie strangled the revolution. Violetta Chamorra electorally defeated the Sandinistas and has returned Nicaragua to the mainstream of imperialist capitalism. The USA, of course, actively fought the Sandinistas through trade restrictions and by promoting the vicious counter-revolutionary guerilla force, the Contras. Imperialism attacks every revolution but the Sandinistas ignoring and, in fact, promoting internal counter-revolutionary capitalists, made the job easier for the US.

In going to Cuba Gareth Evans is appearing to be disobeying the USA. Evans has made some flattering statements praising Cuban health and education. Does this mean that the Keating government has changed its spots and decided to play an independent role in world affairs? Well, no! It just means that some imperialists are more flexible about dealing with a rogue nation such as Cuba. The US cannot afford to be weak. The USA is an imperialist power in decline which must hang on, tooth and claw, to what's left. It must teach Cuba a lesson so some other small Caribbean nation won't dare to defy their Yankee masters. But other powers can afford to be more flexible. There is no alternative leadership to Castro on the agenda. So the strategy is to put pressure on Castro to

promote market forces. The aim is for capitalism to triumph through foreign trade and internal counter-revolution. Just as Gorbachev promoted the aspiring capitalist and paved the way for Yeltsin counter-revolution, perhaps Castro can be pressured or persuaded to do like Gorbachev. Especially under the pressure of material deprivation and shortages. Castro is coming to the party. Clinton is not satisfied with the progress but concessions are being made. Gareth Evans is trying to cement a deal or Western Mining to carry out mining operations in Cuba. As long as Cuba remains isolated then the revolution will be strangled. This is living proof of the failure of “socialism in one country” which is the Stalin theory adhered to by Castro. The alternative, which is the only way that Cuba can survive free from imperialist superexploitation, is an internationalist perspective of permanent revolution based on the proletariat. The peasantry must be won over in a principled way to support proletarian dictatorship. A nationalist strategy of adapting to peasant privilege can only lead to bureaucracy, counter-revolution and ultimately defeat. This is the real lesson of the Cuban revolution.

### **Dismantling the CES**

On February 1, CES workers staged a one day national strike over proposed staff cuts and increased workload CES workers will face with intended restructuring of the CES.

It was only after pressure from the rank and file that the leadership of the Combined Public Sector Union acted by calling the strike. Even then they only acted to diffuse the situation. The usual tactic of the Caird leadership (aligned with the ALP left) is to call for bans and stoppages. This lets them off the hook and leaves it up to the individual shop floor to determine what action, if any, will be taken. In other words, if you have a weak workplace delegate, bad luck. However even this ‘militancy’ turns out to be fraudulent. DEET, as usual, applied to the IRC for stand downs. The CPSU called for arbitration. So all the promised rolling stoppages were called off despite the endorsement of the membership.

While the issue of staff cuts is a serious one (staff to be reduced by 3,000 in three years) at stake here is the wholesale destruction of the CES. The proposed restructuring splits a whole new agency — Employment Assistance Australia — from the CES. This is to enable the privatisation of the EAA and the automation of the CES and its integration into the DSS. The EAA will ‘case manage’ the long term and disadvantaged unemployed, while the CES will deal with general CES services, such as taking vacancies, registering jobseeker, arranging job interviews and managing training programs. The two agencies are being grossly understaffed and work pressure for some has become unbearable.

For the moment unemployed people are given a choice, though in many cases this is not being explained clearly to them. They can be ‘managed’ either by the EAA or by a private agency. These private agencies can be SkillShares, private employment agencies, bodies such as the Sydney City Mission or any organisation which successfully competes for a tender. Presently 10% of case management is handled by private agencies. This is expected to grow to 40% in the next two years. The aim is, of course, to promote the private sector and wind down and replace the public sector. This is why DEET can confidently plan for the wholesale staff cuts. Already a common database is being established so the private case managers can access information on those jobseekers from which they can select their case load. The award under which workers in the private agencies are covered is lower paying. It is likely that most workers will be non-union and unable to enforce

conditions. This is the lever by which public sector will have their awards undermined and by which they will be squeezed by 'competition' out of the field.

The 'new' CES will become little more than an ancillary to these private placement agencies, required to provide whatever services they demand. Automated job boards are being established and 'one-stop-shops' so that registration for work will be a DSS process not a CES process. This means that there will be no service for jobseekers until they become a 'problem', at which time they will be pushed into the grasp of the contractors. Again, the intention to eliminate the service is used to destroy workers' condition while preparing to sack thousands of CES staff and save millions.

The private sector is based on production for profit. This applies as much to private contractor processing the unemployed as elsewhere. The companies will be paid on the basis of how many they place in jobs or alternatively any other outcomes that get them off the dole. These companies have an incentive to abuse the unemployed with harder and more oppressive work testing. They also have an incentive not to take on the 'too hard' cases. Apart from the few who they find jobs for (and what choice will there be for the type of jobs these are?) the unemployed will face a torrid time trying to 'prove' they are worthy of the government's meagre handout.

It is the whole reactionary strategy which must be confronted and not the jobs of CES workers in isolation, if there is to be any chance of salvaging the situation. The future of public provision of a basic service is at stake. It is the responsibility of the leadership of the CPSU to put forward a plan of action to stop the break up of the CES and oppose privatisation. The Caird leadership is totally backing and participating in the Keating agenda. To do this they have consistently misled, confused and betrayed the membership, which has opposed enterprise bargaining, the restructuring and privatisation. At the moment, the organised opposition within the union has formally opposed the agenda. Their main thrust in the dispute has been to oppose enterprise bargaining. However defeat and demoralisation have dampened the will for a wholesale challenge to the reactionary agenda. Even if there were a successful struggle for jobs the gain will only be temporary if the agenda remains.

A Communist leadership for the CPSU is urgently required, one which acts as an enlightened tribune of the workers and places this in the context of underlying determinants of capitalism which are driving it. Such a leadership would not merely challenge Caird on enterprise bargaining and other trade union issues. Such a leadership would take a strong stand in defence of the unemployed. It would advance demands such as a shorter work week to combat the twin phenomena of endemic overwork and unemployment. CES and DSS workers have an interest in defending the unemployed as they have an interest in defying the government's agenda. All attacks on the social security must be fought.

### **Keating's consensus failure**

For months the Keating government appeared to be on top. After all Downer, the ruling class boy from the Adelaide Club was hardly effective opposition. The ruling class are happy that with Howard as opposition leader, there is now an effective alternative. It appears that representatives of the middle classes and labour aristocracy often represent the system more effectively than those from the ruling class itself.

However, Keating's problems are more than just being faced with a new, more capable and more determined opposition leader. Keating appears to have lost the art of consensus. Hawke/Keating Labor have always had a love-hate relationship with the radical middle class mass movement. After the defeat of Whitlam, radical left and the middle class people latched on to anti-uranium issue. Of course, Labor realised it needed the support of the radical middle class. So Hayden and Hawke co-opted the movement. "Uranium, play it safe, vote Labor", said an ALP election sticker. The problem was that whilst this was effective in getting Labor in, there was no way that the ruling class would allow Labor to stop mining. So Hawke, after being elected to office, took on the movement. He made sure that any formal policy regarding stopping uranium or supporting East Timorese independence was wiped from even formal ALP policy statements. The radical middle class movements rebelled. The Nuclear Disarmament Party was formed. NDP Senators were elected. Green parties took root. These movements were diffused. Or rather because they never had the guts to take on Labor, the clever manipulators, Hawke and Keating, could keep the radical middle class vote safe. In 1987 Hawke made a big issue of "caring for the environment". This kept many radical middle class people safe within the Labor fold.

Hawke/Keating Labor put loyalty to the ruling class before any concern for the environment. Some green initiatives actually fit the ruling class agenda. Some Greens have been known to support cheap labour schemes. Thinking green is often good for the tourist industry. With the collapse of manufacturing, the Australian ruling class are turning to tourism and raw materials such as mining and wood chipping.

This is currently clashing with the radical middle class movements. The turn to tourism requires more people coming in by plane. Sydney has needed a new runway. The east-west runway is dangerous with extra traffic. The third runway has meant more planes over people's homes. For some it has made life hell. Many middle class people are concerned with property values. After all, with planes flying overhead, their dearly beloved home becomes a poor investment, it is this trendy section which is behind the No Aircraft Noise Party standing candidates for the New South Wales state elections. The initiator is leading Pabloite Hall Greenland, a veteran of the student, antiwar, green and resident action movements. Hall has made an alliance with the ALP mayors of Marrickville and Leichhardt. He also has the support of the independent member for North Sydney, Ted Mack and other respectable middle class people. This party is clashing with the Greens who have a consistent reactionary anti-technological philosophy. They therefore are more consistent at opposing Labor. Of course this opposition is in no way progressive.

The other major issue facing the radical middle class is wood chipping. There is understandable concern at Keating's willingness to allow multinationals to rip down thousands of acres of forest for superprofits. The benefits to anyone else are negligible. The companies have managed to rally workers and unions in defence of jobs. Workers do have an interest in the conservation of forest. In fact the quicker the forest is felled, the fewer jobs there are. Trees have to be felled. But by planning we can conserve both forests and jobs. A shorter working week is urgently needed in the timber industry. It is only when we overthrow capitalism that we can plan properly. But through worker's control tactics, we can cut down the forest on our terms — so it isn't totally destroyed. The ruling class will not permit workers control. So such tactics must be linked to a programme which overthrows capitalism. Both wood chipping and tourism could cost Keating votes if green middle class people are alienated.

Another problem Keating has is with the economy. Recent forecasts have been very unfavourable indeed. Bourgeois economists at least realise that as well as Keating they too were bankrupt. What could they have done within the capitalist framework which would have been fundamentally different? Well not much! They would have cut back harder. But they realise that the Keating method has nullified opposition. This is something that Howard wouldn't have achieved. Crisis requires cutback. Howard can score political points from Keating's retreats. Keating has boasted that his Accord strategy has stopped wage rises. Now, understandably, unions are pushing for wage claims. Unions are being blamed for the increased unemployment. This could make the ruling class unhappy with Keating who might have to "prove" that he can provide the industrial harmony and "consensus". Keating's main advantage has been that he can not only make workers sacrifice, but he can get workers to "agree" to it. If he fails the ruling class might start backing Hewson.

We, of course, want "consensus" to fail. We have no interest in sacrificing our jobs, living standards and our working conditions for the sake of the capitalist economy. We must reject both Liberal and Labor's drive towards austerity. We must not surrender to the capitalist economy. Unions must break all ties with Keating Labor. A new worker's party must be built around class struggle principles. The two real alternatives posed are: to surrender to the system or to fight for its overthrow.

Keating may look as though he has problems at the moment. But he is a smart operator who can pull many tricks out of the hat which might appease the bosses, union bureaucrats and the "radical middle classes". Howard has to show that he can be meaningfully different. Keating has for the ruling class shown that he can serve them with minimal working class dissent. Whoever wins it is the system which rules. And when the bosses demand deeper cuts Keating, and of course Howard, will oblige. Working people have no interest in this system.

### **CPNZ breaks with Stalin**

In New Zealand, the Communist Party of New Zealand has changed its name. It is now called the Socialist Workers Party. And more importantly, it now identifies with the great Russian revolutionary — Leon Trotsky. For SWPNZ, Trotsky is now a great revolutionary hero and not a "sinister counter-revolutionary". For a party who has considered "opposition to counter-revolutionary Trotskyism" an article of faith for many decades, this comes as an amazing turn. Of the mainstream stalinist parties, only the CPNZ has embraced Trotsky outright. The CPA had a rethink. It rejected the view that Trotsky was a counter-revolutionary agent. It acknowledged Trotsky's role in the Russian revolution. But it avoided siding with Trotsky in any of the factional disputes within the Bolshevik Party. In reality it bloced with the stalinists on liquidating proletarian interest behind the banner of the national bourgeoisie. It agreed with Stalin that Trotskyists "underestimated the peasantry". It never broke with its treacherous role in supporting the imperialist war effort. It consistently looked for "reforming sections of the various bureaucracies. The CPA remained stalinists who considered Trotsky to be a nice bloke despite being a misguided sectarian.

The SWPNZ identification with Trotsky is different. They are far more wholehearted in their endorsement. This has consequences for Trotskyists internationally. Some will say that it shows stalinists can be reformed. It may appear that Pablo was right in arguing that "objective pressures" "could force stalinists to become revolutionary". We warn aspiring Trotskyists (especially from the Pablo faction) not to jump too soon.

The programmatic changes within the CPNZ must be seen in the context of its development as a stalinist party. CPNZ was the only major western Communist Party to side with the Chinese in their break with the USSR then led by Nikita Khrushchev. Surprisingly enough it was Khrushchev's limited exposure of Stalin which was an important linchpin. Mao was rooted firmly in Stalin's method and any disassociation was not on. The Maoists had no intention of liberalisation. They found Khrushchev's liberalisation to be a threat. They also attacked Khrushchev from the left. Being based on the revolutionary energy of the workers and peasants they had neither interest nor desire for peaceful coexistence with imperialism. Their principle of "continuous revolution by stages" sounded revolutionary, and many Trotskyists considered Mao was adhering to Trotsky in practice if not in theory. But in reality it was very much to the contrary. The Maoists stood for liquidation more vehemently than their pro-Moscow comrades. In fact they could use the authority of the Chinese revolution to reinforce class collaboration. Throughout the colonies and semicolonies, millions followed the Maoist path of uniting behind the banner of the national bourgeoisie, and fighting imperialism, guns in hand. Often the national bourgeoisie didn't come to the party. Never the less the national liberation fronts for an independent nation run by national capital as their programme. Yet after the victory of such fronts in Vietnam, Kampuchea, North Korea and Cuba capitalism was overthrown. Such class collaborationist blocks cannot establish the dictatorship of the proletariat. What they can establish is societies transitional to it which Communist Left characterises as "workers and peasants states". These have nationalised property relations and a bureaucracy which reflects peasants interests at the expense of the proletariat.

The political differences between the stalinist states stemmed from different national interests, stemming from different "national roads to socialism". Imperialism played off these antagonisms. This led to not merely ideological division but military conflict between postcapitalist states. Of course none of these states could make a Marxist analysis of their rivals. Such an analysis would threaten their own bureaucracy. If Albania drew the conclusion that China became counterrevolutionary due to following the path of national liberation front, liquidating the interests of workers behind the banner of the national bourgeoisie and the peasantry, they would have to draw the conclusion that their ruling elite, based on the same class forces, was counterrevolutionary also. This of course, they were not prepared to do. So instead of Marxism and material analysis we got demonology. Yesterdays great revolutionaries became today's blackest counterrevolutionaries. First this was applied to the Russian bureaucracy who became "Soviet social imperialist" Then the Chinese bureaucracy was written off. For CPNZ this left Albania as the revolutionary beacon. Well the counterrevolution there exposed precisely what bureaucratic rule of Enver Hoxha meant for millions of Albanians. It is of some credit that after the event even CPNZ could admit its non revolutionary nature. But where did it leave them theoretically?

The current turn of SWPNZ has nothing to do with Trotskyism. Rather it is the logic of their stalinist heaven or hell analysis of post capitalist states. The name Socialist Workers Party is no accident. They choose this name because they want to be in solidarity with the Cliff tendency internationally — the International Socialists. Unlike Trotskyists they cannot see that although a state has broken from capitalism, non proletarian classes such as the peasantry can emerge and strangle the revolution. If a state does not meet their paradigm of revolution, it must be capitalism. This is their logic. It is shared by the International Socialists who consider that all the post capitalist states were or are "state capitalist". SWPNZ are using the banner of Trotsky to give revolutionary cover for the same antimarxist method.

Their political practice remains stalinist too. During the imperialist war against Iraq “defending Kuwait” CPNZ slogans were not revolutionary defeatist. They blocked with pacifists in trying to get those groups who did defend Iraq, Permanent Revolution Group and Worker Power (then Communist Left) excluded from demos. Nor did their antiwar solidarity have a working class orientation. CPNZ was a loyal, though militant part of the popular front. In the housing movement they have bureaucratically excluded Workers Power from the movement to defend public sector tenants. They want to bureaucratically impose tactics. Proletarian democracy is still very much alien to their methods. Fusing with the International Socialists does not require a break from popular frontism. The SO Australia and the British SWP are well and truly liquidated into popular fronts. They are proud of uniting with Liberals and vicars in the Anti Nazi League. So in fighting fascism SWPNZ do not have to break at all. Understandably the International socialists are not rushing into unite with their aspiring comrades. Although not free from bureaucratic flaws, they no doubt are strongly critical of SWPNZ internal regime. It remains to be seen if international fusion will take place.

By accepting Trotsky as a theoretician SWP now have the theoretical arsenal to make a total break from their past. They have yet to do this and we doubt if this is their intention. Their adoption of Trotsky merely gives an ideological cover to one new step in their degeneration.

### **Mumia Abu Jamal**

Mumia Abu-Jamal is a political prisoner, on death row in the United States. The report of his trial made the Spartacist League initiated Partisan Defence Committee indicate that he is innocent and that he has been framed. The US imperialist racist state was very aware of its interests when it arrested Jamal. Jamal has spent his lifetime exposing and fighting racist repression against black proletarians. He is a MOVE activist. He was formerly a member of the Black Panther Party which took up the gun against the system. Jamal has been a consistent defender of the right of the oppressed to bear arms.

The US may be one of the richest nations on earth. But to the black proletariat it offers nothing except poverty and degradation. Both as a writer and as a fighter Jamal has been on the front line. Even on death row he hasn't flinched in his continued exposure of the system. The imperialists could well do with him out of the way. And in doing so they would be sending a message to others that the price of defiance is death.

US imperialism is in decline. Its response is to fight tooth and claw. It has declared war economically and militarily against nations such as Iraq, Libya, Nicaragua, Cuba, North Korea. It is declaring war against the proletariat at home. Recently the Republicans have been victorious. Clinton the Democrat in the White House is fundamentally their captive. Clinton is fundamentally right wing. But even Clinton's variant of austerity is not sufficient for the Republicans. They want not merely a wholesale war on welfare. They want its abolition. Black proletarians for the Republicans are merely a blot on the landscape whose maintenance means increased taxation. Of course, in reality, the money Republicans actually earn comes out of the sweated labour of proletarians many of whom are black. But Republicans consider their divine right to superexploit. And when profits fall working people are merely a burden not worthy of even a basic subsistence. The Democrats support the same system.



The only difference is that some feel guilty about the brutal consequences. They therefore are often less ruthless and appear to care. Fundamentally it is the system that rules. Supporting the Democrats is a serious trap for workers and exploited in America.

The arrest and frameup of Jamal is part of a war against black proletarians. Working people in the US have an interest in seeing that black people win that war. They too are antagonistic to the imperialist state machine. For workers and black defence against state repression! Supporting Jamal is not merely a case of justice against an innocent person. It should be seen as taking a stand against the system. If the working class act decisively it could have the power to stop any future Jamal type frameup the ruling class may be preparing. Certainly they will be more reticent to act if they think their power might be threatened. US workers must see the defence of Jamal as their struggle.

We in Australia have also an interest in standing up for Jamal. The more support Jamal can get internationally the more likely that he will be released. But more than this, the blatant frameup truly exposes America's democratic pretensions. Clinton's proclaimed fight for "human rights" and "freedom" is merely a cynical ideological cover for the rationalisation of imperialist super-exploitation internationally. This requires US sponsored ruthless dictatorships. The Keating government is Clinton's accomplice. We of course must fight the war against black people in Australia. Black people face extreme poverty and state repression. They are often murdered in custody. Through international solidarity we can fight internationally. Communist Left acknowledges the efforts of the Spartacist League sponsored Partisan Defence Committee campaign to raise money for his defence, inform working class people and win support for his release. We too demand the immediate release of Jamal and oppose the racist death penalty.

### **Unemployment. No improvement.**

The Keating Government has been under siege. One of its boasts is that the unemployed figures have dropped to below 8.5% down from around the 10% mark. How cynical! This government is happy to accept that over 800,000 people and their families have to struggle to pay the rent or to eat. Keating accepts the capitalist system— a system that offers no future to millions of people worldwide.

Australian capitalism has its own peculiarities. Manufacturing only developed after the second world war. It was undercapitalised, poorly equipped and suffered from a poor local market. Protection maintained Australian manufacturing in a state of weakness, it is useless demanding the government pay out money to business. This money does come ultimately out of the pockets of the working class.

With manufacturing in Australia being weak, restructuring was bound to happen. During the seventies hundreds of factories closed down. This includes major plants like General Motors Pagewood and Evans Deakin Shipyards at Kangaroo Point Brisbane. The economy became more dependent on mining which doesn't require so much labour. The result has been mass, permanent unemployment. Governments creatively invent schemes to use the unemployed, young and old for cheap labour. They use all sorts of fancy names such as "training schemes" "traineeship schemes" "Newstart" "CEP" etc., but all these do is disguise the figures. They are not a solution. "If you can't fight unemployment, fight the unemployed", is the government's philosophy. There are all sorts of schemes to encourage the unemployed to shape up for jobs that simply are not there.

Last October the Keating Government thought it was a major achievement that the official figure of those recognised as unemployed went down to the "low" figure of 8.5%. We think it's disgusting that about 850,000 people have to be written off to live on a basic subsistence. However this "achievement" should not be taken at face value. Much of the decrease was taken up by part-time work. These are not real jobs. Unfortunately these part-timers receive part-time pay. It is hard enough living on a full award wage. It is virtually impossible to work for a discount wage. A reduction in the working week is an honourable objective. But it should be achieved with a full wage — what would be paid for a forty hour week. This should be increased as the cost of living rises.

The other factor that is important is where the jobs were actually created. Restructuring of the economy continues. The bosses are employing workers in tourism — not in manufacturing. In fact in the recent period over 100,000 have been laid off in manufacturing. It is hardly any help to a forty year old press operator to know that they are employing bar attendants in Surfers Paradise. The tourist industry wants young people not older workers. For those who have worked many years on the factory floor, all the government has to offer is the scrap heap.

In reality, the government had nothing to be proud of. There was no real growth in full-time jobs. Once upon a time full employment was ALP policy — that was in a period a relative economic boom. As the crisis has intensified, Labor has put its loyalty to the system before the livelihood of millions of worker