

BALTIC NEWS

A Newsletter of the Help the Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian Peoples Association (HELP) - P.O. Box 272, SANDY BAY, Tas. 7005 (Australia).

Vol.III, No.5 (16)

October 25, 1977

IMPORTANT SEMINAR

A public seminar will be held next Friday night 28 October, to discuss *Dual Nationality in Australia*. The seminar will start at 8 p.m., and will be held in the Law Lecture Theatre, University of Tasmania (at the Grosvenor-st. entrance to the University campus). Admission will be free, and all members of the public are welcome to attend.

The introductory speaker will be Mr A.P. Taskunas, supported by a panel consisting of Mr B. Goodluck, M.H.R., Mrs H. Speden and Mr M.C. Tate. Professor N.C.H. Dunbar will be the chairman.

A recent sample survey has shown that quite a few Australians are dual nationals — and are unaware of it. The misapprehension is particularly prevalent among the former Baltic refugees who mistakenly believe that, just because Australia has ceased recognizing the Soviet sovereignty over the Baltic States, they have reverted to being solely Australian citizens.

The aims of the seminar will be to review the present situation, and to suggest what can be done for those Australians who do not wish to remain 'dual nationals'.

United Nations

HELP Association has asked the Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs (Mr Peacock) to have the Baltic question raised immediately with the United Nations Organisation. The Australian delegation to UNO should press for a complete withdrawal of Russian troops from Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania — so that genuine independence could be re-instated in these three Baltic countries, the HELP submission said. Prompt UNO action was also sought to repatriate all non-Baltic colonists who have settled in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania since June, 1940.

Mr Peacock was reminded of a pre-election promise made by the then Leader of the Opposition, Mr Billy Snedden. At a public meeting in Franklin Square, Hobart, on 3rd February, 1975, Mr Snedden had stated that, when elected, the Liberal Government would instruct the Australian delegates to UNO to raise the question of the continued occupation of the Baltic States by the Soviet Red Army; and to press for immediate UNO action to restore independence and self-government in these three States.

Festival of Tasmania

HELP will sponsor an entrant in the Festival Queen quest, in next year's Festival of Tasmania (formerly known as the Blue Gum Festival).



Barbara Viknus (17), of Moonah, (pictured) will represent HELP at the contest. A public dance to raise her entry fee will be held in the Croatian Hall, Glenorchy, from 8.30 p.m. to 1.00 a.m., on Saturday November 12 (following HELP Association's Annual General Meeting).

It will not be possible to send out personal invitations; but all members of the general public will be very welcome to come along and join in the fun.

● OTHER H.E.L.P. ACTIVITIES, PAGES 2 AND 6

H.E.L.L.P. ACTIVITIES

Human Rights



The campaign for the restoration of human rights for Baltic people is continuing in Southern Tasmania.

Over 4,000 leaflets and factual reports were distributed at two peaceful demonstrations held in the city of Hobart on September 9 and 30 (pictured).

This has created considerable public interest, as mirrored by the continuous flow of letters to the Editors of the daily press.

HELLP members also distributed some factual literature at the University of Tasmania on September 23, on the occasion of the Soviet Ambassador's visit there. At question time, many university students rejected the Soviet claim that human rights were not violated in the USSR. The students questioned a number of well-documented Soviet practices—such as the suffocation of Christian churches in the Baltic States, the 1968 invasion of Czechoslovakia and present-day proliferation of Soviet nuclear power plants.

TO: H.E.L.L.P. (Help the Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian Peoples Association),
Post Office Box 272,
SANDY BAY, Tasmania, 7005 (Australia).

I do not recognize the Russian sovereignty over the Baltic States (Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania).

Please send me the *Baltic News*, free of charge and without any obligation.

Name

ADDRESS

..... POSTCODE

Optional:
I enclose my donation of \$..... Cash/Cheque/M.O.

Australia's Population

HELLP Association has made a submission to the Federal Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs (the Hon. M.J.R. MacKellar, M.H.R.), in connection with the Green Paper on *Immigration Policies and Australia's Population*.

HELLP has drawn the Government's attention to the unnecessary hardships suffered by the post-war refugees because of dual nationality problems, and because the Australian population has not been made aware of the two-way benefits of immigration. The Government was urged to take steps to preserve the migrants' culture, languages and skills, before they became lost for Australia's future generations.

It was also pointed out in the HELLP submission that, by providing permanent residence to displaced people who do not work against the basic Christian principles, Australia has already established a de facto immigration policy. It is therefore necessary to proclaim these principles in an explicit statement of our national purpose, perhaps in the form of an Australian 'Bill of Rights'.

Suffocation of Churches

On September 8, a member of HELLP Executive recorded an interview for ABC television. The speaker described the present-day suffocation of Christian churches in the Baltic States, and quoted the arrest of Nijole Sadunaite as a typical example.

The interview was scheduled for the following evening's programme *This Day Tonight*, but was not shown 'due to reasons of timing and programming'.

After further approaches, a new item was prepared and screened on TDT, on October 7. It showed how Bibles are sent to the Soviet Union, followed by a short interview with the Vice-Chairman of HELLP (Mr R. Tarvydas).

• FILMS SHOWN IN HOBART, PAGE 6

Dual Nationality

On a radio talk-back programme in Hobart on Friday, September 30, the Federal Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs (Mr M.J.R. MacKellar) promised to urge his Government to implement the Fourth Recommendation on Dual Nationality, made by the Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence in October, 1976. This should lead to early negotiations with the Soviet Government, until the Russians renounce all their claims on naturalized Australian citizens of Baltic origin. Their Australian-born spouses and children are also affected.

NEWS FROM BALTIC STATES

KBG PLOT MISFIRES

Last April, the Soviet KGB approached an Estonian nationalist with a \$500,000 inducement, to form a fraudulent front for enticing anti-Russian Estonians into the human rights movement — for exposure and imprisonment.

According to reports in *The Toronto Star* and *Baltimore Sun*, Erlik Udam, a 39-year-old Estonian engineer, was summoned by a KGB major to three long conversations on April 4, 11 and 14, each in a different location. The KGB major (identified as Albert Molok) asked Udam to put together an Estonian dissident group that would seek out U.S. journalists and feed them false information supplied by the KGB.

'On April 4, I was promised 500,000 roubles (around half a million dollars)', Udam said. 'But at a later meeting the figure was reduced to 200,000 roubles.' Mr Udam said, he was told he might have to undergo arrest and a short prison term, for appearances' sake, but that he would be well taken care of.

In the end, Mr Udam refused the KGB offer. He also declined to recommend anyone else for what he called 'such a gross deception'.

Mr Udam said, he thought he had been approached because he has served two prison sentences for anti-Soviet propaganda. In March 1975, he had also been interrogated by the KGB, because he had uncovered and removed a hidden bugging device in the electric meter box outside his Tallinn apartment.

Adding to the credibility of this report, London *Financial Times* reporter David Satter had his briefcase stolen last February, while riding the Riga-Tallinn train. Taken by the KGB was a notebook containing Udam's name.

Udam's own account smuggled from Estonia tells of that event. Udam states that the KGB agents boasted, it was their 'personal achievement' that Satter was never able to contact Udam.

NEW WAVE OF ARRESTS

Factory worker Anne Pranckunaite has been placed under house arrest in the town of Panevezys (Lithuania), because she refused to identify the users of a photo-copying machine in her bathroom.

After a search of her flat on October 21, 1976, the KGB men — headed by Lieut. colonel Petruskevicius — seized the photo-copier, as well as some spare parts, 80 packs of paper and many religious books.

During interrogation, Miss Pranckunaite confessed that two men had used the photo-copier to multiply prayer books, catechisms and religious literature; but she declined to name them.

...Continued on Page 6

OCKER KNOCKERS

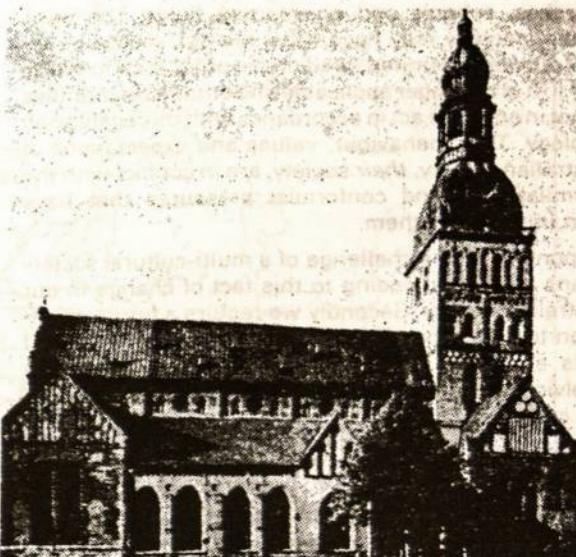
The Soviet press has published a series of anti-Australian statements, attributed to recent visitors from Australia.

Eva Frank, the deputy mayoress of Hurstville, is quoted as having told the Soviet reporters, 'What amazes me most, is that the Soviet people's representatives don't live just for the day — they care about the city's future and are planning for it. Back in my country, we have no chance of planning the future of our city'.

Australian taxi-driver S. Baltulis said, 'I do not think, I'll be able to hold my job until the retiring age. My eyesight is getting weaker, and very soon I may have to relinquish my occupation. And it is not a simple matter to find another job. In our country (Australia), the employers do not forget to ask your age. If it is forty or over, you are told politely, "Sorry, can't help you". To qualify for a pension, a man has to work until he is 65. Many are unemployed by the time they reach this age'.

The Soviet press reports make no mention of the fact that the unemployment benefits in Australia are higher than the Soviet workers' wages. The reader is left to guess the worst from the Australian taxi-driver's concluding remark, 'I wouldn't say that everyone understands what a great disaster it is when there is no work available for your hands or brain'.

• MORE NEWS, PAGE 6



The Cathedral of the Virgin Mary, Riga, which has been converted into a concert hall by the Soviet authorities.

Responding to the challenge of a MULTI-CULTURAL SOCIETY

W. Ramsay*

There is a story from Greek mythology about Procrustes who was a very hospitable man. Procrustes wouldn't let travellers go past his house at night; he was concerned for them. No, he would invite them in. He would wine them and dine them and even offer them a bed for the night. But Procrustes wanted everything to be nice and neat. So, if the traveller was too short, Procrustes had him stretched; only a little, just as much as was needed. And if his guest was too long, Procrustes had him slightly reduced — by cutting off his feet or his head!

This is an image of Australia — that, as a host community, we have tried to make ethnic groups literally and figuratively fit into our society as we have thought and decided.

Professor Jayasuriya** has spoken of the historic 'self portrait' of Australia — a big egalitarian country, built according to 'a frontier ethos, of ruggedly individualistic pioneers, who distrust unorthodox tastes and opinion and intellectualism, who believe there can be an absence of social difference', and who respect only mateship, not cultural prestige and authority. This self portrait, this image of Australia, is a myth.

A social 'crisis' exists in Australia today and it is due to the widening discrepancy between this myth of Australian egalitarianism and the reality of the social and cultural diversity which is our present experience.

Australian society has been transformed. We are no longer mono-cultural, but multi-cultural. We show this to be true daily in stores, in factories, workshops, churches, schools and on sporting fields. The egalitarian ideology may have fitted the old, secure, relatively simple and united, predictable order prior to World War II. It is no longer applicable and ethnic communities do not in any case act in accordance with this egalitarian ideology. Their behaviour, values and expectations of Australian society, *their* society, are in conflict with the assimilationist and conformist pressures that have been imposed on them.

Responding to the challenge of a multi-cultural society means firstly responding to this fact of change in our Australian society. Secondly we require a future orientation to all our problems. We have reached a stage of crisis also because the way in which we set about resolving the tensions of this new experience of social and cultural relations will shape the social and educational future of our children.

In Australia, the problem of sharing culture becomes an educational question of the first order. Educational research is needed to provide a deeper understanding of



Drawing by Steele Savage. From *Mythology* by Edith Hamilton, published 1942 by Little, Brown & Co.

what culture actually implies. We know we have overlapping cultures and changing cultures. We must know what a concept of culture actually implies before we significantly change curriculum.

In addition our response to the challenge of a multi-cultural society must include real effort on the part of us all to understand the true nature of the position of 'migrants' in our society. For instance we must understand, and accept the implications of the fact, that since 1860 (not merely since 1945) 'migrants' have come to Australia by the direct invitation of official and governmental authority. The absolute vast majority of 'migrants' came to Australia because they were invited here officially and publicly.

Then our response to the multi-cultural reality of society in Australia means understanding that ethnic communities have not remained static after establishing themselves here. It has not been possible for them to reproduce in Australia the Greek or Italian or Turkish etc. communities as they are in their respective communities. Part of the frustration of ethnic communities is that Australian society, which insists on their changing in one direction, has not understood that ethnic groups have changed. In a sense, adapting to and working for the future in Australia has been a more noticeable characteristic of ethnic groups than the host Australian communities.

And our response means a deeper, more profound search for understanding of the legitimate educational values and expectations of ethnically different groups.

We must cease to be satisfied with a possible future in which we have a mere continuance of the deep social and educational divisions and inequalities we experience at present. The priority of our educational response is to recognize once and for all that ethnically

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LETTERS

MAKING OWN NOOSE

different children have suffered educational disadvantage for long enough. Primarily this means the recognition and dramatic alteration of the present Anglo-conformist dominance of our schools. The challenge specifically in terms of language, is to redress the imbalance between the legitimate requirement of the learning of English and the continual preservation of migrant children's first and psychologically fundamental native language. Of course these children must learn English, but the evidence of failure in school and cultural mutilation is overwhelming. On the other hand the potential for the educational success of ethnically different children is also clear.

It is inevitable that our response to the educational challenge of a multi-cultural society involves a dramatic reconstruction of the educational system in ethnic terms. The following selected propositions are advanced towards this end:

- 1) The establishment of a Department of Ethnic Affairs within the Tasmanian State Government.
- 2) Exploration of the means whereby ethnic teachers from overseas can be incorporated into the educational system as aides to the 'child migrant' branches of State departments of Education.
- 3) The redistribution of material and personnel resources within school regions — for the sake of support services, research and development — the Ten Scheme (group of ten schools) in South Australia is an example to follow.
- 4) The immediate review of Teacher Education courses in Universities and Colleges in terms of new cross cultural definitions, and the extension of studentship programmes for Ethnically Specific Teacher Training.
- 5) The evaluation of the educational needs of ethnic groups of children in terms of the recognition and understanding of how those needs are perceived and expressed by the children themselves.
- 6) Revision of the Curriculum in multi-cultural terms by teams properly and appropriately representative of ethnic groups.

Above all, our response to the challenge of a multi-cultural society means sharing, not imposing; a satisfied patience not a presumptuous divisiveness; revolution of our minds in terms of a concept of a future society in which education (as well as social relationships and political rights) reflects our implicit demonstrated belief in an enhanced cultural diversity and a natural distributive justice.

Jayasuriya, D.L. *Rethinking Australian Education in Relation to Social Change: The need for an approach based on Cultural Pluralism*. Australia 2000: The Ethnic Impact, P.44. M. Bowen (Ed.), University of New England, Armidale, New South Wales, 1977

OTHER REFERENCES

- 1) Bowen, J. *Cultural Pluralism: Education and Australian ethnic communities*. In Australia 2000: The Ethnic Impact, P.366. M. Bowen (Ed.), University of New England, Armidale, New South Wales, 1977.
- 2) Sisi, P. *Letter to an Australian Child Born on August 22 in the Year 2000*. In Australia 2000: The Ethnic Impact, P.40. M. Bowen (Ed.), University of New England, Armidale, New South Wales, 1977.
- 3) Australian Department of Education. *Inquiry into Schools of High Migrant Density*. Australian Government Publishing Service, Canberra, 1975.
- 4) Australian Commissioner for Community Relations. *First Annual Report*. Australian Government Publishing Service, Canberra, 1976.
- 5) 43.

In recent months, Brezhnev has again assured his followers that he will not rest until Communism takes over the whole world.

Yet the free countries continue trading with Russia, Cuba and other Red dictatorships. We sell our wheat and beef to them, below cost, and send our own farmers to the wall.

In view of all this, one cannot help but recall a statement made by Lenin, the founder of the present-day Russian empire, 'All we need is a rope to hang the capitalists'.

When a friend asked, 'But where will we get the rope?', Lenin answered, 'From the capitalists, of course'.

Indeed, the race seems to be on amongst the nations of the free world, trying to sell the rope to the Russians — at the lowest possible price and on the easiest credit.

Tedis ZIERINS

HISTORICAL PROOF

Surprisingly, we still seem to have people in Australia who mistakenly believe that the Baltic nations were only free between the two World Wars.

I have just come across this interesting map in the *History of Civilization*, by C.J.H. Hayes, Baldwin and Cole, published by the Macmillan Co. in 1962 (page 297).



Even more enlightening is the pre-Christian history of these people, reliably documented in *The Balts*, by M. Gimbutas (Thames and Hudson).

Darwin, N.T.

D. McSHERA



NEWS

...Continued

FILM DISPLAYS

Between September 17 and 30, HELLP arranged thirteen screenings of *Church Behind Bars* and several other films. Produced by Pastor Wurmbrand and made available by Christian Mission to the Communist World (P.O. Box 34, Miranda, N.S.W.), the films portrayed the lack of religious freedom in present-day Soviet Union. They included scenes of secret baptisms and worship meetings, clandestine production of church newsletters and glimpses of Latvian concentration camps.

The films were shown in four schools (Hutchins, Mt Carmel, St Virgil's and Dominic) and in two University colleges. There were also public screenings in New Town, Kingston, Glenorchy and Taroona. All programmes were received with great interest, and several groups of other Hobart residents have already asked for additional showings.

Efforts are being made to borrow these films again — if possible, for a week or two, in mid-November.

WHORES OF DECEPTION

A letter just received from Latvia warns of the 'whores of deception' — a nickname for Western sympathizers who visit Russia, then spread Soviet propaganda in the free world.

Extracts from the letter will be published in the next *Baltic News*.

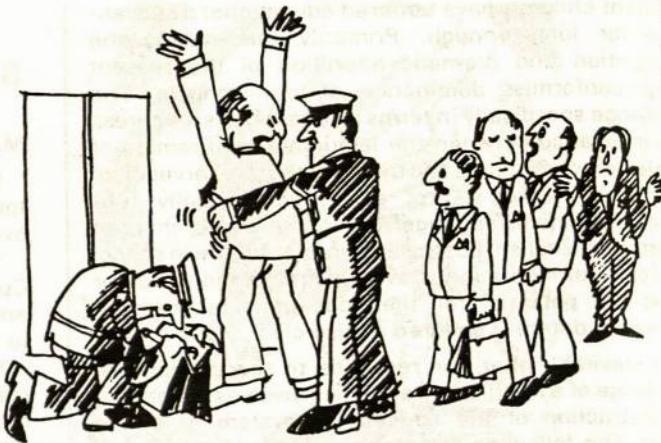
Thanks!

Once again, HELLP Association had to find over \$400, to pay the postage and printing costs of this issue of the *Baltic News*. The circulation is still rising; and so, the future costs are likely to go on rising, too.

We therefore thank our supporters whose unceasing financial contributions enable us to continue the publication, and free distribution, of the *Baltic News*.

The following donations have been received, since the last issue of the *Baltic News*:

G.Kaminskas (A.C.T.), \$50; *Baltic Women's Ass'n.*, \$30; I.I.Davis (S.A.), \$25; *Estonian Ex-Servicemen's Ass'n.* (N.S.W.), Anonymous (Vic.), L.Vaicilevicius, and P.Siauciunas (Tas.), \$20 each; E.T.Toom-salu, H.Salasoo, P.Remma (NSW), M.Gratz (Tas.), a Latvian, P.Cekanauskas (W.A.), \$10 each; R.A.Watson, R.Groom, M.R., D.G. Shield, R.Isted, B.Burbo, Anonym. (Tas.), \$5 each; M.Hennoste (S.A.) and P.Ibbott (Tas.), \$2 each.



WAVE OF ARRESTS

Jonas Matulionis (45) and Vladas Lapenės (71) were arrested in Vilnius, after KGB agents found copies of Solzhenitsyn's *Gulag Archipelago* in their flats.

Zigmas Sirvinskas is serving a two years' sentence in the Alytus strict regime camp, because he had bought a second-hand copy of *Gulag Archipelago* and had shown it to Henrikas Klimasauskas, an engineer residing at Girioniai (Lithuania).

Klimasauskas, who translated parts of the book into Lithuanian, was also arrested and has been detained in Lukiskis prison hospital. The prison physicians have ordered compulsory psychiatric treatment for Klimasauskas.

On January 23, 1977, five 19-year-old Lithuanian students from the University of Vilnius and the Vilnius Institute of Structural Engineering were arrested for having thrown a portrait of Lenin into River Neris.

After prolonged interrogations, Romas Grigas was sent to the Naujoji Vilnia psychiatric hospital for treatment. The others — Saulius Marcinkevicius, Vytautas Simkunas, Gintaras Stankevicius and Rasa Abelkyte (the only woman in the group) — have been expelled from the Young Communist League and, subsequently, from the University.

Grigas alone will face trial, but the others will be required to give evidence against him.

Amongst the prisoners held in Cherniakhovsk Psychiatric Hospital (Russia) are at least three Lithuanians, Voldemaras Karaliunas, Arvydas Cechanavicius and Petras Cidzikas.

Karaliunas had written leaflets, urging factory workers to strike. In 1975, he also tried to renounce his citizenship.

Cechanavicius, a fourth-year medical student, lost his freedom after tapes with recordings of the Voice of America and Radio Vatican had been found during a search of his home on April 13, 1973.

Cidzikas was sent to the psychiatric hospital on January 29, 1977, for having produced and disseminated anti-Soviet literature (an offence under Article 68, Soviet Penal Code).

LETTERS

... Continued from Page 5

UNSAFE IN AUSTRALIA?

The Australian Government must take vigorous action to protect the human rights of Gennadi Cheshev, whom the Russians tried to abduct.

We must make it absolutely clear that Australia will not tolerate attacks on people in our country by agents of a foreign power, by (1) expelling the Soviet agents responsible, (2) formally and forcibly protesting to the U.S.S.R.

Richmond Nth., Vic.

J.D. BROSNAN

HUMAN RIGHTS

I extend to you my very sincere and warm support in your campaign for the rights of the Baltic countries.

I have always been both a great admirer and supporter of the Baltic communities and what they stand for. I trust that one day we can see the aims of people such as yourselves achieved to bring peace and the rights of peoples in small nations to reality.

Harold YOUNG

Senator for South Australia

LEST WE FORGET

As September 1 marks the 38th anniversary of the start of World War II, let's not forget that the Nazis attacked Poland only after Hitler had made a secret agreement with the Soviets that the Russians would attack Poland from the East.

The same day the Nazis and the Russians agreed to divide Poland, the Nazis also agreed that they had no objections to the subsequent occupation of the Baltic States. Thus the two most terrible regimes that the world has ever known, sealed the fate of Poland and Baltic countries *before* the start of World War II, destroying freedom for many nations and killing many millions of people.

After six years of war, the Nazi tyranny was destroyed and the nations in Western Europe regained their freedom.

But still today the nations in Eastern Europe live under Russian tyranny. Moscow is helping traitors abroad to undermine the free world. They also work day and night to bring Australia to her knees.

It is high time that the Australian House of Representatives started to work in this direction, by unanimously condemning the Soviet colonialism in the Baltic countries and urging our United Nations delegates to bring the forces of world opinion to bear on behalf of restoration of the rights of those countries.

Launceston

Janis BRIEDIS

The Editor welcomes letters, especially brief ones, at P.O. Box 272, Sandy Bay, 7005, and reserves the right to condense.

COMING EVENTS

28th October - (Friday) - at 8.00 p.m.

Law Lecture Theatre,
University of Tasmania, Sandy Bay:

PUBLIC SEMINAR AND DISCUSSION,

"Dual Nationality in Australia".

Introductory Speaker: Mr.A.P.TASKUNAS.

**Panel: Mr.B.GOODLUCK, MHR, Mrs.H.SPEDEN,
Mr.M.C.TATE.**

Chairman: Professor N.C.H.DUNBAR.

Admission Free.....All Welcome.

5th November - (Saturday) -

Polish Hall, New Town - 8.30p.m. to 1:

LITHUANIAN DANCE



12th November (Saturday), from 7.00p.m.
Croatian Hall, Glenorchy:

H.E.L.L.P. ANNUAL MEETING & DANCE.

Meeting starts at 7.00p.m.

**Guest Speaker: Hon.Brian MILLER, M.L.C.
Attorney-General of Tasmania.**

The meeting will be followed by

DANCE,

from 8.30 p.m. to 1.a.m.

Good Band.....All Welcome!

**Admission (including supper), \$5 single,
students and pensioners \$3.**

**For table bookings (optional),
please 'phone Stan Keenan 48 9944, or
Joe Paskevicius 72 6360.**

Members, please note:

**Nominations for the Executive Committee
of HELL.P (up to 12 members) are to be
sent to the Secretary of Association -
P.O.Box 272, Sandy Bay, Tas. 7005, not
later than 5th November, 1977. The no-
minations must be signed by 2 members
of the Association and by the nominee.**

UNEMPLOYMENT

— Russia's Answer

There is no unemployment in the Soviet Union. The Russians have achieved this with a three-point formula: (1) wages are kept low; (2) the State is the sole employer; and (3) over 25% of the total labour force is employed on military tasks.

In the Russian-occupied Baltic States today, a flour-mill labourer earns 40 roubles (\$50 Australian) per week; his wife, if employed as auxiliary worker on a bee-farm, is paid 13 roubles (\$16.25 Aust.) per week. The couple can supplement this income by cultivating a 1½-acre family strip of land, in their spare time. This brings in up to \$31 per week extra.

Tractor drivers and milk-maids are among the best paid workers on the collective farms. Mr and Mrs Petras Grimius, for example, make 112½ roubles per week, between them. Divided equally between husband and wife, this is worth \$70 Australian per week each — which has been described as 'a lot of money' in a recent official Soviet publication.¹

The overall cost of living is comparable to Australia. An imported suit retails at 150-160 roubles (\$180-200), and a 13-square residential house in the suburbs of Riga may be bought for 70,000 roubles (\$87,000). Internal fares, telephone charges and staple foods (bread, milk) are cheaper. But many other goods (coffee, electronic calculators, chewing gum, deodorants) are either very scarce, or entirely unobtainable in fixed-price Government-owned stores.

Big Profit

The shortages force people to turn to the black market, where prices are determined by supply and demand. A Hobart teenager has reported that, during a recent visit to Moscow, he was offered 100 roubles (\$125 Australian) for the Levi jeans he was wearing. This would have netted 60% profit for the Russian middle-man, for Levis sell at 160 roubles a pair (\$200 Aust.), on the Soviet black market.

Between 1971 and 1975, the salaries of Baltic white-collar workers were raised by an average of 19%. As a result, the average pay of Lithuanian industrial and office workers now is \$44 per week (142 roubles per month).²

An engineer with university-level qualifications can expect to be paid \$60 per week. An engineer-in-charge, and an associate university professor, each receive \$92 per week. A professor commands up to \$115 per week (400 roubles per month).

Sole Employer

The Soviet legislation stipulates that an individual is not permitted to employ hired labour, or to own property 'which derives from the exploitation of the work of others and which serves the aim of exploitation'.³

This makes the State the only legal employer, and simplifies industrial relations. The State can fix wages, without fear of competition from the private sector. Workers think twice before changing jobs because the next employer will still be the same State. Industry is often run on the company town basis; and Soviet unions, as company unions, are more interested in helping keep workers in line or doling out vacation passes and welfare benefits than battling with management over bread-and-butter issues.⁴

Everyone must work, including married women. Mothers are entitled to four months' maternity leave, and to additional leave without pay until the baby turns one. On the infant's first birthday, however, mother must return to work — unless she has given birth to another baby in the meantime.

Huge War Effort

Russia has not been officially involved in any wars since 1945, but more than 40 per cent of its national income is still spent on military expenditures each year.⁵

Large contingents of Red Army troops are constantly maintained in the three Baltic States, Czechoslovakia and other non-Russian territories where the natives have not given up hope of attaining independence from Russia. There is universal draft for 18-year-olds. The only legal way to obtain deferment is to gain admission to a university or tertiary education institution, and then qualify for a reserve commission.

No Reported Strikes

Under the Soviet system, workers can achieve little through strike action. With the State as the sole employer, collective strikes may be interpreted as anti-Government activity, punishable by law. In military industries, disruptions mean sabotage, and are dealt with under the defence legislation.

Nevertheless, workers do down tools, occasionally. The Soviet media always suppress such news and, if word reaches the West at all, it is usually months or years later (cf. the incidents reported in the *Baltic News* on March 29 and September 30, 1976).

REFERENCES

- ¹ BARKAUSKAS, A., *The Lithuanian Countryside: Past, Present and Future*. Moscow: Novosti Press Agency Publishing House, 1976, pp. 32-33.
- ² GRISKEVICIUS, P.P., *Land on the Nemunas*. Moscow: Novosti, 1977, p. 51.
- ³ USSR: *100 Questions and Answers*. Moscow: Novosti, 1977, pp. 30-31.
- ⁴ SMITH, Hedrick, *The Russians*. London: Sphere Books, 1976, p. 276.
- ⁵ According to Sakharov, inventor of the Soviet nuclear bomb. — quoted in SMITH, *op.cit.*, p. 539.