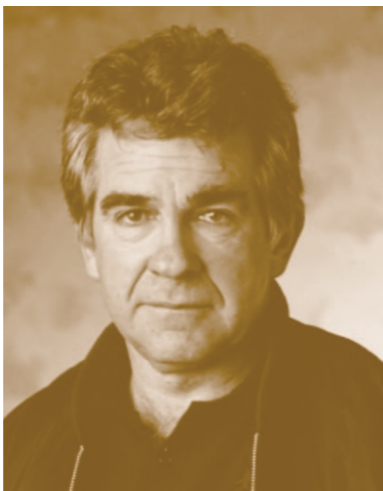


QUOTATIONS FROM
CHAIRMAN CUMMO



WORKERS OF ALL
COUNTRIES, UNITE!

Study Chairman Cummo's
writings, follow his teachings
and act according to
his instructions.



JOHN CUMMINS



1948 - 2006

John Cummins entered the building and construction industry as a builders' labourer in 1972 and immediately joined the BLF.



An organisation he remained an active and influential member of until it was amalgamated into what became the CFMEU.

In the mid-1970s, Cummo (as he became affectionately known) worked as a labourer and a scaffolder on some prominent jobs in this city – Collins Place and the West Gate Bridge.

Cummo's quiet determination and considerable persuasive skills on the job ensured Norm Gallagher

and the BLF Executive took him into the union office for his first stint as an organiser in Melbourne. This experience put him in good stead when the union sent him over to Western Australia to replace Jim Bacon in 1980. He started in the wild, wild west at the commencement of the North West Shelf project on Burrup Peninsula.

Following this tour of duty in the Pilbara and then Perth, he returned to Melbourne and took up organising in the increasingly rough and tumble of an industry under pressure from the



Fraser Liberal Government. This pressure continued under the new Hawke Labor Government with the de-registration of the BLF which in turn led to the de-recognition of the BLF by the Cain State Labor Government in 1986.

However, faced with a second five year de-registration of the BLF, Cummo in conjunction with BLF Branches in Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and Tasmania, moved the BLF toward amalgamation with the new CFMEU. After a struggle with then Federal and Victorian Secretary, Norm Gallagher, those supporting



amalgamation won the argument in 1992 and amalgamation later took place.



Cummo contested and won the Presidency of the Victorian Construction Division in

1996. In this new role and with a strong team, the fortunes of the CFMEU in Victoria, improved dramatically and Cummo was able to play the influential and positive role that was needed including the implementation of pattern bargaining across the industry, as opposed to the single employer agreements that the new legislation championed. The success was on-going and to an extent that resulted

in the Howard Government picking out the CFMEU for special attention in the legislative attacks on the trade union movement. Cummo faced the Cole Royal Commission and conducted himself in the



dignified, but politically combative manner that such an inquiry deserved.

Cummo kept up his fight with

cancer for over twelve months and reached his 58th birthday on 26 August just before succumbing to his cancer on 29 August dying peacefully surrounded by his loved ones, Diane, Mick and Shane and

his brother and sister and their families.

There is obviously so much more that can be said about Cummo than this edited potted history and we all have our own stories that we will remember about him. Besides all the things that can be said about Cummo, he also had his unique expressions and sayings for the many situations he had to deal with.



These Cummoisms are full of his own brand of wit, stoicism and comradely advice for both friends and foes alike.

I am sure that this list is not complete and will lead you to think of others that we have left out. A collected works of Cummoisms in hardback will be in stores some time before the revolution. One expression that we can all remember him saying on many occasions, and one that is no less true today than when he first uttered these immortal words...

**'DARE TO STRUGGLE,
DARE TO WIN – IF YOU
DON'T FIGHT, YOU LOSE!'**

On religion:

The wailing wall is
in Jerusalem.

and...

You're preaching to
the converted.

On maternal affection:

Heads only mothers
would love.

On dialectical materialism:

Let's deal with facts and
not with fiction.

On searching for enlightenment:

When you find an easy way,
don't keep it a secret.

and...

The further you go,
the less you know.

On holiday advice:

He thinks he's in Disneyland.

On medical conditions:

You can't be half pregnant.

and...

You have your good days
and you have bad.

On hygiene:

Don't treat him like
a dirty arse.

On the future:

It will either be fixed or fucked
by the end of the week.

and...

Not gonna die wondering.

On diplomacy:

Fuck off, idiot.

On legal challenges:

Just straight bat it.

On mathematics:

Six of one and half a dozen
of the other.

**On WorkCover advice for
employers:**

You fucked him,
you fix him.

On sports:

As unbiased as a
Collingwood cheer squad.

On fauna:

Bright eyed and bushy tailed.

and...

Tail wagging the dog.

and...

This little black duck.

On advice for young officials:

Stop sooking.

and...

This job is 90 per cent bluff
and 10 per cent bullshit.

and..

You can't organise from
outside the gate.

and...

You're only as good as
your last blue.

and...

You're big enough and
ugly enough to work it out
for yourself.

On persistence:

The squeaky wheel
gets the oil.

**On employment advice
to the members:**

If you don't work for cunts,
you don't work.

On philanthropy:

Hit your kick.

**Cummo on agreeing with
Cummo:**

That's right, that's right.

and...

Nod your head until your bum is
on the seat.

**Cummo on not agreeing with
Cummo:**

Is that right ?

On matters of strategy:

As effective as throwing snows
balls at Ayers Rock.

On how the world is treating him:

Terrific.

On 24 hour stoppages:

You're going to have a better day
than I am.

On supporting East Timorese independence:

Fuck this, we'll go and stand in front of the plane.

On relationships:

Don't get all sensitive on me now.

and..

Don't be shy.

and...

Put your arm around him.

On democracy:

We've had enough from you, you're a serial questioner.

On unions:

Once an ironworker, always an ironworker.

On initiative:

Who gives a fuck, go fix it.

On revisionism:

Don't let the facts get in the way
of a good story.

On outmoded thinking:

That went out with
button-up boots.

On intellectualism:

Put the thinking cap on.

Miscellaneous thoughts:

Sweet.

You've done yourselves
a treat.

Listen listen.

If you don't dream
you don't live.

I don't want to be
Dorothy Dix.

Methinks you're all getting
treated better than Melbourne
Cup favourites.

Me fix.

Scallywags.

Resident nark.

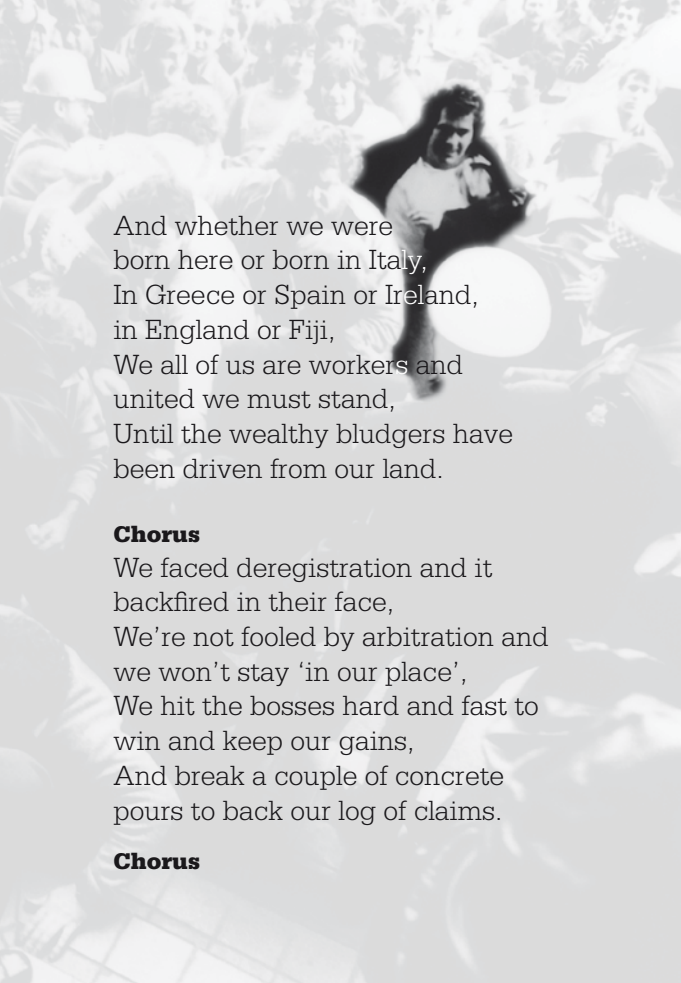
Builders' Labourers' Song

Theme song for the Concrete Gang on 3CR

We're putting up new buildings,
we're knocking down the old,
We're working in the summer heat
and in the winter cold,
And the labour-power we sell, me
boys, for a hard-earned weekly pay,
Produces mighty profits for the
greedy M.B.A.

Chorus

*So keep your powder dry and hold
your head up high,
It's class to class and face to face;
our limit is the sky,
We've got a fighting history and we
never will be cowed,
A builders' labourer is a name to
make a man feel proud.*

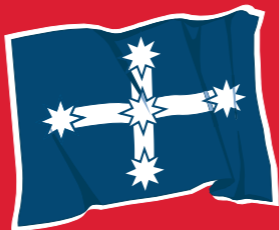


And whether we were
born here or born in Italy,
In Greece or Spain or Ireland,
in England or Fiji,
We all of us are workers and
united we must stand,
Until the wealthy bludgers have
been driven from our land.

Chorus

We faced deregistration and it
backfired in their face,
We're not fooled by arbitration and
we won't stay 'in our place',
We hit the bosses hard and fast to
win and keep our gains,
And break a couple of concrete
pours to back our log of claims.

Chorus



DARE TO STRUGGLE
DARE TO WIN

Monday 4 September 2006

