

# RABBLE ROUSER NO 20.

Boxholder  
GPO Box 474D

Melbourne VIC 3001

## WAR ON THE WATERFRONT.

PER  
320-5323  
R11C

### SCABS, SAVAGE DOGS AND GAS.

With military precision, at midnight, on April 8, the Australian Maritime Workers Union members were sacked from ports all over the continent.

Steel fences were erected, and scabs brought in by boat, by helicopters and blacked out buses.

Standing behind the Shipowners stands the State, the Police, the Security Guards armed with dogs, batons and guns; the Parliament with tightly prepared anti union Work Place Industrial Relations Act, the Courts, and the imperialist Mass media.

Among the scabs are ex-soldiers, some Farmers Federation. Interviewed by the press, (Australian 11-12.4.'98) the team leader says... 'he trained men in armoured warfare in Australia, Canada, Germany.'... He talks about... 'combatting socialism and communism on the wharves...'

In spite of the legislation in place to make secondary boycotts (solidarity) a crime, thousands of workers walked off the job and marched to the assembly of the maritime workers. Delegates meetings will take place after the Easter break to plan further action.

The government, acting for big business, has prepared and passed legislation to make strikes virtually illegal in Australia. Lies have been spread in the parliament and in the radio and press, that the Wharfies are overpaid, are lazy and little better than thugs. The truth is that the maritime workers are a closed union shop and a highly skilled work force. They have had decades of struggle and suffering on the waterfront at the hands of the most rapacious of employers, the ship owners. The Wharfies identify themselves and put their hand in their pocket for all groups of workers and people who suffer at the hands of other bosses. They have won wide respect from the Australian people.

In February, the Wharfies uncovered a plan whereby the government shipped scabs to Dubai to be trained. Included in the scabs were members of the SAS of the Army. Soldiers are trained to shoot and kill. The Dubai plan was called off. This present dispute is a continuation along another road.

The ruling class has put the gun on the agenda.

We must talk about it everywhere. This is not just a few scabs down on their luck and recruited by the boss from the dole queue, this is a re-run of fifty years ago when the Labor Party, under Chifley, put the troops on the waterfront to break a strike.



This time, the world imperialist system is in deep economic crisis. Millions of workers are unemployed, millions of people are starving especially in the Third world. The imperialists, led by Yankee imperialism, are engaged in wars on every continent, as they struggle to be top dog economically and strategically. Inside the imperialist countries, misery, homelessness, hunger, workers on the scrap heap, and youth in despair: education, health, and social welfare under attack.

Finally, the press keeps referring to "our" Industrial Relations Act, "our" waterfront, "our" trade, and how unionized workers are holding "our nation" to ransom. This is an attempt to have the working people identify themselves with the ruling bourgeois class. The bourgeoisie run Australia for their interests and profit alone. The interests of the bourgeoisie and the workers are irreconcilable. We can only call Australia our country when we have overthrown the bourgeoisie (including the rapacious ship owners) and we establish a Socialist Australia.

Mao Tsetung said. Political power grows from the barrel of the gun. The ship owners know it. They have brought to the wharves, the baton, dogs and gas. We must learn from Mao.

The bosses have the guns, clearly demonstrated in this present dispute. Let's be clear they mean business.

We should not sit back and rely on the bosses' Courts and the goodwill of the ship owners, or Parliament. Parliament, all parties are parties supporting Capitalism. Overall don't rely on Elections. The alternatives to the present government, all support the system of Capitalism. We only are called on every few years to elect politicians to mis-represent us. Marx said this 150 years ago

This struggle will be won on the ground with the great surge of people, now developing, standing on the line with the maritime workers.  
April 1998.

Revolutionary Communists.

*It is Right to Rebel!*