

My release is a great victory for the workers, working people and all other democrats who have stood up against the shackling of workers struggle. I should like to congratulate everyone in Australia who has played and is playing a part in this magnificent struggle. I am certain that all workers remain adamant in their opposition to the penal powers, which are designed to suppress the workers. They will carry on the struggle. My imprisonment and release were only a small part of the much bigger question of oppression of the workers. I will try to play my full part in bringing it to an end.

It is perfectly clear that the employers and their Government have found a device to extricate themselves from the dilemma into which they have not themselves by imprisoning me in an attempt to intimidate the workers. Neither the Tramways Union nor I have paid one penny of the workers. Neither the Tramways Union nor I have paid one cent of the fines, nor will we ever do so.

The infinite power of the workers when they are really aroused has frightened the life out of the Government and the employers.

It will go on to greater victories. Therefore I am certain the workers, working people and all democrats will continue the struggle for the abolition of all penal powers.

Australian workers have never before conducted such a magnificent struggle. Again I feel certain that they will use the initiative they have displayed so far in this struggle to some much more radical social advance such as social services and pensions.

(Signed) C. L. O'SHEA.

(Statement released at 11.32 a.m. on May 21st, 1969, as he left Pent-ridge Gaol).