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# THE NEW TIMES

Vol. 7. No. 4. MELBOURNE, FRIDAY, JAN 31, 1941.

Now, when our land  
to ruin's brink is  
verging,

In God's name, let  
us speak while  
there is time!

Now, when the  
padlocks for our  
lips are  
forging.

Silence is crime.

—Whittier (1807-1892).

## Startling Allegations In British Parliament

### NEWS AND VIEWS

The following passages are taken from the House of Commons Official Report (Editor, P. Cornelius), known as "Hansard." The date and occasion of the debate is given at the beginning, and the speakers' names by the side. Lack of space imposes a severe limitation on the selection of matter for reproduction.

November 7.

#### Adjournment—LOSS OF H.M.S. GLORIOUS.

Mr. Stokes (Ipswich): I have given notice of my intention to raise certain matters concerning the sinking of H.M.S. "Glorious" in June last, with her two attendant destroyers. I am not raising this point in order to use it as a stick wherewith to beat Ministers or naval officers, but because I regard it as a matter of duty to the House and particularly to many relatives of the people who lost their lives in that accident and survivors, some of whom have provided me with facts and information. What I am doing may not commend itself to the First Lord, but, as a good Parliamentarian, he would agree that higher considerations than the conscience of Ministers must control our actions otherwise it would be impossible to criticise anyone with whom one was on friendly relations. As I understand it, as a junior Member of the House, our duty is when public opinion is disturbed, to investigate what has happened, and, if the reasons for the disturbance of public opinion are groundless, public opinion becomes at once reassured. If, on the other hand, there are grounds for disturbance, it is right that we and the public should know that proper action has been taken. This process may be inconvenient for Ministers, but I am sure the First Lord will be the first to recognise that while Ministers naturally get the praise when things go well, they have to put up with the disagreeable when they occur . . .

I will endeavour to say nothing, which would be of use to the enemy. So far as I know the "Glorious" was engaged in the relief of Narvik. I appreciate that it was a delicate and difficult operation and that secrecy was essential, but there are certain questions I want to put to the First Lord. The first is whether he is entirely satisfied that the proper instructions and the best that could have been devised were issued to the ship? Second, I understand that while at first it was rumoured that the ship was sunk by the "Gneisanau" and "Scharnhorst," I gather from other sources that that was not the case. It appears that cruisers of the "Hipper" class were engaged, and if that is so they must have been absent from their base seven days to come in as they did. Did the Admiralty know the movements of those ships, or was the Intelligence once again at fault? Third, the Grand Fleet

under Admiral Sir Charles Forbes was within 800 miles of the incident. Did the admiral know generally of the movement of the ship and were his dispositions, even if he did not, such that he could give aid if the ship met disaster? Fourth, when and at what hour did the "Glorious" sink, and were any signals received by the Admiral of the Grand Fleet or other high naval officers, and, if so, what action was taken? Fifth, has the court of inquiry, which presumably was fully mindful of the accident to the "Courageous," reported that an escort of two destroyers was sufficient for the "Glorious," engaged as she was on that particular operation. If two destroyers were insufficient why were not extra precautions taken to look after her? . . .

I am putting the questions, and I will leave the First Lord to decide whether he can answer them. I am not doing any harm to the country or our cause by asking the questions. I am no authority on naval matters, and I do not press for answers to anything, which the First Lord considers it not advisable to give in the interests of the country.

Another question I wish to ask is whether the Operations Division  
(Continued on page 6.)

### WHY MAKE CRIMINALS?

By GRACE IGGULDEN.

I read in the paper this week that five convicts, escapees from a New Zealand prison, had been recaptured. Of these "convicts," three at least were less than twenty-one years old. I know nothing about their history, I don't know why they were in gaol—I can't even remember their names—but it strikes me very forcibly that it is a peculiar state of society we have built up, wherein a youth may become a convict before he reaches manhood.

The next day, in the same paper, I read a letter from a reader whose son, aged twenty-six, had been out of work for four or five years. She said that he was honest and willing and reliable; she asked what was to become of him. I thought of the man who had been hunted by the police up in the wild Tubbitt-Delegate-Snowy River district and who, when brought to bay like an animal, said that he couldn't get work, and a man had to eat and to live. I thought of a man I saw the other day playing a banjo in the street and singing. He couldn't have been much older than I am.

It makes you feel sick sometimes,

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22, 1941.

The Minister of Education, Sir John Harris, adjured the delegates at the annual conference of the Victorian Teachers' Union to refrain as much as possible from delving into political and social problems, which had never been thrashed out.

(Father knows best!)

Mr. Leslie Cohen, LL.B., has been appointed senior evening lecturer in company, mercantile and bankruptcy law at the Melbourne Technical College.

The A.W.U. branch secretary, Queensland, Mr. Fallon, said it was a tragedy that the Labor Party was being assailed by critics both for its compromise on the Budget and its refusal to enter the National Government. A hostile Senate could have forced Labor Government to face the country.

Increases in the retail prices of food and groceries in thirty principal cities and towns were evident in December last, compared with December 1939. A return issued by the acting Commonwealth Statistician (Mr. S. R. Carver) showed today that the increase was greatest in Queensland, at 10.2 per cent. In other States the increases were:—New South Wales, 5.8 per cent; Victoria, 4.6 per cent; West Australia, 4.5 per cent; Tasmania, 4.3 per cent; and South Australia, 2.1 per cent.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 23.

Schoolteachers in conference decided that they would, if they saw fit, make their demands upon the Government. One speaker said that if they made demands on the

Government they would reduce the money available for winning the war. Another speaker said for years teachers had been told there was no money. As soon as there was a war, however, plenty of money was found.

(Mr. R. G. Hawtrey, assistant secretary to the British Treasury, wrote about money: "Banks lend by creating credit. They create the means of payment out of nothing," and Right Hon. Reginald McKenna, banking expert, wrote: "The amount of money in existence varies only with the action of the banks in increasing or diminishing deposits." Now, children, please refrain as much as possible from asking, "Where do the flies go to in the winter time?" Referring to taxation, Major C. H. Douglas wrote: "Taxes, of course, under the existing organisation of society must be paid in money, and since practically all money is created by financial institutions, it is quite obvious that the ultimate beneficiaries of all taxation must be those institutions, chiefly in the form of visible and undivided reserves, rather than dividends.")

FRIDAY, JANUARY 24

Mr. O. L. Isaachsen, general manager of the Bank of Adelaide, has been re-elected chairman of the Associated Banks in South Australia for 1941.

The newly appointed chairman of the Wheat Industry Stabilisation Board, Mr. Clive McPherson, warned wheatgrowers who lodged claims for exaggerated acreages under the stabilisation scheme, that such would seriously impair the smooth working of "the plan."

As the British Government has indicated that apples and pears will not be imported into the United Kingdom, as fresh fruit this season, the need arises for the greater consumption of these fruits within the Commonwealth. Officers of the Apple and Pear Marketing Board state that the problem was Australia-wide. In the absence of a "central plan," Victorian growers would find their local markets glutted with inter-State fruit.

(How are you enjoying the new social order?)

The Prime Minister, Mr. Menzies, said that it is not proposed to establish any Home Guard other than the Returned Soldiers' League Volunteer Defence Corps. The Government had no intention of adopting a suggestion from the Minister of the Navy, Mr. Hughes, that an armed Civil Guard be appointed. The Military Board will define the place and functions of the Corps in the total local defence scheme of Australia.

A strong protest was made at the annual meeting of the clerical division of the Public Servants'

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Heavens, I don't expect that we'll  
(Continued on page 5.)

## THE LIFE OF MADAME CURIE

### EVE CURIE'S GREAT BIOGRAPHY REVIEWED BY ERIC D. BUTLER

**Most people have heard of Madame Curie, the brilliant Polish scientist who, together with her French husband, Pierre Curie, discovered radium. I have just finished reading her life story as told by her daughter, Eve Curie.**

"Madame Curie" is the biography of a great woman, a woman who appreciated real values in life. Every person interested in the principles for which this paper stands, should read "Madame Curie." My only regret is that I did not read it two years ago when it was first published.

No novel from the imagination of the greatest novelist can compare with this story of the struggle of Marie Curie: Her early struggle as a girl in the then-subjugated Poland, the powerful urge for knowledge in the world of science, her years of poverty living in a garret in Paris while carrying on her studies, the great partnership with her husband while they explored the unknown in an old tin shed—they had no decent laboratory or equipment because of lack of money—ending in the great triumph of radium. Both the Curies refused to commercialise their great discovery; they believed that their discovery was for the benefit of humanity. After Pierre Curie's tragic death, Marie Curie carried on the great work alone. Eve Curie's chapter on her mother's work during the last war contains a moral for those who are interested in saving civilisation from a collapse as the result of another World War. She attacked the centralisers, refused to wear a uniform, ignored the bureaucrats and "got on with the job."

When she died in 1934 the world lost one of the greatest minds that civilisation has yet produced; her whole life was an inspiration to those who believe that there are greater things in life than financial systems, superficial smartness or "getting on."

#### THE STRUGGLE AGAINST POVERTY

Marie Curie was a member of the highly gifted Polish family of Sklodovska. Her father was a teacher in Poland when it was under the domination of Russia. She did not go to Paris until she was in her early twenties. Her appetite for knowledge and research work was phenomenal. Her life was a triumph of genius over poverty. However, this does not demonstrate, as some apologists of the present financial system insist, that "poverty is good for people" and that, if a person has ability, success will naturally come. The question to be asked is: "What would people like Marie Curie have accomplished if they had been relieved of the continual necessity of fighting a personal money shortage?" We can only speculate; and what of the thousands of highly gifted people in our own community who will never get an opportunity to contribute their gifts to society because of the social iniquities spawned by a false financial system?

Practically the main theme running through "Madame Curie" is the fight against a shortage of money for decent laboratories and decent equipment; a fight by realism against abstractionism.

#### THE DISCOVERY OF RADIUM

Marie Curie married Pierre Curie, a French scientist, in 1895. In 1898 they started the real attempt to extract radium from crude pitch-blende. A decent laboratory was unobtainable. No money! They were forced to work in a dilapidated shed for four years. Eve Curie writes of this shed as follows: "In summer, be-

cause of its skylights, it was as stifling as a hothouse; in winter, one did not know whether to wish for rain or frost; if it rained, the water fell, drop by drop, nerve-racking noise, on the ground or on the work-tables, in places which the physicists had to mark in order to avoid putting apparatus there; if it froze, one froze. There was nothing to do about it. . . . It was almost better for Marie and Pierre to get used to the cruelty of the outside temperature, since their technical installation—hardly existent—possessed no chimneys to carry off noxious gases, and the greater part of their treatment had to be made in the open air, in the courtyard. When a shower of rain came the physicists hastily moved their apparatus inside; to keep on working without being suffocated they set up draughts between the opened door and windows."

Throughout these years of struggle the Curies got little or no official help or recognition. At one stage of the search Pierre was ready to abandon it but Marie would not accept defeat. To quote Eve Curie: "With her remarkable patience she was able to be, every day for four years, physicist, chemist, specialised worker, engineer and labouring man all at once . . ."

**"In 1902, forty-five months after the day on which the Curies announced the probable existence of radium, Marie finally carried off the victory in this war of attrition; she succeeded in preparing a decigramme of pure radium.... The incredulous chemists—of whom there were still a few—could only bow before the facts, before the superhuman obstinacy of a woman. Radium officially existed."**

Compare this real achievement with the efforts of the financiers who create money out of nothing and hinder those who are not mesmerised by figures in bank ledgers.

The Curies gave civilisation their discovery; they remained financially poor. Still they could get no help. Marie Curie wrote: "Those who have made similar demands know the financial and administrative difficulties one runs into, and may remember the considerable number of official letters, visits and requests, which are indispensable if one is to obtain the slightest advantage."

#### THE WAR.

In 1914 Marie Curie was alone in Paris. Her husband had been killed in an accident a few years before. She calmly surveys the situation and asks herself what she can do to help. She decides to remain herself in order to really help her country. She is not stampeded by the events. To quote Eve Curie: "Having checked up on the organisation of the Health Service she discovers a gap which the authorities do not seem to have heeded, but which to her appears fatal. Except for a few large hospitals behind the front line none were equipped with X-ray installations."

"In a few hours Marie makes a list of the apparatus to be found in the University, her own included, and she pays a visit to

all the available constructors. All X-ray material that can be utilised is assembled and then distributed among the hospitals in the region round Paris. Manipulators are recruited from among professors, engineers and scientists."

How to deal with the increasing number of wounded without X-ray was a problem. Marie Curie thinks of a solution. She creates the first "radiological car": "In an ordinary car she installs a Rontgen apparatus and a dynamo which, activated by the motor of the car, furnishes the necessary current." She obtained cars from society women and used them to move X-ray apparatus behind the battle lines. This timid woman became a living dynamo, and was continually in strife with the bureaucrats and their silly regulations. Eve Curie writes: "Her science and her courage were not her only support. Marie possessed in the highest degree that humble, precious gift of 'getting on with it,' and she made masterly use of the super-method which the French in wartime called 'System D'—the defeat of red tape by ingenuity."

"She imposed systematic training on herself: at a time when she was perfecting her technique with Rontgen apparatus and reading anatomical treatises to acquire the culture of a perfect medical radiologist she was also learning how to drive a car, passing for her licence, and initiating herself into mechanics. She wanted to avoid what she hated most: calling for help, or having herself waited upon."

Throughout the war, apart from her twenty cars, she furnished 200 hospitals with X-ray rooms, and the number of wounded examined by these stations, created by her personally, passed the million. And her reward? Eve Curie writes: "Many 'ladies' received decorations and rosettes. My mother received nothing.....and in spite of the rather exceptional services she rendered, no one thought of pinning a small soldier's cross on the gown of Madame Curie." She refused to accept the cross of the Legion of Honour.

#### MADAME CURIE'S PHILOSOPHY

Madame Curie's whole life was one of intense individualism. Abstractionism meant nothing to her, as many found to their astonishment and discomfort. She was a realist. Towards the end of her life she wrote: "We cannot hope to build a better world without improving the individual. Towards this end, each of us must work toward his own highest development, accepting at the same time his share of responsibility in the general life of humanity—our particular duty being to help those to whom we feel we can be most useful."

How different from the ideas which the private bankers and their satellites seek to impose upon humanity!

We want the spirit of Madame Curie to live again; to sweep the red tape and fumbling bureaucrats with their silly forms and regulations aside; to break through to the world of reality.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### TOBACCO AND TAXES

Sir—

With the advent of the new taxes imposed upon me by the Menzies Government, I, like many others, looked around for ways and means to escape the worst effects of the fortnightly confiscation of the only portion of my salary, which I could call my own.

At present I don't wish to discuss the many stupid expedients I have been forced to adopt, but I found that I could reduce the cost of my tobacco from 1/2 per oz. to 8d per oz. by buying a certain brand called "Sunny South," grown in Western Australia, and packed by Michelides Ltd., Perth. This was a particularly fine tobacco, especially if blended to taste by small additions of other tobacco.

Naturally, I passed the good news to my friends, who endorsed my opinion. You can well imagine my horror when, the last time I called at the tobacconist, I found that this tobacco was being taken off the market. This, of course, was not unexpected, as we knew that it would not be long before the tentacles of the International Tobacco Trust would strangle this Australian child.

However, as the Federal Government is supposed to be looking after the interests of the consumer, this question of the elimination of small producers who dare to give the consumers a fair deal is a very serious matter. Australian growers have been experimenting with the growing of tobacco for some years, and have been assisted by the Federal Government to the amount of £20,000 a year. Now that success is in sight the Tobacco Monopoly steps in and holds up the Australian consumer to ransom, and we can expect that the tobacco that now cost us 8d,

an oz. (6½d before the new tax) will shortly appear in new tins priced at 1/2. I suggest that your readers request their Federal Member to obtain satisfaction on this matter.

The above question is important, because it shows how easily price regulations can be evaded—merely by withdrawing one brand from the market and re-issuing it under another brand at another price.

As there is to be a restriction on imported tobacco, it is obvious that all Australian-grown tobacco will be used, so that the cheap brands that are being removed must appear on the market under another name.

I am,  
Yours faithfully,  
JAS GUTHRIE.

Hobart, Tasmania.

### "LET THE PEOPLE SING"

Sir,—

I have just finished reading "Let The People Sing," by J. B. Priestly, and would like to advise all your readers who have not read this novel to either buy, borrow or beg a copy. It is magnificent. Priestly gives of his best in this book to demonstrate a local objective and the power of the people.

The central theme of the story is concerned with a small English village and the local Market Hall, which the people had at one time used for their own musical performances. Through the apathy of the people the Hall was no longer used, and there was a move to have it used as a Museum by the rather snobbish local aristocrats. Opposition to this move was offered by a typical mass production concern, United Plastics, who desired it to display their wares. Until the entrance of Priestly's main characters, the

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## "LOOKING FORWARD"

By N. F. Rolls, former honorary secretary to the United Electors of Australia, Non-Party, Victorian Division,

**Two weeks ago, in a brief review of the U.E.A. activities during 1940, entitled "Looking Backward," I purposely opened my remarks by quoting sub-section "A" of section 1 of the U.E.A. constitution. This clause deals with the need for rousing public opinion to DEMAND the increase of the people's liberty, and—ultimately—the abolition of poverty; objectives with which all democratic and right-thinking people will agree.**

I think that most of us, whilst realising that the abolition of poverty will not alone bring about the necessary change in moral and mental codes, believe that the pursuance of such an objective must, as the facts become more widely known, continue to attract the sympathy and support of a growing number of our people. I would presume also that we must agree that considerable mental poverty must be removed before public opinion is powerful enough to demand the abolition of physical poverty. What many of us fail to agree upon, however, is the standard of mentality at which it is necessary for the great mass of people to arrive before we can hope to deliver ourselves out of the hands of those who oppress us. (You will notice that I contend the people THEMSELVES must save themselves.)

Quite a great number of us a few short years ago, judging from the nature of our literature and other educational media, apparently believed in putting the majority of electors through a course of economics and finance. The value of such education has undoubtedly been, for many people particularly, and for the good of our cause generally, inestimable. Many of us have come to

the conclusion, however, that in order to take our message out of the realms of student classes and out of the atmosphere of academic discussion, in order also to protect it from the stigma of a label, and to preserve it from stultification, we must word it in such a way and present it in such a manner that the great mass of the people WILL UNDERSTAND IT AND ACT ACCORDINGLY. Consequently, whilst the opportunity for close study of the system's multiple ramifications is still made available to the student, and whilst every possible encouragement is given to the electors in that respect, our actionists have gone out vanguard-style to that big mass of slow-thinking electors with all manner of appeals to their principles and practical nature. In doing so, they have endeavoured to present our case to the man on the street divorced from all unnecessary technicalities, and in the light of the moral, legal, and constitutional points of view. I claim that these actionists, in some cases by mere example only, have laid an irremovable foundation of faith in the general cause and understanding of principles before persons or parties, which—especially throughout Victoria—can be regarded as the most suitable fallow in which

the more delicate seed of technical and involved truths may be nurtured to bring forth that harvest of human welfare to which we, together with all well-wishers in all parts of the Commonwealth, have so consistently aspired. The child must of necessity be taught to walk before it can run.

Before enlarging upon this aspect, and because I am well aware that many great stalwarts of our common cause appear to underestimate the value of the diversity of the U.E.A. activities, I feel it is necessary to quote subsection "B" of section 1, above referred to. This reads; "TO TAKE ANY NECESSARY STEPS TO ENSURE THAT ADEQUATE NOTICE OF THESE DEMANDS SHALL BE SERVED UPON THE RESPONSIBLE LEGISLATIVE OR ADMINISTRATIVE BODY OR BODIES."

I am well aware that there are some who believe the demand—form idea to be "stale" and ineffective. I appreciate the truth that the mere serving of notices upon members of parliament WITHOUT TAKING FURTHER ACTION IN THE EVENT OF THEIR FAILURE TO RESPOND would have a very limited, and perhaps hopelessly negative effect upon such members. There is plenty of evidence, however, to show that further action HAS BEEN and IS BEING taken, and I personally regard this activity as not only psychologically valuable, but as an INTEGRAL PART OF OUR GENERAL CAMPAIGN. I am convinced that, even though such primary action on the part of the elector be not in itself in any way completely successful, no effort, either, on the part of the campaigner or in respect of the "contact" made, should be considered either wasted or unnecessary. Rather would I regard such activities, rudimentary as they

may be, of vital importance to the ultimate success of our endeavours. The masses are sick and tired of "leaders"; of that there is no doubt. And they have lost faith in OTHER men because they have repeatedly—whether consciously or otherwise—failed them. "All right," you might reply, "but what about Mr. So-and-So? He is true blue; he's a great chap; and his policy is indisputable." Of course. That unearths the big bone of contention—possibly the crux of the reformers' difficulties. There are true representatives of the people, both in and out of Parliament, Mr. So-and-So is sound and safe, and his policy PRINCIPLES should be given every opportunity of expression, but do the masses think so? You and I do, reader, because we study these men and all their actions. Many of us, no doubt, could pick a wonderful team to represent US in the Federal House—because we understand their POLICY. But the mass of electors: do they really understand their policy? Do they understand their new-sounding and challenging views on finance, for instance, and what their fight against the powers of orthodoxy means ultimately to them?

No; so far as the great majority of the electors are concerned, I am afraid they DO NOT UNDERSTAND, nor can they in this respect be brought to understand in a reasonably short space of time. The monopoly-controlled radio, and press will see to that. It would seem a different matter, however, if there could be fostered a greater and more general concentration upon the PRINCIPLES guiding Mr. So-and-So's policy, and upon the RESULTS and POTENTIALS desired by the masses and easily made known to be possible.

We still have the task before us of educating the masses upon safe—that is inextinguishable—lines; and so it is that possibly the biggest problem confronting reform bodies today is that of deciding upon an approach to the broad public which will attract sufficient support in the shortest possible time. An approach that will not only be temporarily effective, but which will have a far greater ultimate value; a basis of understanding upon which will thrive the initiative of the individual elector, irrespective of "leadership," and so necessary to the positive action which spells success in any sphere of social dynamics.

Unless the people are to be expected to follow a particular leader in blind faith, they must be convinced by some means or other of the soundness of that leader's policy; then you are brought back to the difficulties of technical education, and it is at this point that the "label" or "party" trouble intervenes to divide otherwise quite well-informed public opinion. If students of political science fail to agree upon a basis, how on earth can we expect the ordinary triennial electors to agree, UNLESS THAT BASIS BE ONE OF MORAL PRINCIPLES? I am firmly of the opinion that we have got to elevate OUR PRINCIPLES above all other things, persons and parties. If the moral aspect—founded upon principle—fails to attract the people's support to our efforts on their behalf, then surely there can be little hope for the fruition of our own ideals, the establishment of true democracy, or even for the salvation of what little civilisation there remains in this sorry world of today.

I would ask you to read subsection "B" once again, bearing in mind the tremendous influence which WAS brought to bear upon responsible authorities as a result of recent non-party pressure politics. Look backward. Remember how the Commonwealth seethed with opposition (FROM THE INDIVI-

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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people look like losing their hall to one of these groups.

Priestly rises to his greatest height in the words uttered by one of his chief characters, the Professor. The Professor is talking to the executives of United Plastics:

"Now, here in this town," the Professor continued, ignoring the manager's nonsense about golf and bridge, "the people are fortunate enough to possess a large and well-constructed hall of their own, where they can create and enjoy the noble art of music. But I have been told that you wish to take this hall away from them, to use it as a means of selling more bowls and ashtrays. If that is true, then civilisation here in Dunbury is not moving forward but going backward, returning to barbarism, a new kind of barbarism, filled with machines and swift transport, synthetic bowls and ash-trays, but nevertheless a barbarism."

"Now just a minute, Doctor," cried the head of the sales department, who felt more responsible than any of the other three because this acquisition of the Market Hall was originally his idea. "To start with, the people have stopped using the hall. They are not as keen on music as they used to be."

"But why?" asked the Professor, holding up his cigar as if it were a glowing stop signal. "Because your world, with its clamorous and exacting machines and its organisation of mechanical little tasks, is draining away their spirit of initiative, making them passive in their leisure instead of active and creative. They drift from the work factory to the amusement factory. Instead of music there is now the strange, horrible sound of the cinema organ, or the barbaric din of the jazz bands, both

of which play on the nerves and do nothing for the heart, the mind, the spirit"

"You may be right, I don't know," said the manager, in a tone that suggested that neither did he care. "But it seems to me to miss the point. We're here to manufacture and sell United Plastics products. We've brought a lot of money into this one-eyed town. We're easily the largest employers of labour here—and we are good employers, believe me—we ought to have some say. It's better for everybody that that old hall should be advertising our goods, serving a useful purpose, than that it should be there doing nothing, or—for there's some talk of it—should be a museum for a little set of West Dunbury snobs."

"There is nothing wrong with museums in their place," said the Professor carefully. "But no museum is necessary here. Too much of England, I think, is a museum. A life divided between museums and factories is not a good life . . . The great, the privileged, the wealthy, have never seen themselves as part of economic man. That is why so many of them cling to mediaeval trappings, to show that they still move in the feudal, pre-economic world. They insist upon living on another level. First, to some extent in America and now in Russia, they thought to bring justice and equality into the world by removing this class, by making all men the economic man of the theorists. But this is equity in the wrong direction. It is bolting the door on the outside. We should aim at making all men great, privileged, and wealthy, raising them all to the level . . . Yes, sirs, that is the world you have made," the Professor thun-

dered, with his large spectacles flashing the necessary lightning. "Its roots are frustration and despair. Its fruits are violence, cruelty and anguish; and the bowls and cups you sell—the bowls and cups for whose sake you would destroy music, and the liberty and happiness of the common people—may soon be running with blood and tears."

Priestly portrays the growth of the gradual revolt by the people of this village against the suggestion that they become mere ciphers in a soulless corporation with its American blueprints. Everywhere they develop a new spirit.

The local people take up their musical instruments again and practise: "That's all right for a mere start, boys," cried Tom, who had now taken his coat off and was mopping his broad shining face. "But now that you've got a vague idea of what it's about, I want to hear something worth listening to. We're marching into a new life, boys. Civilisations just beginning at last. The last tyrant's dead. All the chains are off. The darkness has gone, and the people—you and I, and our wives and kids, and all our pals and their wives and kids, and so on, and so on, and so on, all over the world, everywhere—are coming out into the sunshine. That's the idea; and I want to hear it. Come on, now—straight into it, you clarinets, a clean, clear-cut melody—and hold back, you brasses, until I give you the signal to go, and then let her have it—ready? One, two, three, four—Let the people sing—"

The people finally retain possession of their Market Hall and really sing.

My copy from Miss F. M. Stapleton, 190 Little Collins Street, Melbourne.

—ERIC D. BUTLER.  
Melbourne.

## The New Times

A non-party, non-sectarian, non-sectional weekly newspaper, advocating political and economic democracy, and exposing the causes, the institutions and the individuals that keep us poor in the midst of plenty.

Published every Friday by New Times Ltd., McEwan House, Elizabeth and Little Collins Street, Melbourne, C.I. Postal Address: Box 1226 G.P.O., Melbourne. Telephone: MU2834.

Vol. 7

FRIDAY, JANUARY 31, 1941.

No. 4.

### "BANKERS' CLAUSE" IN NEW NATIONAL SECURITY REGULATIONS MUST GO

#### Government Already Wavering

Under the heading, "Security Regulation Review," the Melbourne "Sun" published a report on Monday last which began thus:

**"Main topic of discussion for the War Council when it meets here next week will be the amendment of National Security Regulation 42a."**

The "Sun" then proceeded to offer its readers the following half-truth: "The aim of the regulation . . . is to check subversive activities and the fomentation of strikes," and continued as follows: "Following protests by the Labor Party, the Acting Prime Minister (Mr. Fadden) has agreed to review the regulations. When he arrived in Melbourne on Saturday, Dr. Evatt, M.H.R., said that, at the request of the Party, he had completed a draft of suggested amendments. Copies of these had been sent to the Opposition Leader (Mr. Curtin) and the Deputy Leader (Mr. Forde). Dr. Evatt said that some of the regulations, particularly the one fixing heavy penalties for talk and actions likely to affect recruiting adversely, were desirable, but others were far too drastic."

That is encouraging as far as it goes, **but no mention is made of the "Bankers' Clause,"** framed by "our" bankers' Government to suppress criticism of its pro-Bank, anti-People, financial schemes.

It rests with the Australian electors to assert their constitutional right by directing their respective representatives in the Federal Parliament to obtain the **repeal** of the "Bankers' Clause." Electors must not "leave it to Labor"—the sell-out on the Budget issue stands as a monumental warning against the futility of that line of **inaction**. Hereunder we indicate the line of **action**, which every reader of this paper should pursue and urge upon his or her fellow citizens without a moment's delay.

### STRIKE A BLOW FOR FREEDOM!

#### FLOOD MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT WITH THE FOLLOWING DEMAND:

.....M.H.R.,  
Canberra, A.C.T.

Dear Sir,

My forefathers fought and died to give us British democracy. The recent increase in unjust and unnecessary taxation has added to the growing body of responsible public opinion which believes the present financial policy is not only hampering the war effort, but will undermine the victory, as was the case after the last war.

The recent regulation gazetted preventing criticism of the Government's financial policy outrageously violates the right of the taxpayer, who will not be allowed to protest. This regulation is a negation of British democracy, and, in my opinion, is designed to protect the financial interests who are drawing such a heavy toll of interest through taxation from the people. Furthermore, it is the introduction of "Hitlerism," which the youth of Australia is fighting and dying to destroy.

Along with many fellow-electors, I desire you to exercise your responsibility to have this regulation repealed without delay. This matter is of such vital national importance that I demand that you take steps to have Parliament assembled immediately to have this undemocratic and unpatriotic regulation repealed.

Yours faithfully,

Address.....

\* \* \* \* \*  
Obtain your supplies from The United Electors of Australia, 5th Floor, McEwan House, Little Collins Street, Melbourne. Price, 1/6 per hundred, post-free.

## AUSTRALIAN LABOR FOLLOWS NEW ZEALAND'S LEAD

By ALBERT FAWCETT

**A severe shock must have been felt by the advocates of State Socialism when they learnt that the Tobacco Workers' Union in New Zealand had been disfranchised as a result of tobacco workers at Wellington going out on strike last month. Despite the fact that some weeks have now elapsed since then, this deadlock still exists between the Union and the Government, and the Minister concerned does not seem to be unduly alarmed at the precedent he has thus created. In a country where unionism is compulsory, such action by a Government Department amounts to little less than the right to deny or grant any man the right to earn his daily bread.**

Grave misgivings were felt in many quarters that the powers to be granted to the Attorney-General under the Public Safety Emergency Regulations, empowering him to order any employee's dismissal, and to exclude him from being or becoming a member of any union, would be utilised, not to further New Zealand's war effort as promised, but to increase the hold that reactionary Labour had on the country. These fears unfortunately have now become a reality. The high handed manner in which the Government is using these powers, to stamp out any opposition to its policy of socialisation, before it can gain any footing among the people, and to support its policy of regimentation, is indication that they are merely carrying out their policy, as laid down years before the outbreak of war, and is not the result, as they would have us believe, of war emergencies.

A new social order is being imposed on the New Zealand people, and springing up as a natural consequence of this is a State bureaucracy, standing like a stonewall between the people and their parliamentary representatives, now safely entrenched behind a barrier of State departments. The government of the country has passed almost entirely out of the hands of Parliament, and the Dominion is ruled by Orders - in - Council, Regulations and Departmental "rulings." A body of bureaucrats, backed by the legal, and if need be, the military force of the country are the supreme arbiters of the peoples' destiny, and all protests against their activities fall on deaf ears. Such aspirations, however, are not apparently restricted to the other side of the Tasman. It has been increasingly evident that the Labour Party in Australia has never been slow to follow in the footsteps of their more "progressive" colleagues in the other side. Their latest endeavour, it would seem, is the complete control of all businesses throughout the Commonwealth, under the very vague excuse of war emergency and the need for greater cooperation. As apparently the people of this country do not know how to cooperate, or would it be more correct to say that the manner in which the banks are at present imposing their will on the country will not permit of any closer co-operation on the people's part, the only solution seems to be the handing over of everything to the care of the State to operate as it sees fit! To quote their resolution passed at Sunday's conference:—

"This conference demands that the Commonwealth Government take over, for the duration of the war, all profit-making industry, the existing management staff to be retained . . . the owners to be paid salaries only, all profits to be devoted to the war effort."

This is simply political piracy in its crudest form. This is not merely a suggestion for closer cooperation and understanding between the Government and Industry. This is nothing more or less than a straight-out demand

that we should surrender up all our social and economic privileges, and place ourselves completely under the yoke of State domination.

If victory is to be ours, we have only two alternatives—either complete co-operation, without any of the existing financial and fiscal restrictions at present hampering our war effort, or complete subjection to State coercion and compulsion. We have seen the best that Hitler, with his regimentation of the people and his secret police can produce. We know what we can do when we put our shoulders to the wheel. We have clung to our way of living because we believe that free men working in association, inspired by one common ideal and united by one common bond and purpose, have always, and will always prove to be superior to any nation ruled by regimentation and force under the iron hand of a dictator. If we believed that when we went into this war, then how much more we must believe it now. Whatever else may have changed, that has not changed, and only by holding fast on to something that we know and believe to be true can we hope to emerge victorious, not only on the military, but more important still, also on the political front. The price of liberty is eternal vigilance, and only thus will we successfully combat the rising tide of Nazism without, and "Bolshevisation" within.

#### CITIZENS' RIGHTS LEAGUE

In Melbourne, the above body is opposing unjust and unnecessary taxation, in conjunction with other objectives. A manifesto incorporating a "Letter Form" to individual parliamentary representatives, setting out the specific results required, will be presented at a public meeting at Scot's Church Hall, Russell Street, on Tuesday, the 4th February, at 8 p.m. An address will be given by Mr. J. McKellar, J.P.; the title being: "Financing the Nation." The Secretary, Mr. J. Bradshaw, A.F.I.A., reports that the meeting has been well organised, and should be well attended.

#### NURSIE! NURSIE!

"Sydney Morning Herald," 15th January:

"Bathurst, Tuesday. —Though additions to the public wards at the Bathurst District Hospital were promised under the State Government's 1940-41 programme, nothing has yet been done, and accommodation is so short that beds are being put on verandahs. The male general ward was designed to take only 10 beds, but 24 were crowded into it and on to adjoining verandahs."

(To the popular melody.)

Oh! Nursie, it's time that all folks made a stand—  
Nursie! Here's something we should understand,  
They risk our lives, 'cause money is na poo,  
Nursie! Nursie! Things are getting worse—it's up to you and me!

—"Scissors."

## NEWS AND VIEWS

(Continued from page 1.)

Association, Victorian branch, against the extension of services of senior officers who had reached the retiring age of sixty-five years. It was stated that the individual retained was working for the difference between his salary and the superannuation he would have received and for which he had contributed.

(Clerical workers generally make strong protests about each other. Very few pause to consider the possibilities of united action to make their demands upon their representatives in Parliament—and the certainty that in unity they can get what they want.)

The secretary of the A.R.U., Mr. P. A. Randies, said that railways employees did not want to work overtime. Several meetings of railway employees had carried resolutions advocating a complete ban in regard to the overtime policy.

The President of the Australian Council of Trade Unions, Mr. A. E. Monk, said that only time would show whether there was any relation between the Government's announcement of a child endowment policy and the basic wage case, now being considered by the Arbitration Court.

## SATURDAY, JANUARY 25

Protest against the Federal Government regulation under the National Security Act prohibiting any statement in criticism of the Government's financial plans is voiced in a resolution carried by Kew branch of the Australian Natives' Association. The branch declared that it considered such a regulation "a negation of one of the fundamental principles of British democracy, freedom and justice."

For supporting an expelled member—viz., Mr. Dinan, the unsuccessful Labour candidate in the Swan by-election, the Young Labor League was disaffiliated by the metropolitan council of the Australian Labor Party.

The League was formed ten years ago, and on January 7 last congratulated Mr. Dinan on his opposition to the Federal Budget, and pledged support for him in his fight to strengthen and cleanse the Labor movement.

The executive committee of the Milk Producers' Association lodged with the Milk Board a protest against delay in determining the increased price that would govern the supply of milk to the metropolis. It was resolved that Parliamentary support for just consideration of producers' interests should be sought.

The health committee of Melbourne City Council is of the opinion that owners of houses demolished in slum areas should be compensated, and is recommending to the City Council that it should wait on the Premier. The committee would urge that the Slum Reclamation and Housing Act be amended to allow compensation to be paid.

£320,000 is required by the wine industry. During 1940 exports were 2½ millions of gallons less than normal, and no prospects of any shipments at all during 1941. The Premier of S.A., Mr. Playford, will make a request at the meeting of the Agricultural Council in Canberra on Tuesday.

The secretary of the Taxpayers Association, Mr. M. J. Pettigrove, in discussing the Federal Child Endowment plan, said that his

council was opposed to an extension of social services unless the States were prepared to initiate a big economy "in the interests of taxpayers."

At the annual meeting of the Northeast district council of the United Country party a motion expressing appreciation of the Dunstan Government was negated because the mover objected to deleting the concluding phrase—"and accords its fullest support for the future."

Sales of war savings certificates in Australia now total £17,399,342.

The Minister for Labor (Mr. Holt) has asked for an immediate report from his officers in every State on the unions' ban on overtime, the extent of its operation, and its effect, if any, on the war programme.

Mr. Holt said today that advice already received indicated that the effect of the ban was not as serious as was first thought, and apart from in New South Wales there had been little interference at all.

## MONDAY, JANUARY 27th.

The glut of flowers on Saturday's market caused several lines to ease.

New minimum prices for Commonwealth Government loans will come into force on 28th inst. Amended prices are 1-3rd higher than those ruling. Not acceptable for probate or estate duty.

At a mass meeting of ironworkers held in Adelaide, it was decided to impose a ban on overtime in all foundries in South Australia.

At the country conference of the State Labor Party, the proposal to end the political alliance between Labor and the Dunstan Government was defeated. A resolution demanding the repeal of the sales tax and that Federal and State Governments be urged to introduce an active decentralisation policy was adopted. Full time work of a permanent nature to replace the present sustenance scheme was accepted as desirable by Conference.

("Work" is the overcoming of a resistance through a distance by the aid of science. Wealth is what money buys. "He that does not think, neither shall he eat."—Chapman Cohen.)

A public meeting to protest against what is held to be unfair increases in certain prices in commodities is being organised by the Ballarat Trades and Labor Council.

(Taxation increases prices.)

Tomato growers at Shepparton said they would rather plough their tomatoes in than sell in Melbourne at 1/- per case nett return. They decided not to sell for less than 2/3 per case f.a.q. on the farm.

## TUESDAY, JANUARY 28th.

The breakaway group of the Labor Party in Sydney discussed its policy. One speaker said that the group's policy must be to encourage unofficial strikes and to defeat the fusing of rival political parties. The principal speaker said that the big monopolies ruled directly and almost completely in Canberra. Today a mighty strike wave was developing with a powerful common basis. The workers were resisting capitalism's wartime economic policy.

## Synthetic Petrol

Sydney "Daily Telegraph," 16th January:

"The Commonwealth Government has refused permission for the floatation of a company to develop synthetic petrol from sago in New Guinea. This was reported to a meeting of the executive council of Associated Transport yesterday. The meeting decided to ask the Prime Minister (Mr. Menzies) why permission to float the company had been refused.

It was stated that teats made of sago petrol by Commonwealth authorities showed that it was equal to imported spirit. Members said that overseas influence was preventing the establishment of the synthetic petrol industry, either in Australia or Mandated Territory."

It would seem that Australians will never be able to produce their own power spirit, until they have developed enough political spirit to FORCE the Federal Government to allow and assist our own chemists and engineers to get on with this urgent job. There are many petrol-producing substances besides sugar and sago available in Australia, but when the motorists and the primary producers "sago," our Federal "authorities," at the behest of the oil monopolies, say, "stop." Now, we are all in on this petrol "shortage," and we may shortly find ourselves in perilous circumstances as a result. It is EVERY elector's serious responsibility to see that we get RESULTS—or SAGO to these "authorities."

—"Scissors."

## THE GRAPPLE AND DESPAIR FRAUD AGAIN

Melbourne "Sun," January 25: "Apples will now be cheaper to the public—eating selling at 3d and 4d a lb mainly, and cooking 2d and 3d. This will be possible because of an appreciable reduction in board prices DUE TO LARGER SUPPLIES." (My capitals.)

We seem to recall that last year prices were so high that many thousands of people couldn't afford

apples; that returns to growers were so low that hundreds of them were reduced to virtual bankruptcy; and that hundreds of tons of apples were left to rot in the orchards. Apples are plentiful again; but if either the producers or the consumers put up with the Garden of Eden story this year—then they deserve to get nothing but the pip!

—"SCISSORS."

## WHY MAKE CRIMINALS?

(Continued from page 1.)

ever have Utopia—it would be boring anyway—but surely to goodness it isn't too much to hope that some day we'll have a sane, humane, decent, logical system to live under. And I don't care how often I repeat it, I'm going to keep on saying I'm fed up with seeing unemployment in a land where there's so much to be done that every man woman and child in the land could be kept busy for years to come. Look at the new Royal Melbourne Hospital—it's an inspiration to do so. There should be buildings like that all over the land; schools as well as hospitals. Look at our roads—some of them are good, but they're not good enough.

Yes, I know there's a war on. But I'm thinking of the time when the soldiers go back to work, when they try to pick up the threads of their lives again, when the wheels of the munition industry cease turning, when the people of the world will be so worn out, physically and, worse still, mentally, that they may accept anything in the way of "improved" conditions that may be dished up to them. I'm thinking that there's a big job ahead of us that it may be the biggest job any group of people has tackled since the war began. But the biggest thing we've got to fight is our old enemy—apathy. Not only in others, but in ourselves.

## U.E.A. NOTES

## BUSINESS MEETING.

On Wednesday, February 5, a business meeting will be held at the U.E.A. rooms. A review of the past year's work plans for the future, and the election of officers will constitute the agenda.

## LITERATURE.

Supplies of "Letter Forms" dealing with the recent National Security Regulation are available from the U.E.A. rooms at 1/6 per 100. It is most important that this campaign be prosecuted with the utmost vigour.

## APOLLO BAY DISTRICT.

Mr. J. Murchison, of Ferguson, will be pleased to hear from supporters in and around these districts with a view to organising meetings. Please get in touch direct at the above address.

## YALLOURN AND MOE.

The Yallourn group is planning an intensive drive against taxation, and has in view establishing a group at Moe. All who are prepared to assist, kindly contact U.E.A. office.

## SPECIAL LITERATURE.

Copies of "Money Power versus

## MENZIES UP A TREE

According to the Sydney "Sunday Telegraph" of January 26, Mr. Menzies once wrote a song; no doubt a lullaby for his dis-United Australia Party. Here it is:

"Softly sway the branches,  
Rustling in the breeze,  
Whispering notes of gladness;  
Murm'ring of the trees.  
Secret is their message,  
Words that none can tell—  
Music sweet and mystic,  
Like some old time spell."

Here is a reply received from "Scissors":

"Sickly sway the branches  
Of the toppling U.A.P.,  
Whispering notes of sadness;  
Scared of YOU and ME.  
No secret in OUR message,  
The rising tide will tell—  
EXPOSE the injustice of 42A,  
And break the old-time spell!"

Democracy," 10d, posted; "Answer to Tax Slavery," are now available. We recommend these strongly.

## STARTLING ALLEGATIONS IN BRITISH PARLIAMENT

(Continued from page 1.)

and other appropriate divisions of the Admiralty were informed fully by the Chief of Naval Staff of the movement of the ship? Was the Air Marshal commanding the Coastal Command told? I have been told he was not. Was the Vice-Admiral in charge of submarines told? I am told not. Was the Admiral commanding aircraft carriers told? I assume that the court must have gone into these points . . .

From the three vessels that went down apparently there were only 39 survivors. Is it true, as was stated in the Press — I have cuttings of interviews with survivors — that 1,000 and more men were on rafts for three nights and two days? I know the ship was out of touch, but it is said they did not see or hear anybody in that time, and what survivors there were, were picked up by a Norwegian steamer. I asked whether they had been searched for . . . There is a point with regard to the privileges of Members of this House to which I must refer in view of the rather Gestapo methods of the Minister of Labour this afternoon. I learned the names of one or two of the survivors, and got in touch with one of the officers and I was astonished to learn from him that he had had instructions—well, here is the telegram he sent me:

"Regret unable to see you. Admiralty instructions." It seems to me very wrong that that should be the case. I would not have raised the point but for the fact that the Minister of Labour has taken the same line, and I am against the Gestapo, whether they are members of my party or not. I strongly resent having received that telegram . . .

If I am asked to furnish the name, I must ask the First Lord whether I can have an absolute and definite assurance that the person concerned will not get into trouble, because unless he gives me that assurance I cannot accede to his request . . .

There are one or two other matters, which have caused uneasiness in the public mind with regard to the Naval Staff. It began with the "Courageous," where it appears that something was very much amiss. We were told there was to be a court of inquiry or court-martial. I want to ask what was the result of that court of inquiry. Then there was the case of the "Royal Oak" — profoundly disturbing. It was with great amazement that the public learned that a submarine had penetrated the important base of Scapa. There, again, regretfully, 800 men were drowned, mostly clogged with oil, with other units of the Fleet not far off. It seems inconceivable that something was not wrong with the Admiralty or the Naval Staff, and I should like to know what disciplinary action was taken. Then we had the shocks of Norway. The German Navy took incredible risks in circumstances, which were extremely favourable to us and got away with it. On 11th April the Prime Minister said in this House:

"All German ships in the Skaggerak and the Kattegat will be sunk, and by night, all ships will be sunk, as opportunity serves."—[Official Report, 11th April 1940; col. 748, Vol. 359.]

They were not, and the fact that Norway was a disaster led to the fall of the last Government. The First Lord became Prime Minister, but the Naval Staff remained unchanged. Then there was the inconclusive action at Oran. Whatever one's personal view may be of that

particular incident, it enabled the escape of the "Strasbourg" and the retention by France of a large number of her smaller craft and her light cruisers, of which we shall probably hear more. Then there was the Dakar fiasco, which we all regret. Next came the passage of the French cruisers through the Straits of Gibraltar. A rumour has reached me that the Admiral-in-charge at Gibraltar had not even got steam up. If that is so, I should like to know what disciplinary action has been taken. I would remind the House that all this while the Naval Staff remained unchanged, and apparently it is to go on. Finally, there was the loss of the "Empress of Britain" and our other mercantile shipping losses. I am not going to say much about them, but in talking to men of the Mercantile Marine I gather that some of them criticise our present convoy policy, and I should like to ask the First Lord whether he is satisfied that the policy adopted is the right one. Is it not possible that perhaps we are a little too much afraid of bombs from the air? . . .

I have not a word to say against what I would call, though the expression may be un-Parliamentary, "the guts of the business," because there are no finer naval men anywhere in the world than ours, but it is on the administration and planning side that I feel there is something which requires a certain amount of explaining. I would remind the First Lord that if I have raised the question of the Navy Staff that does not mean that one does not recognise the tremendous devotion to duty of those officers, and, of course, of the First Lord himself . . .

**Commander Bower** (Cleveland): . . . I have just come back from three months at sea, engaged on convoy work. Before that I was naval liaison officer to the Commander-in-Chief of the RAF Coastal Command, in constant touch with Operations Staff at the Admiralty — almost daily touch. I would like to confirm everything said by the hon. Member who has just spoken. In the course of my duty, I came into touch with the Admiralty and, in the early part of June I was approached by a number of officers on the Operations Staff at the Admiralty. I do not mean silly young officers, but officers who were, for the most part, between the ages of 40 and 50, holding responsible positions. I can assure the House that, at that time, there was grave disquiet not only about the episode, which we are now discussing but about the whole conduct of naval operations in Norway from the point of view of the higher command.

Naturally I feel very diffident at raising these matters in the House, but I can assure hon. Members that I shall in no way disclose anything, which may be of assistance to the enemy. Five months have now elapsed since this not inconsiderable disaster took place. Considerations of secrecy are no longer operative, except for one reason, and that is to conceal the deficiencies of high officers. The officers to whom I have already referred . . . gave me a definite request that I should raise the matter on the Floor of the House of Commons. . . . I refused at once. I said that it would be quite indefensible for me, as an officer serving on the naval staff, to use information, which I got in the course of my duties in order to bring up such matters in this House. . . . I told them I could not do it, but I added: "There is one thing I can do. As a Member of Parliament

I have the privilege and constitutional right of access to every Minister of the Crown." I think hon. Members agree with me that I have that right. I said: "I will see the First Lord of the Admiralty."

It happened that the First Lord was fully occupied. As a matter of fact, he was at Bordeaux. I myself in those strenuous days of evacuation from Dunkirk and after was fully occupied with my naval duties. I could not see the First Lord, but I wrote him a letter in which I pointed out the grave concern, which was felt among responsible members of the naval staff at the conduct of the operations in Norway and in connection with the loss of the "Glorious." The fact was that the evacuation of Narvik was considered, for reasons hitherto undisclosed, of such a secret nature that none but the higher officers were informed that it was to take place. Naturally an operation of that sort would, in normal circumstances, involve the closest co-operation between the staffs of the Admiralty, the RAF Coastal Command, Vice-Admiral Commanding Submarines and other high officers. Such co-operation never took place. I can give my personal word for that. I was myself on duty at the Coastal Command at the time. We knew nothing about it. I have no time to go into details, but the fact is that this ship was sunk and those lives were lost and even such highly placed officers as the Director of Operations at the Admiralty knew nothing about it.

**Mr. Alexander:** What was it that the Director of Operations knew nothing about?

**Commander Bower:** I am prepared to tell the First Lord that the Director of Operations was not informed, according to what he told me, at the time fully, as to what was happening in connection with the evacuation of Narvik. Certain it is that the Operations Staff at the Coastal Command R.A.F., of which I was a member, did not know. Certain it is that all the junior members of the Operations Staff at the Admiralty, whose duty it would have been to provide the plans, did not know either . . .

I wrote this letter to the First Lord. Far from realising that I had acted with discretion and with forbearance in raising the matter privately he sent for me and told me he took the greatest exception to the letter for various reasons. I protested. I said that as a Member of Parliament I had an absolute, not a relative, privilege to write him such a letter, whether I was a serving officer or not. He contested that. He said it was not so. He argued for a while. He then became very friendly. He said: "This has put me in a very difficult position, vis-à-vis the Sea Lords." I asked him why, and he then admitted that he had shown my letter to the First Sea Lord. I do not think that was a very proper proceeding to show a letter from a Member of Parliament, writing in his capacity as an M.P. to a Minister. He then said, "Look here, this has put me in a very awkward position. Naturally, these fellows do not like having you at coastal command with access to the Admiralty. Will you accept another appointment?" I replied, "Certainly."

He said, "I would like you to accept an appointment at sea," and I replied, "Certainly, only too delighted." The House will remember that we were faced with imminent invasion. To cut a long story short, he offered me an appointment. Acting on his description of that appointment, which description subsequently turned out to be what I can only describe as a false prospectus, I accepted. He asked me whether I would go to do an anti-submarine course and I said "Yes."

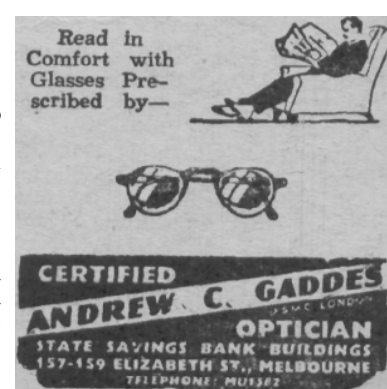
I went down there. When I got there I found a lot of my old naval friends who, when they heard that I had been appointed to this position said, "What on earth are you doing there? It is a most inferior command." I replied, "The First Lord has promised me that the new command will be every bit as good as my last appointment," but I was a little anxious about the matter.

I then came back to the Admiralty, where I found exactly the same thing. In the Anti-Submarine Department of the Admiralty the officers said, "Why are you going to a command of this description? These corvettes are to be commanded by lieutenants R.N.R. and R.N.V.R." This information upset me. I had another interview with the First Lord, when he again assured me that he had my interests at heart and that I was in no way being victimised. Not until I got to my command, and was safely away doing 10 days at sea and three days in harbour did I discover that what the First Lord said was entirely wrong and what my friends said in the Navy was entirely right. In other words, a Member of Parliament was victimised for expressing certain opinions, which in my view he had a perfect right to express, about the conduct of those operations. I have no personal grievance, because at all times I was free to come back to my Parliamentary duties, which I have now done. The point is that there was, and is still, on the naval staff, and throughout the Navy, a feeling of grave disquiet as to the conduct of those operations. One of the people much criticised in the Navy has gone, the late Commander-in-Chief of the Home Fleet. I will say nothing about him, but at the present moment there is definite disquiet about the Board of Admiralty as a whole. I dislike saying this, but after all I expressed it privately to the First Lord, and all I got was victimisation. There is grave disquiet in regard to the Board of Admiralty collectively and especially about the First Sea Lord. . . .

I have referred to a personal episode that would normally have been raised by me as a matter of privilege. In present times, I hope the House will agree with me, that would be undesirable, but at the same time I want to have placed on record in the Official Report of this House what has happened and the reply of the right hon. Gentleman if he has one. Also, I propose to take certain steps and inform you, Mr. Speaker, and the Prime Minister of what has happened. From the point of view of Members of this House who are serving in the Armed Forces, I want to read out something which the right, hon. Gentleman the First Lord of the Admiralty wrote to me. This is the issue between us, and this is what I contest. He says:

"It is true that any Member of Parliament has, on the question of privilege, the right to approach a Minister, but it is also true, as I have already explained to you, that a Minister then has the right to judge the

(Continued on page 8.)



## W.A. PARLIAMENT'S FURTHER DEMAND FOR MONEY REFORM

(Continued from Last Issue.)

On November 6, as briefly reported in our "West Australian Notes" of November 29, the Legislative Assembly of that State re-affirmed its demand that the Federal Government use the Commonwealth Bank to provide adequate financial credit for national purposes "without inflation or any charge."

We considered the debate which preceded the passing of the resolution, by 28 votes to 6, of sufficient interest to our readers to warrant publishing it in full, but its length is such that we are only printing part of it in each of several issues. The editor would welcome readers' views on this experiment. Here is the sixth instalment from "Hansard":

**Mr. Marshall:** Why cannot you secure markets?

**Hon. S. G. Latham:** Surely the hon. member himself can answer that question!

**Mr. Raphael:** Still, plenty of our people are hungry,

**Hon. C. G. Latham:** I do not believe there are hungry people in this State. There was a time when it was difficult to get sufficient food, but that has not been so in recent years.

**Mr. Marshall:** Then the farmers are all right!

**Hon. C. G. Latham:** They are not hungry.

**Mr. Marshall:** Then what about—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order! Will the member for Murchison keep order?

**Hon. C. G. Latham:** All this talk about farmers living on boiled wheat and treacle is mere bunkum. There is no truth in that statement at all. If I were to take the member for Murchison to even the worst parts of my electorate and I announced his coming, he would be proud to sit down to the meal the local people would provide. It is no use making out that the position today is worse than it is. It is desperately bad for the farmer, but that is because he is experiencing difficulty in obtaining credit, owing to the fact that his industry has failed him and that he has no market for his surplus products. Then there is the drought. I do not blame this or any other Government for those two things. Inflationary currency will not assist the farmer.

**Mr. Marshall:** I am not proposing to inflate currency.

**Hon. C. G. Latham:** I would like to know what the hon. member intends to do. He has not yet made an explanation.

**Mr. Speaker:** The member for Murchison may explain when he replies.

**Hon. C. G. Latham:** I said that he had not made an explanation. He may be able to explain when he replies how he proposes to bring about this Utopia. I am as anxious as he to provide the best conditions possible for our people.

**Mr. Marshall:** Nothing of the kind. You have not the slightest intention of doing so.

**Mr. Speaker:** I must ask the member for Murchison to keep order. He has the right of reply.

**Hon. C. G. Latham:** Does the hon. member tell me that the New Zealand Government—

**Mr. Speaker:** There is nothing in the motion about the New Zealand Government.

**Hon. S. G. Latham:** We are trying to get somewhere with a new monetary system. Let us consider what has happened elsewhere in the world. I point to what occurred in Alberta.

**Mr. North:** You know what stopped that, don't you?

**Hon. C. G. Latham:** I know very well the conditions that obtained in Edmonton some two and a half or three years ago. I have not had a letter from there recently, but I know the people are in a bad way.

**Mr. North:** The Government there was returned.

**Hon. C. G. Latham:** That Government changed its policy and was returned with a reduced majority.

**Mr. North:** Anyway, it was returned.

**Hon. C. G. Latham:** It changed its policy. Today one does not hear anything about Aberhardt; Alberta is going along quietly. Whether or not the member for Murchison believes me, I desire to improve conditions for our people; but I do not want to mislead the public into thinking that it is easy to accomplish what the hon. member is seeking. It is not an easy job. I am prepared to trust our Premier while he has a majority of the people behind him—or rather, has control of the House, because I do not believe he has a majority of the people behind him. I am convinced he would get away from, the orthodox methods of finance if he thought that by doing so he could solve our financial problems and provide profitable work for people out of employment.

**The Minister for Works:** If it is intended to inflate, the best thing is not to talk about it.

**Hon. C. G. Latham:** There has been inflation over a number of years, I compared the pound today with the pound of 1913; it has a different value altogether. As long as inflation is controlled, people pay without being aware that they are actually paying.

**The Minister for Works:** Mr. Theodore laid the snare in front of the bird.

**Hon. C. G. Latham:** When the new financial system was adopted in Germany, business places were forced to register. If they charged a higher price for an article than the fixed price, they were fined heavily and had their license cancelled. In that way Germany controlled prices. Wages there are extremely low and hours extremely long. When I was in Germany the chemical works at Bavaria were working two shifts in 24 hours. Those are conditions we do not desire here. The remedy is not so simple as the member for Murchison would have us believe. If I thought it would relieve our financial difficulties, his motion would have my support.

**Mr. Hughes (East Perth):** I am desirous of moving an amendment to delete all the words after "system" in line 7 of the motion.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member has already spoken to the motion.

**Mr. Hughes:** But I am intending to move another amendment.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member is not permitted to speak again to the motion.

**Mr. Hughes:** May not I move another amendment?

**Mr. Speaker:** No.

**Mr. Hughes:** I understood you told the Premier that he could do so.

**Mr. Speaker:** Yes, but the member for East Perth may not.

**Mr. Hughes:** It is news to me that a member is limited to one amendment.

## JAPAN AND U.S.A.

"... If we are embroiled in a war with Japan, we cannot lay all the blame on the Japanese. The deterioration in Anglo-Japanese relations began in 1922, when under pressure from the U.S.A., we denounced the Anglo-Japanese Alliance, notwithstanding that Japan had stood loyally and ungrudgingly by all her treaty obligations to us right through the war of 1914-18. The second point is connected with this passage in Mr. Churchill's speech:—

"However that is for the Japanese to judge for themselves—with whom we have never wished to quarrel and to whom we have rendered great services in the past. Great services have been rendered to them by the people of the United States and Great Britain in all lines since 1907.

"That may be true of us; it is certainly true of America, for the amount of goods—especially war materials—that America has sold to Japan since 1936 "is, without exaggeration, staggering. That was good business for the land of the Almighty Dollar, the land where money does not talk but screams."

—From "Truth" (England),

October 11, 1940.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member has already spoken to the motion, which is still before the Chair.

**Mr. Hughes:** But if I moved an amendment, I would speak only to the amendment.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member is not in order.

**Mr. Hughes:** I would speak only to the amendment.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order! The hon. member is not in order.

(To be continued.)

## UNITED DEMOCRATS' REPORT

From Headquarters, 17

Waymouth Street, Adelaide.

Rally at Headquarters: Members and friends please reserve Saturday evening, February 1, for important business meeting. Matters of great moment to the whole movement have to be discussed and decisions arrived at. Don't leave it to the other fellow to attend, for he'll probably leave it to you. This is your business, and vital to your interests. We have a big job ahead of us this year, and as Mr. Menzies says, we need every ounce of energy available for the task. We have proposals to put before you and we want your advice, help and enthusiastic effort to carry them out. Don't be a defeatist and pessimist and get scared at what might happen; everything that happens we can turn to account and make it work for us instead of against us. But we must have united effort.

To relieve the gravity of the proceedings, our Treasurer will give a short report of his recent visit to the Eastern States, with impressions of some outstanding personalities he met there.

Supper will be served by the ladies, as usual.

Regulation 42a.—Inquiries at Headquarters during the past fortnight have been phenomenal, due almost entirely to the interest aroused by this attempt to curtail our liberty and prevent criticism of the Government's financial policy. Such interest is gratifying, for it shows that the democratic spirit is keenly alive. Like the Scotch thistle, it isn't wise to trample on it.

—MARY H. GRAY,

Hon. Secretary.

## A BOOK YOU MUST READ

### "The Money Power Versus Democracy"

By Eric D. Butler. Price, 10d posted.

This book is being acclaimed by readers from all over Australia as the finest exposition of political and economic democracy to yet appear in this country. A former executive of the Queensland movement, now residing in Melbourne, told a meeting of Melbourne supporters in the Centenary Hall on Sunday, December 15, 1940, that this was the best book he had read during his ten years of activity. He urged supporters to buy copies and pass them around.

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A summary of Political strategy. The campaign director of the N.S.W. Division of the Electoral Campaign has written as follows about this brochure: "We consider this to be a masterly presentation of vital factors, and probably the finest article that has yet appeared in any paper in this country."

The above are obtainable from the "New Times Box 1226, G.P.O., Melbourne

## STARTLING ALLEGATIONS IN BRITISH PARLIAMENT

(Continued from page 6.)

merits of the subject of the approach."

Put into plain language, that simply means that the right hon. Gentleman the First Lord of the Admiralty contends that any member who is serving in the Armed Forces has the right to write to him, but that having done so he has a right to victimise him as if he were not a Member of Parliament. I cannot let that pass, and that is why today I have mentioned what may appear to be a personal matter. To return to the main subject of this Debate, it is no use the First Lord of the Admiralty getting up and saying that there has been and is no disquiet in the Admiralty. I am not the only officer who has been made the subject of these Gestapo methods. I would say this in conclusion: We in this country are not fighting against Hitler in order to set up the First Lord of the Admiralty as a little pinch back Himmler with a tin pot Gestapo.

**Mr. Alexander...** Unless Members of Parliament who also desire to serve their country in the position of officers in the fighting services can use proper discretion in such matters, then it is absolutely essential that they should revert to their Parliamentary duties, or alternatively retain their status as an officer and give up their Parliamentary duties.

On the question of victimisation I submit that there never was any. But that I should not be allowed to show a long letter full of charges against the Naval Staff, to the head of the naval side of the Admiralty, is unthinkable . . .

I regret that he (Commander Bower) has taken the line, which he has taken on that matter, and has decided that he is better able to serve his country as a Member of Parliament than as a serving naval officer. The suggestion made in his speech that I had been guilty of Gestapo methods or had issued to him a false prospectus of what he could expect in his new appointment, was entirely without foundation. My only regret, in view of his speech is that, instead of giving him the opportunity which I did, of serving his country in a sea command, I did not ask him at once to revert to the ordinary duties of a Member of Parliament.

**Commander Bower:** Why does the right hon. Gentleman so despise the ordinary duties of a Member of Parliament? We are ordinary Members of Parliament first, and serving officers second.

**Mr. Alexander:** The hon. and gallant Member has experience in the two capacities. His experience as a Member of Parliament is, I think not so long as his experience as a naval officer . . .

I hope that, although the hon. Member for Ipswich may think probably that, as he seemed to prophesy, I have evaded his inquiries, he will also remember that our first, and our only duty, it seems to me, at the moment, is to concentrate upon beating a very ruthless and very vicious enemy. If I thought that by answering in detail the questions which the hon. Member had put to me I could better help to win this war, I would have no hesitation at all, believe me. If the hon. Member considers he has not been given sufficiently courteous treatment, all I would say is that a number of Members of the House would testify that where they have been anxious about certain aspects of the naval conduct of this war, they have not hesitated to come and speak to me personally, and I do not think that any Member who has come to me—with the possible exception of the personal service question raised by the hon. and gallant Member for Cleveland—has had any reason to complain about the way his approaches have been met. If I can be of any assistance to Members of this honourable House in satisfying their anxieties or in giving information, which would be helpful to them in changing or improving Admiralty policy, I am always at their service.

### NOTICE

In Adelaide the Social Credit Study Class will commence its third term at the rooms of the United Democrats, 17 Waymouth Street, on Thursday, February 6, 1941, at 8 p.m. Subject for term: "International Finance."

—D. J. AMOS, F.A.I.S.

## "LOOKING FORWARD"

(Continued from page 3.)

DUAL ELECTOR TO THE INDIVIDUAL MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT) to certain of the Government's iniquitous proposals, and even enactments. The carrying of often nebulous resolutions sent by abstract bodies to abstract bodies, was followed by the acceptance of PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY when the people were encouraged to do something about the matter THEMSELVES, in many cases for the first time in their electoral experiences. Thousands of electors were brought to the realisation that THEY THEMSELVES had a REPRESENTATIVE in Parliament, and not merely their party; that in the face of the powers opposing him their Member's representation was practically impotent—without the OVERWHELMING WEIGHT OF PUBLIC OPINION BEHIND HIM, expressed in an unmistakable form.

I would ask also how many people—even including those who have taken a real interest in public affairs — have constituted an effective challenge to the system and those who directly perpetuate it? It has been clearly shown that no major reform has been achieved without unity of purpose on a grand scale.

Following upon the full appreciation of our sub-section "B," we must make an immediate and determined educational drive to (now quoting sub-section "C") "USE ALL LAWFUL MEANS TO ENSURE THAT SUCH BODIES SHALL OBEY THESE DEMANDS." Any suggestion that those "lawful means" may be denied us MUST BE OPPOSED WITH EVERY WORD OF MOUTH AND PRINT, AND EVERY OUNCE OF STRENGTH WHICH WE POSSESS. Tomorrow may be too late!

For the sake of example, deviating from the main theme of my remarks, this Section 42A of the National Security Regulations is the latest, and most virulent design upon the people's freedom of speech and liberty. Can we expect any mere "leader" or "party" to oppose successfully such an outrage against our intelligence—whilst we allow the masses to look on helplessly and await the outcome? What do you readers think? Personally, my mind is made up. Knowing the power of vested interests behind this thing, and knowing the contributory

weight of misguided opinion which will be attracted to it in the abstractions referred to as "loyalty" and "patriotism," WE MUST NOT REST UNTIL THE SHEER WEIGHT OF PRESSURE POLITICS HAS CRUSHED THE EVIL MEASURE, even as one might crush a venomous reptile in our midst. Should we as a people fail to do this, then the future of reform work in this country may be dark indeed. But, I do not think we shall fail.

In conclusion, to get back to my point, and more especially for the benefit of any who may be in doubt about the policy and objectives of the United Electors of Australia (Non-Party), may I quote the final sub-section "D" of section 1, which reads: "As part of this purpose, within the electorates, to organise voters to use their votes to support such candidates as shall subscribe to these demands, to support their representative while he shows himself willing to carry out these demands, or to work to replace him if he refuses to give effect to the wishes of his constituents."

## NEW GUINEA NATIVES CAN'T PAY TAX

This recent "Sun" headline. In addressing the Copra Industry Conference, Mr. Leonard Murray, Papuan Administrator, was reported as follows:

"We have for years induced natives to plant coconuts individually, and to make coconut plantations collectively. By this means they have been able to pay their taxes and gratify their simple needs. The fact that the Government seems to have misled them about the return they would derive from their industry has produced some bewilderment, which might easily undermine their confidence in us to some degree."

There are coconuts a-plenty, but money is so lax, Darkies' confidence in us is apt to wane; Even natives in New Guinea cannot pay the bankers' tax, Yet it's not nature, nuts, nor niggers that's to blame.

—"Scissors."

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Printed by H. B. Kuntzen, 143-151 a'Beckett Street, Melbourne, for New Times Limited, McEwan House, Melbourne.