

9/6/04

MAG PORN
320.5323
Rllc

RABBLE ROUSER

NO..71.

NEVER FORGET CLASS STRUGGLE.

6-9.2004

THE PRICE OF WOOL WAS FALLING...

1948. No, it wasn't that the price of wool was falling in 1948. It was the American Union Movement I'd grown up with, something we had believed in, almost instinctively, that fell then. We, that is me and my mates, sang "Union Maid, Solidarity For Ever, it's the UAW-CIO, makes the Army roll and go, Joe Hill, it's that Union Train a-coming, Casey Jones (scabbing on the SP line)..." We'd never dream of crossing a picket line, but would, normally, just join it.

And of course we'd look for the union label, when we bought.

Yeah: That had been. But by 1948 it wasn't, any more. The enemy - almost suddenly - was no longer the boss, the scabs. It was another.. union. Raiding. Splitting. Red-baiting.

1948: The CIO, the Congress of Industrial Organisations, had 44 affiliated Unions. Suddenly, yeah, suddenly, a quarter, 11, were declared "Leftist", expelled. Mine, the UE, or UERMWA, United Electrical, Radio, and Machine Workers of America, had, then, about 600,000 members, was the largest. We were, all over, raided by the - newly created - IUE, what.. the Independent UE ? Lost many bargaining elections, plants, contracts. Shrank muchly. But the UE has, I'm told, survived. Independently. Other left wing unions disappeared, died, amalgamated. The right didn't do so well, either. Some years later the CIO, which had been the spearhead of the American Union Movement since the mid-1930s, which had organised, for the first time, the big mass industries, Steel, Auto, Electrics, had diminished. Lost its militancy. Well, it had got rid of the Lefties, the Radicals, the Commies. Returned to its more conservative, "craft", parent, the American Federation of Labor - AFofL. AFofL-CIO, now, but the percentage of organised workers shrunk and slumped.

Strikes, usually, now, were lost. Not all over, not always. If you want to see a then victory, check out the Film: SALT OF THE EARTH. About an (unlikely) victory. By the (very lefty) IUMSWA. Industrial Union of Mine, Mill, and Smelter Workers... of America. About anti-racism, premature Feminism, Union-ism.

Available on application | Video. \$ 15 from Max. (rosiek@bigpond.com)

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1935 (or so): Pastor Niemoeller, in Germany: "When they arrested the Communists, I, I was no Communist, I did nothing. When they busted the unions, I, I was no unionist, I did nothing. When they got the Jews, I - I am a Protestant... I didn't protest. When they came for me, I looked for help. There was nobody left, to help me...."

1891: The Price of Wool was falling

in 1891..

In Queensland

It's a song, a poem (1). About the big shearers strike. A lost strike. The bosses, squatters, (like in Waltzing Matilda, same time, same squatters, mounted on their thoroughbreds) said they'd find a law, that's made for times like these.

To trial, in Rockhampton, some fourteen men were brought

The judge had got his orders, the squatters owned the court.

BUT FOR EVERY ONE THAT'S SENTENCED, TEN THOUSAND WON'T FORGET:

WHEN THEY JAIL A MAN FOR STRIKING

IT'S A RICH MAN'S COUNTRY YET.

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WHEN THEY JAIL A MAN FOR STRIKING, IT'S A RICH MAN'S COUNTRY YET.
WELL, IT IS, AIN'T IT ?
Anyway, none of this was mentioned in the NSW MEDIA.
ANOTHER UNMENTIONABLE #12

2004: 27 AUGUST, VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA:

UNION LEADERS EXPRESS DISGUST AT JAILING OF TRADE UNION LEADER

Union leaders last night expressed their total disgust at the jailing of their colleague and former trade union leader, Craig Johnston.

They said the sentence showed just how far those opposing workers and their organizations would go in their attempt to discredit and destroy trade unions.

They said Craig Johnston was singled out and made a scapegoat because he is a high profile unionist who has always been prepared to defend workers in need.

They pointed out that the same courts repeatedly fail to jail employers who cause the death and injury of workers.

Eighteen unionists were charged over the Johnson Tiles/Skilled Engineering industrial dispute in 2001, but only Craig Johnston has been jailed.

"If there was any true justice, Johnson Tiles would also have faced charges for stripping away the livelihoods of 29 workers by sacking them and replacing them with labour hire workers.

"Instead, it was only the unionists who campaigned to save the jobs of the Johnson Tiles workers who ended up facing charges," they said..... union leaders said that his jailing yesterday would prove to be

no more than a Pyrrhic victory for the anti-trade union forces.

They called for his immediate release and emphasised that Craig Johnston was not alone in his fight against the powerful combination of Government and employer organizations, and that his fellow trade unionists would go on campaigning for his release.

"We will be waiting there at the gates when he comes out," they said.

SIGNED: Martin Kingham, Victorian State Secretary CFMEU: Tom Watson, Victorian State Secretary FEDFA: Dean Mighell, Victorian State Secretary ETU: Dave Noonan, National Assistant Secretary CFMEU: Steve Dargavel, Victorian Assistant State Secretary, AMWU: Bronwyn Halfpenny, Victorian State Secretary, Food & Confectionary Division, AMWU: Jim Reid, Victorian State Secretary Printing Division, AMWU: Michele O'Neil, Victorian State Secretary TCFU: Kevin Bracken, Victorian State Secretary MUA: Chris Cain, Western Australian State Secretary, MUA: Ian Bray, Assistant State Secretary, Western Australian MUA: Leo Skourdombis, Victorian State Secretary, FFTS (CFMEU): Peter Marshall, Victorian state secretary UFU: John Parker, Secretary of the Gippsland Trades & Labour Council: John Kranz, Secretary of Geelong & Region Trades and Labour Council: John Morgan, National General Secretary Shearers and Rural Workers Union: Kevin Reynolds, WA State Secretary CFMEU: Joe McDonald WA Assistant State Secretary CFMEU: Joan Doyle Victorian State Secretary CEPU Communications Division.

I NOTICED THAT ALL THESE UNION LEADERS PROTESTING THE JAILING OF CRAIG JOHNSON WERE IN VICTORIA or WA. I USED TO WRITE FOR THE METAL WORKER, THE AMWU PAPER. BUT I'M IN NEW SOUTH WALES. SO I CALLED UP ADAM LEEMAN, A SYDNEY METAL WORKER, A MATE OF MINE, A FITTER AND TURNER, AND ASKED HIM, ADAM, WHAT HE THOUGHT OF THIS JAILING:

AL: I'M DISGUSTED. WE'RE MEETING TUESDAY, TO SEE WHAT WE CAN DO.

MW: WHO'S WE ?

AL: RANK AND FILE MEMBERS OF THE UNION. THE LEADERSHIP, HERE.. I'D SAY, IS IN FAVOR OF JAILING CRAIG JOHNSON, THEY SUPPORT IT. THEY HATE HIM, HE'S TOO MILITANT. TOO LEFT. THEY'VE BEEN TRYING TO GET RID OF HIM EVER SINCE HE WAS ELECTED HEAD OF THE UNION IN VICTORIA. THEY EXPELLED HIM. BUT CRAIG IS NOT SO WELL KNOWN IN NEW SOUTH WALES.

Suddenly I remember the Expulsions of the Left Unions in America, in 1948. The Shearer's Leaders jailed in Rockhampton, in 1891.

I also thought: In the 1890's that lost strike, that jailing, led, in a way, to the formation of the ALP, the Australian Labor Party. But today many ALP leaders in Victoria will cheer the jailing of the radical Craig Johnson... will that increase, decrease, their vote ? Federal Election up-coming, 9 October...

Wonder how Niemoeller would look at this ?

From: max watts <rosiek@bigpond.com>
To: WATTS MAX <rosiek@bigpond.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 31, 2004 1:05 AM
Subject: RN32801B61UNMENTIONABLES2
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8/15/04