

Bob Hawke New Saviour for the ruling class



Australia is no longer waiting for the depression that has hit the rest of the world. That depression has arrived, costing Australia several hundred jobs a day, with the potential to destroy more jobs in the future. The Fraser Liberal Government no longer even pretends to have a program for economic recovery. It offers instead a "tried" and "responsible" leadership which has "proved" itself by travelling the road to economic disaster twice as fast as most other countries.

Fraser greases the slide into economic chaos by transferring more of the workers' wages into the bosses' pockets and calling it a wage freeze. Though Fraser can't stop businesses going broke, at least he ensures that the bankrupt bosses take as much of the workers' wages as possible into liquidation with them.

Unfortunately the only way to boot out the Liberals in the short term is to put a Hawke Labor Government in. Hawke, like Fraser, has designs on the workers' pay packet. But where Fraser will bludgeon the workers through systematic union bashing into accepting wage cuts and sackings, Hawke will use what remnants remain of his undeserved popularity with some of the workers to sweet talk them into parting with more of their **wage** packets without a fight.

Capitalism today prefers Hawkes's more subtle (but more insidious) wooing of the working class into accepting the present crisis that of Fraser's sharper big stick tactics

The only quick way of escaping from world depression is to contract out of the capitalist world economy now in its death agony. Neither Fraser nor Hawke will do this. Hawke will use his social contract with the unions to continue Fraser's policy of union-bashing against any and all workers who defend their living standards. He will justify a higher level of systematised anti-worker violence by the "legitimacy" of an agreement with union bureaucrats (like with his mate Cliff Dolan) made at the expense of ordinary union members and the unemployed.

Many workers have illusions about Hawke and those illusions are very useful to the ruling class. If Hawke gains power, those illusions will disappear rapidly. The Victorian oil workers have already lost their illusions after having Hawke underwrite **an** Arbitration Court wage increase only to postpone it until he produces his economic summit. **Hawke**, as leader of the ACTU, proved in industrial disputes that he could talk workers into accepting the dirtiest sellouts without a murmur. Now he wants to repeat the performance for the entire Australian working class and call it an incomes policy. Hawke has the same economic policy as Fraser. The question for the bourgeoisie though is

whether Fraser's threats and bluster or Hawke's empty but resounding promises will extract from the worker a bigger pay cut.

Hawke will follow the example of the Labor Chifley government which ended up smashing the militant miners' union. Hawke's cheering on of Norm Gallagher's gaolers shows the way he will go. Hawke will put more unionists in gaol than Fraser - with the support of **the** ACTU! That is why the Murdoch press is orchestrating Hawke's election campaign.

THE COMMUNIST LEFT supports a vote for the ALP on March 5th because Hawke, will smash workers' illusions about the Labor Party and social democracy faster than any ALP Prime Minister this century. We want workers to vote Labor not to help the ALP but to destroy the Labor Party.

!Some workers reacting against Hawke may be tempted to vote for one of the left parties. All these parties however, call for an uncritical vote for Labor or a Labor government with socialist policies **at a time** when Labor is farther from socialist policies than it has **ever been**. These groups obviously lack any faith in their own viability as an alternative to the Labor party - and they **are** quite right! They do not therefore deserve any support.

The only way out of the world depression is to build a revolutionary Communist Party which can destroy the capitalist economic system. As union after union is forced to fight a Hawke government, as "loyalty to the ALP" is used to stop the fightback for the workers' most elementary wages and hours claims - and this is happening before Hawke is even elected - workers will see the difference between Labor and revolutionary communism in the sharpest terms. Hawke will teach workers a harsh lesson. But we have no doubt that lesson will be learned!

Vote Labor - to build a fighting Communist party.

Issued by the Communist Left, PO Box 124, Kings Cross, 2811. All enquiries for membership apply above.

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Note! Thanks to a member of the working class for the graffiti in **McDonaldtown station** from **which** the title for this leaflet is borrowed.