

IT IS RIGHT TO
REBEL AGAINST
REACTIONARIES

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There is a rapid intensification of fascist measures

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democratic and patriotic Australians.**

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REPRESSION – SHAM & REALITY

Repression of protest action has always been present in Australia. But it has been concealed in various ways. Those ways include talk about the "rule of law", "justice", "democracy", "the right to dissent", "equality before the law" and a variety of others.

We have maintained that the reality was repression and the sham and pretence were this so called rule of law, justice, democracy, the right to dissent, equality before the law, etc. This reality has become much clearer in recent times.

FASCIST MEASURES

The emphasis on forcible repression of protest action has taken a big leap forward. There were those who said it was wrong to talk about this as fascism. We think it was correct to do so. By fascism we mean the shifting of emphasis from 'democratic' pretences to open repression by the ruling circles.

MASS ARRESTS

In Canberra, Sydney, Adelaide and Melbourne there have been mass arrests of demonstrators. These demonstrators were protesting against the war of aggression against

the Vietnamese people or against the racist policy of the South African government. According to the classical statement of the so called rule of law they were doing no more than collectively exercising their individual rights to go on to the streets and say and do what they like (subject to laws of defamation etc. that don't enter into it). According to this theory of the rule of law no one had any right to interfere. Police and citizen were equal before the law, i.e. they were equally accountable for their actions before the courts. All this has now been shown to have no substance whatever.

UNRESTRAINED POLICE VIOLENCE

Police in Australia act without regard to any law. They are the law. And their actions are upheld by courts whose magistrates and judges have been shown to be no different from the magistrates and judges of Hitler — they simply rubber stamp police action. Independence of the judiciary is revealed as another sham. The police use unrestrained violence. They "arrest" people, "charge" them with assault, offensive behaviour, indecent language, malicious damage, etc. etc. The courts "uphold" the police action. No one can deny that happens and is happening on a bigger and bigger scale. Occasionally a "charge" gets dismissed or a policeman is convicted but this only serves to highlight the reality. It is only done for appearance sake or to appease public opinion.

All this activity is protected by recent so called law and order legislation. Inside this law there have been

mass arrests in Canberra and other arrests throughout Australia. Again, only dissenters were arrested. The law would be more properly called a law for disorder to smash opposition to the ruling class.

Of great significance in the intensification of fascism in Australia is the resurgence of open nazi groups of thugs. These thugs have consistently been protected by the police. This too is a class question—the police and the nazi thugs serve exactly the same master. It is simply a division of labor. Moreover, the nazi thugs use the filthy weapons of anti-semitism, a classical weapon of the ruling class, and other forms of racism.

McMAHON & CO

The "leaders" of Australia endorse this police action. Typical statements from these leaders are:

"They got some baton today and they'll get a lot more in the future."

Police Inspector Plattfuss
(Melbourne, September 1970)

ON DEMONSTRATORS

"Idiotic Vandals"—Attorney-General Hughes

"Nuts"—Prime Minister Gorton

"Rabble", "Louts and larrikins" — Premier Bolte.

"Bastards"—Premier Askin

"Pack-raping Bikies"—Labor Minister Sneddon

"Bums"—President Nixon

All this is in line with Hitler's statement:

"The streets of our country are in turmoil, the universities are filled with students rioting and rebelling; communists are seeking to destroy our country . . . we need LAW AND ORDER . . . yes, without LAW AND ORDER . . . the Republic will fall. Elect us and we shall restore LAW AND ORDER."

(ADOLPH HITLER
(Hamburg, 1932)

When Victorian police attacked demonstrators against the war in Vietnam and against South Africa's apartheid Victorian governor Delacombe (British army general) congratulated the police and gave his official blessing to the South African rugby team. Victorian Premier Bolte spoke of the demonstrators as "louts and larrikins" and said "I give the police full marks". In South Australia on June 30 police attacked demonstrators against the Vietnamese war. This attack took place under Mr. Dunstan's labor government. Mr. Dunstan attempted to escape responsibility by saying that police were legally "independent". So they are elsewhere. This is just a debating trick. The great advantage of what happened in South Australia is that it **did** happen under a labor government. It shows that labor governments in Australia are essentially the same as any other government — they administer a definite policy, a definite state apparatus and on all questions serve the same bosses as the open conservative political parties. They use force and violence to suppress protest.

MORE ARMS TO POLICE

A feature of the intensification of violence against the people is the much more careful arming of the police. They are now equipped with heavier batons and with guns. They indiscriminately use the utmost physical force. At the same time a great barrage of propaganda is built up against the "weapons" used by demonstrators such as stones, crackers, marbles, etc. Is a police baton not a weapon? Is a police gun not a weapon? What is the difference between police weapons and the weapons of the victims of the police. The only difference is that at the moment the police have better weapons, they take the initiative in using them and they are concentrated in great numbers.

A FASCIST POLICE FORCE

These police are fascist police. They serve a fascist purpose. They serve the purpose of crushing opposition to the imperialist war of aggression in Vietnam, the most unpopular war in history. **In short they are used in support of that very war.** They enforce acceptance of the war by force and violence. It is simply fascism. They are correctly characterised as fascist pigs. In the eyes of magistrates and judges (who with the utmost hypocrisy are "not concerned with politics") to call the police "fascist pigs" is to use insulting words. This same fascist police force is used to smash opposition to apartheid. That is, this fascist police force is used to enforce on Australian people by force and violence, acceptance of apartheid. Is that not fascism? It is characteristic of fascism that it exploits racial differences to maintain the rule of big business. (Victoria's police

were hosts to South Africa's rugby team). South Africa's racial policy has the backing of U.S. imperialism.

It is a commentary on the whole situation that the ruling circles can mobilise hundreds of police to enforce fascism even at the expense of protecting their own private property.

STATE SERVES U.S. IMPERIALISM

If we pause here we can see again the real nature of the state machine in Australia. Australia is dominated by U.S. monopolists. All the main industries in Australia are either owned or deeply penetrated by U.S. monopolists (motor vehicles and oil are only 2 vivid examples). These same U.S. monopolies wage the war in Vietnam, encourage racist policies, prepare for more wars, export economic crisis to Australia. And within Australia are a few servile flunkeys who bow and scrape before these U.S. overlords. Amongst the more notorious of them are McMahan, Askin, Bolte, Dunstan, Whitlam. These flunkeys carry out U.S. policy such as the suppression of protest against U.S. war and the suppression of protest against racist policies. In order to carry out that repression they must resort to more and more violence, that is to more fascism. Fascism is rule by the great monopolies by terrorist means, by terrorism against the people. That is what is going on in Australia.

ARMED FORCES - CHIEF COMPONENT OF STATE POWER

The process extends over the whole range of state activity. The chief component of state power lies in the armed forces. McMahan promised to use the air force

to carry the South African rugby players in order to overcome the Australian people's resistance. In Papua-New Guinea huge numbers of police and units of the army are used frequently to suppress the rebellion of the Papuan-New Guinean people against colonial exploitation. The Australian army is always in the background for use against the people: this becomes more apparent when there are big demonstrations. But these facts show that the army is more and more coming to the fore in its role as oppressor of revolt by Australian people. There is a sinister relation between the ex-Prime Minister Gorton and the army generals. This relation and newspaper talk about the power of the generals is again an illustration of the real power of an army.

ARMY PROTECTS U.S. & JAPANESE IMPERIALISM

That army exists as the protector of the exploiters and particularly the U.S. imperialist exploiter of Australia. Coming prominently into the picture too are the Japanese militarists with increasing investment and exploitation in Australia. This is done under the aegis of the U.S. monopolies. The fact is that the Australian army is closely integrated with the U.S. army, the Japanese armed forces are closely integrated with the U.S. armed forces. Thus the economic political alliance, U.S.-Australia-Japan, is expressed in the armed protection of those economic political interests by the integration of the armed forces. Australia is to be the supplier of uranium for Japanese militarism's nuclear weapons.

CONTRARY TO PEOPLE'S INTERESTS.

All this is completely contrary to the interests of the Australian people. It is the Australian people who have suffered by Australia's involvement in Vietnam. It is the Australian people who suffered from Japanese militarist aggression in World War II and who are threatened again by these Japanese militarists. It is the Australian people who are now suffering from the exploitation of U.S. monopolies and their Australian and Japanese partners. The system of capitalism in Australia in itself brings disaster but that disaster is many times multiplied by Australia's subservience to U.S. capitalism. Economic crisis with inflation, rising prices, depreciation of wages, threats to jobs is the consequence.

PEOPLE REVOLT

All this produces revolt by Australian workers working people and students. They are no longer deceived by the fraud of parliament, of the rule of law, of justice, the impartiality of the police.

IMPORTANT LESSONS

It must be said that the events briefly reviewed above are providing rich lessons indeed. The chief of those lessons is on the nature of the state. Its real nature as an instrument of repression by one class against another is being more and more clearly revealed. Those arrested on trumped up charges, the friends of those arrested, the friends of those friends all actually experience the falsity



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of the "impartiality" of courts and police, the sham that is the rule of law etc. Likewise those hit by police and their friends and the friends of those friends. The performances of people like Delacombe, McMahon, Askin, Bolte, Dunstan are clear for all to judge. Events force them on to the public stage. Labor "leaders" like Holding and Cairns call for "inquiries" Royal Commissions, etc. But this is just rubbish. The facts are clear. What inquiry is needed? All inquiries are government controlled, composed of the same rubber stamp judges or magistrates. They inquire into their own conduct: that is what it amounts to. It is just a plain diversion from a plain case.

WE MUST BOW AND THANK THE REACTIONARIES

Indeed we should be grateful to these people for performing so well. They have shown the true nature of the state as no amount of abstract argument could ever do. They have given the people actual experience and experience is the greatest of all teachers. They have shown the people that the only counter to anti-people's force is people's force. Shocked horror at a few stones, marbles, crackers by these exponents of the baton, flogging (Victorian judge Gillard's threats of flogging are part of the same experience), hanging (Bolte's plans to hang a few people are well known), won't wash. Kark Marx once reproached the Paris workers not for taking up arms but for not taking them up decisively enough. How else to combat unrestrained violence? The

so called law offers no protection whatever; the rule of law, liberties, habeas corpus, justice, etc. are just plain nonsense and deception.

A CLASS QUESTION

What is involved is a question of a handful of monopoly capitalists controlled by U.S. and Japanese monopolies, and their local "politicians" against the vast majority of Australians. It is a class question, the rule of exploiters against the workers, working people, students and other sections of the people.

WIDEN PEOPLE'S STRUGGLE

The most significant development in recent times is the ever widening struggle of the people and the higher level of that struggle. On the one hand, the handful of exploiters have very greatly intensified their repression but on the other hand resistance to that repression has greatly extended and developed. It is a matter of very great importance that this repression no longer works, that police, the law, parliaments are treated with the utmost contempt. And even more important that the beginnings of resisting the police thuggery by force are emerging. It is certain that this resistance will develop still further and will develop appropriate means of combating violence.

It is a thousand times correct to rebel against reactionaries.

MELBOURNE, JULY, 1971

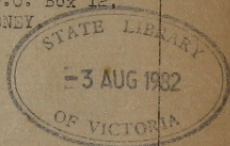
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