humanity in general, from the octopus of capital and the money system, is the very reason for the existence of socialists and their activity.

What depresses me and I daresay other comrades similarly placed, are the handicaps (due to a number of adverse personal circumstances, the disabilities in the wake of old age among them) to make greater efforts in spreading our socialist message in wider circles, on a larger scale, when its dissemination was never more urgent. There are in the first place the very technical achievements filling humanity under capitalism with fear and apprehension after the experiences of two world-wars and the continued tensions and armament-race in this generation. In the second place there is the monstrous betrayal of the socialist case by imposters and jobbers and the false friends brazenly calling themselves Marxists. In this respect the leaders and spokesmen of the "Socialist Party of Austria" have even outdone their previous record by the issue of their latest Party program. They have managed to share 50/50 with the avowed Conservatives the administration of the State. It is quite possible that the "S.P.O." get the majority of the votes at the next election, in which event Capital's throne will of course remain as intact as in the Scandinavian Kingdoms, in Russia and in their satellite states and in China.

It was my intention, when the said new SPO-Program came out last May to write a Socialist Commentary on it, but I had unfortunately to interrupt this work again and again. It has now taken the form of a little brochure which we hope to find ways and means of distributing. I wished I could have translated it into English for you, but unfortunately time and the other circumstances already mentioned do not for the time being allow me to do so. I am glad I have completed it in German. Unluckily the other local comrades are also not in a position to assist; some of them are enthusiastic enough, but unable to spare time for other than their professional work.

This time last year I was able to tape record my message to your Conference in Comrade D'Arcy's London "Studio." I am looking for an opportunity to get a similar chance over here one of these days.

It goes without saying that I always greatly enjoy the receipt of the W.S., the S.S., specimens of the various leaflets, including the extra stimulating handbills from the Canadian comrades, and last but by no means least, the latest addition to Socialist literature, the fine Irish "Socialist" produced by the energetic and fearless comrades there.

The enjoyment of reading it all, plus the minutes that are regularly sent to this unfortunately still solitary socialist outpost on this Continent, is however always mingled with the bitter thought of our own shortcomings.

I am sorry to have to send you this rather sombre message when you should expect a cheery and stimulating report from this part of the world, but the socialist's optimism being indestructible, I can close on this note for today, again saluting you all, wishing you good luck and an enjoyable get-together!

Yours fraternally and for Socialism:

RUDOLF FRANK

and signed by six sympathizers.

Mourn Not the Dead

By RALPH CHAPLIN

Mourn not the dead that in the cool earth lie—
Dust unto dust—
The calm, sweet earth that mothers all who die
As all men must;
Mourn not your captive comrades who must dwell—
Too strong to strive—
Within each steel-bound coffin of a cell,
Buried alive;
But rather mourn the apathetic throng—
The cowed and the meek—
Who see the world's great anguish and its wrong
And dare not speak!

The New Zealand Budget Issue

Pleased to learn that our tape recording has arrived safely. Your 1957 Conference recordings have also reached us per medium of an S.P.N.Z. supporter, recently returned from a trip to Sydney, Australia. He also brought news from Sydney Comrades. It seems they are putting in great efforts there.

The conference recordings were enjoyed by us. To hear the voices of Comrades throughout the world is quite inspiring, the various accents indicate the wide spread of the Companion Parties ideas. They also break down the sense of isolation one is inclined to feel in remote spots like N. Z.

The general political situation is very interesting, in particular since the presentation of the Budget to Parliament on the 26th June last. It has been described variously as savage, courageous, heinous.

It has been attacked bitterly, not only by the Nationalist opposition, but by the President of the Federation of Labour, Mr. F. P. Walsh.

As for the workers, their wages will hardly suffice to meet the inroads on their living costs. The "Evening Post," Wellington, June 24, 1958 rationalizes that "The Government believes that an increase (in the family benefit which is tax free) will be of greater value than a wage increase which would be taxable and which would inevitably reflect itself in increased costs." However, in the same issue of the "Wellington Post" the president of the Federation of Labour says: "There seems to be no question that this Budget will make it necessary to apply for a general wage increase in the very near future." But, in spite of these stern words, it seems there will be no drastic action on the part of the F. of L. for on July 1, 1958 they issued a statement in the E.P. "The National Executive of the Federation of Labour did not consider an immediate application for a general increase in wages justified... But we shall watch closely the effects of the Budget...and make a decision later."

The viciousness of the Budget proposals are indicated when the F.O.L. is nearly goaded into demanding a wage rise.

The way of the capitalist reformer is hard and has many pitfalls.

The Labour Government has struck a whole string of pitfalls.

It is confronted, not only with a slump in the prices of primary products on the British market; seriously depleted overseas funds; an uproar from the dairy farmers over the new guaranteed price of butter fat. Now the members of the Public Service Association are loudly expressing their indignation at the Labour Government's action in refusing to honour a wage agreement.

At a meeting in the Majestic Theater, Wellington on the 18-8-58, representatives of eight State employee associations, representing public servants, railway workers (3) teachers (2), post office workers and members of the New Zealand Workers Union, the following resolution was carried:

> "That while acknowledging that the country's economy has suffered a setback due largely to circumstances over which the present Government has no control this meeting nonetheless dismisses as unworthy of the Government the suggestion that Government employees should be the first to suffer while prices, profits and awards continue to rise; and urges the Prime Minister to allow conciliation as to the amount of the ruling rate increase as has been done in the past."
>
> "That this meeting commends the combined State Services representatives on the firm policy they have adopted in the negotiations with the Government and urges them to continue their efforts till a just settlement is reached."
>
> (E.P. 19-8-58, Wellington)

The trials and tribulations of the N. Z. Labour Government bring to