

Push Fraser to the Black Abyss

Fraser has not formed a Government. He has created anarchy. There is now no functioning elected government in Australia. There is no Prime Minister. The Governor-General has proved to be not the guardian but the wrecker of democracy. The Senate exists simply to obstruct majority rule. State Governments are futile fictions used to disguise the complete lack of democracy in Canberra: THE WHOLE AUSTRALIAN CONSTITUTION IS NOTHING MORE THAN AN INSTRUMENT TO SMASH LABOR GOVERNMENTS WHICH THREATEN CAPITALIST PROFITS The Constitution has been tried for seventy-five years. It has never worked. It is impossible to change by "democratic" means. Now Fraser and Kerr have proved that the constitution exists to put Liberals in power, elected or not, in a depression. The Constitution was devised to protect the Liberals' "divine right to rule". It must be scrapped.

The Committee for Labour Unity warned, when Fraser first deferred supply that the Governor-General might sack Whitlam. We said: The Constitution gives a gilded popinjay called the Governor-General power to dismiss Government. This power was last used against Lang. There is no guarantee it cannot or will not be used against Whitlam. History has proved our warning more than justified. The Governor-General, **however, is** only the head of a fundamentally undemocratic constitutional system. He "guards" the rotten constitution which prevents a Federal Government "legally" nationalising profiteering multi-nationals. When the guardian of the constitution is a Scoundrel, the constitution itself becomes nothing more than a worthless piece of paper legalising scoundrelism. We warn now: THE WHOLE AUSTRALIAN CONSTITUTION MUST GO. The parliamentary politicians like Whitlam keep playing on constitutional illusions - appealing to the Queen to save Australia from Fraser, refusing to tell the people the facts about the Governor-General's treason, halting open attacks on the Governor-General. To maintain illusions like these which history has so recently and so totally smashed can only be a ROAD TO DEFEAT for the Labor Party. The Queen of England, the head of the most reactionary and feudal ruling class in Western Europe, is as likely to save Australian democracy as Malcolm Fraser to join the Communist Party.

Like many active unionists confronting bosses, unelected just like Kerr, Whitlam at first refused to accept the sack. Then Kerr sacked the Whole House of Representatives. The House of Representatives, including Whitlam, accepted the sack.

If the House had refused to accept the sack, in the best traditions of militant unionism, and continued to meet in defiance of Kerr, the power of Kerr - and not only Kerr but the whole system of appointing Governor-Generals - would have been ended forever. The House of Representatives did not have the courage of a sacked militant. It packed its bags and went home. The House had a mandate from the people. It also had orders to disperse from a bureaucratic nobody. It had to choose between the two. It took orders from that nobody. It rejected the mandate from the people. By so doing it abandoned the fight against Fraser. The only people left to continue the fight have no power under the constitution. But they can fight well. They are the unions. The single remaining healthy element in the diseased capitalist constitution has stopped operating. Only the workers and the unions can fight. The failure of the House of Representatives to fight Fraser is the last, decisive proof that not only the Governor-Generalship and the Senate but the whole Australian constitution is worthless.

A general strike by the unions, aimed at forcing Fraser back into the black abyss where he belongs can alone destroy a constitution which, if not destroyed by workers will

destroy workers political organisations and the Labor Party
This is now the only way out. If workers fail to act, or do
not act decisively enough, the parliamentary farce will stagger
on from sellout to sellout, and even more undemocratic "govern-
ments" than Fraser's will be inflicted on the Australian
people. Labor Prime Ministers will continue to be sacked by
gilded popinjays. Senate will continue to sabotage reform laws.
Workers will stay overtaxed to be overgoverned by unnecessary
State governments. Labor may win an election under the
constitutional system where Kerr makes the rules - but what
will such a victory be worth? , ~

What is now needed is a political offensive strike by the
unions which will continue until the Fraser "government" is
smashed. The "rules" of the constitution must be replaced by
the iron logic of the class struggle. "Protest" strikes of a
day's or a week's duration are not enough. Concerted strike
action which will not stop until Fraser is thrown into the dustbin
of history together with his tame cur Governor-Generals and the
other constitutional rubbish - this is imperative. This requires
effective strike leadership committees which can become the
centre of real political power. These committees must represent
every stratum, every section, every opinion, every political
grouping within the working class. Only in this way - through
workers' democracy - can the defeat of Fraser be assured.
Strikes against Fraser have so far been spontaneous, breaking
out against the will of union bureaucrats. The politics of
workers, not officials, will remain the basis of strike action
against Fraser. A special ACTU national conference to call a
general strike is necessary and overdue. But a general strike
can develop, as it has up to now, independently of HaHtko and the
ACTU. Just because strikes are political, they can br-pass the
economic leadership of the working class. Just as H~ke at the
last ACTU conference offerer2 to co-operate with the Liberals to
enforce a wage freeze, he now co-operates with the Liberals in
defending Kerr. Strikes against Fraser **and Kerr broke out in
spite** of Hawke. They will continue in spite **of** Hawke.

& determined, well worked out strategy will be necessary if
the unions are to defeat Fraser. This requires the building of
a revolutionary party. Without adequate political leadership,
a political strike against Fraser must fail. There is not much
time. If a revolutionary party capable of leadership does not
emerge in the period of crisis, any political strike

st ail, no matter how dedicated the strikers. The Labor
Pa tll~.not act to organise a strike to defend its right to rule
against 'Fras0r; therefore a revolutionary party is necessary. The
Committee for Labour Unity to Defend Democracy can represent
the nucleus of such a party. All other left groupings remain
within the constitutional framework, refusing to warn that Kerr
can sack Governments, and failing to call for a complete break
with constitutions and constitution-mongering. The Labor Party
was blind about Kerr. It remains blind about the constitution.
The "left" groups are as blind as Whitlam. A general strike or
an election victory that does not smash the constitution as well
as getting rid of Fraser will defeat itself. History has torn up
the constitution: it remains for the workers to build a party
which will bury the constitution. We alone demand: SMASH THE
CONSTITUTION which tries to stop any government expropriating
and halting the profiteering of the companies that back Fraser.

BUILD A REVOLUTIONARY PARTY TO SMASH FRASER THROUGH
A GENERAL STRIKE:
STRIKE COMMITTEES EVERYWHERE:
NO MORE CAPITALIST CONSTITUTIONS:
EXPROPRIATE FRASER'S BIG BUSINESS
BACKERS: '

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2033. for the COMMITTEE FOR LABOUR UNITY TO DEFEND DEMOCRACY.