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EVERY FRIDAY

THE NEW TIMES

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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).

# Industrial Conscription Is Not Necessary!

## Significant Revelations In The S.A. Parliament

One of the Stratagems by which the big bureaucrats and the socialistic planners at Canberra endeavour to dodge the blame for the effects of their own meddling and muddling is to blame the alleged absenteeism and slacking of the workers—a trick which gives the aforesaid power-lusters an excuse for "wielding the big stick" (their favourite pastime).

Further evidence of the utter falsity of this despicable slur on Australian workers was given in the course of a recent speech in the South Australian Legislative Assembly by the Member for Chaffey (Mr. W. Macgillivray). According to the S.A. Hansard" (pp 169-170, No. 3, second session, thirtieth Parliament), he said:

Tremendous charges have been made against the munitions system by persons employed in the manufacture of munitions. I do not believe there is one member of the House who has not been informed by credible persons that employees in our munitions factories have not been allowed to give their full possible output. I know of at least half a dozen people who have come from the country to do their best in the war effort and have been bitterly disappointed. I have one case in writing which I will put before the House, reserving the right not to mention the name of the firm or the person concerned. I believe that is only fair, because the writer of the letter seeks an inquiry. I cannot say which party is right, and I think the names should not be published, but I will make them available to the Premier. The letter is addressed to the Hon. Norman Makin, M.H.R., Minister for Munitions, Melbourne under date June 27, 1942. It states: I have been employed for the last six months as an iron worker in—works, I am confident there is little, if any, capricious absenteeism, on the part of industrial workers. Very few wage earners deliberately minimise their full weeks pay by staying away without good cause, but there is a tremendous loss of production through idle time in the factories—which is -----What is actually happening is that operatives cannot get the materials in sufficient quantity to keep them fully employed. As a matter of fact, in the section of the works in which I am employed, there is keen rivalry amongst the men to find "something to do", but they have to "go slow" in order to spread the time over the work. For the last three weeks, I have been able to deal with all the material placed in my hands in less than two-thirds of the time I have had to fill in. Obviously, the men feel indisposed, or it is a very wet day and they know that work is "slack" in the factory, there is no patriotic obligation to deter them from having a "day off" and by so doing they lose

that day's wages. Instead of Mr. Makin threatening to "take action to discipline those who stayed away from work without good reason," he might possibly do something to justify the bureaucratic position he occupies if he can find out the cause of who is responsible for the loss of production within the factories where men are being paid full time, time and a half, or even double time, for work which can actually be done in one-third to one-half the time paid for. From information I have from workers in other factories, this loss of production and payment for "time" and not for results, is general through no fault of the employees. I do not think that the employers are to blame, any more than the men, but if we are to make a maximum war effort, some speedy and searching investigation is imperative, in order to discover the reason why our manpower is being wasted and our war output sabotaged. As Minister for Munitions, as well as representative for the District of Hindmarsh, in which many of these factories are located, I ask you to institute a searching inquiry into this matter of loss of production—it calls for immediate attention.

All this worker asked for was an inquiry, which one would assume the factory management would welcome. To make the position clear, I should mention that this worker did not go behind the backs of the management. He sent a copy of the letter to the management. Instead of this man's patriotic action being welcomed, he was immediately called before the superintendent, manager, and foreman of the works and "put on the mat." In addition to those gentlemen, there was a stenographer present—the complete set-up for Star Chamber methods. The first thing the manager said to him was, "Did you send that letter to the Minister for Munitions?" to which he replied, "Yes." Then the manager said, "Have you no loyalty for the firm you work for?" to which the worker again replied, "Yes," and said he had a bigger loyalty to the nation that had kept him for 65 years. He then asked the manager what all the fuss was about, and whether he was frightened of an inquiry, and the manager said he would welcome

it. However, the manager then got abusive, and the whole thing finished up by the worker giving a week's notice. He did it in the heat of the moment, and the manager, evidently anxious to get rid of him, accepted the notice.

During the night the worker thought the matter over, and came to the conclusion that he had made a mistake in giving notice, because he would then be accused of running away from the very inquiry he sought. So he returned in the morning and reported to the foreman that he wished to withdraw his verbal notice. After seeing the manager the foreman returned and said, "You can take the week's notice." He was subsequently paid off. Even assuming that the worker was wrong, his only sin was that he was enthusiastic about the needs of the Empire and was anxious that the factory should work at full capacity, but for his patriotic action he was sacked.

The story only begins there. His fellow workers were most indignant when they heard what had happened, immediately a section of them said they would not stand for such action, and suggested that they should go on strike until the man was reinstated. Even if we do not support such action, there was at least certain justification for it. However, the worker who wrote the letter said he did not support the proposal, and reminded them that if they struck they would undo what he was seeking. He suggested that they should hold a lunch-hour meeting and discuss the problem in their own time. Eventually the men did so, and the following resolutions were carried:

We, the employees of ----- and members of associated unions, in meeting here assembled, this 8th day of July, 1942, hereby determine and resolve:—

1 That we support and indorse the statements made by a fellow-employee in his letter to the Hon. Norman Makin, Minister for Munitions, of June 27, regarding the loss of production, and we hereby challenge the management to put the statements contained in that letter to the test by joining with us in demanding an impartial, searching, and immediate inquiry into the production position of this and other engineering works.

2 That pending such inquiry Mr. ----- shall not be penalised by dismissal, nor victimised in any way for having written to his representative in the Federal Parliament, and that at such inquiry he shall be given an opportunity to vindicate his statements.

3 We further determine and resolve that we want it clearly understood by the general public, by those in governmental positions, by members of Parliament, and by the management of these works that as it is our desire to support our brothers and comrades in the front line fighting forces with the best and most, efficient equipment which this factory is capable of producing in the shortest possible time, that we will, therefore, not sanction or take any action in connection with this issue which would tend in any way to further reduce that production.

4 That copies of these resolutions and of Mr. -----'s letter to Mr. Makin be for-

(Continued on Page 4)

## NOTES ON THE NEWS

Stay-at-home barrackers for a "second" front will be sobered by the statement of the Canadian Minister for Defence, who, in commenting on the Dieppe raid, said that "only 1500 Canadians returned unharmed out of 5000." The British losses were not mentioned, nor the fact that the R.A.F. lost ninety-eight 'planes. It was also pointed out that "this (second front) agitation contains the seeds of friction which can have far-reaching effects."

**YES-NO:** In column 9 on the front page of the Melbourne "Herald" dated September 21 it was officially announced that "the Japanese had been cleared from Milne Bay." In column 7 on the same page it was stated that "the Australians have by no means totally cleared the Milne Bay area." Those innocents who believe the "Herald" must have been in a quandary this time!

**PRESUMPTUOUS SERVANTS:** The U.S. Secretary for War, Mr. Stimson, is reported as opposing absentee voting for soldiers; which is in line with the continuous efforts of politicians to disfranchise their employers (the electors). In New Zealand recently the electors were disfranchised when their political servants extended their own jobs and pay. Two similar suggestions are being put forward here by unnamed persons; the first is to extend the term of Federal Parliament to five years, and the second is to postpone elections—thus emulating Hitler and Co. The only construction that we, the electors, can place on such politicians' proposals is that these servants of ours want to boss US! We must "tell them where they get off."

**AUSTERITY:** Commenting on the "austerity" campaign, Mr. Withall, of the Chamber of Manufacturers, suggested that the term "austerity" was merely a catchword when one considered the endless appointments of union secretaries to sinecure posts, the endless string of Committees and Boards, and the bigger and better accommodation for the New Bureaucracy. Mr. Withall seems to have overlooked the philosophy of dictators: "Don't do as I do; do as I tell you."

**HOUSING SCHEMES:** Mrs. Herbert Brookes is reported in the Melbourne press as being a strong advocate of community houses with nice garden plots. Quite a lot of these society high-lights obtain publicity on such matters. In pre-war days Mrs. Brookes's "at homes" were featured, showing sections of her palatial, individualistic and artistic home surrounded by magnificent gardens—which indicated that her own personal taste, quite rightly, is not for community homes (modern slums). No, those are for "the other fellow"! That's the attitude of most of these so-called "welfare leaders." The answer to all these humbugs, and their housing schemes, is to give the people the money and let them select their own houses where they want them.

**LIQUID FUEL:** A recent press report stated that South Australia's power-

alcohol production was not being fully used, although its use would save more manpower than using gas-producers. The report stated that "the sale of power-alcohol was held up mainly because of the action of the Fuel Board in compelling gas-producers to be fitted." So the socialistic planners spend thousands on erecting power-alcohol producing plants—and at the same time prevent the product from being fully used. It is becoming painfully obvious that these theorists hiding their incompetence behind Boards and Committees must be restrained in order that our war effort shall not suffer.

**CHILD HEALTH:** Dr. H. Williams, Medical Superintendent of the Children's Hospital, pointed out in his annual report that "there had been a lack of endowment (money) recently for research on child diseases." It should be noted that politicians who are responsible for allowing this money shortage are the self-same windy orators who bemoan our declining birthrate. Their action in permitting this appalling situation should be sufficient evidence of their lack of sincerity or intelligence—or both.

**MENTAL MESS:** It is reported that accommodation is so bad that inmates of Victorian mental hospitals are sleeping on the floors of day rooms. It would be interesting to know what the inmates think of the planners responsible for this mess. The report also states that although the number of female inmates had increased, there had been a reduction of males. In view of the present state of affairs, this situation raises an interesting point: Whether the shortage of male inmates is caused by the prior claims of Committees and planning Boards?

**BIG JOB?:** The U.S. Army Relief Fund, according to a U.S. news item, stands ready to help soldiers' dependents in cases where insurance or benefits did not arrive after a soldier's death, where his pay was delayed, where transfer difficulties caused money difficulties, or where induction (conscription) into the army upset his family budget. If the U.S. Army's pay arrangements are anything like ours, whoever operates the Army Relief Fund will certainly have a busy time.

**U.S. BOOSTS US:** Joseph Harsch, "Christian Science Monitor" word-spinner, hands Australia the following kid-stakes: "For all their provincialism and passionate resistance to discipline, Australians have produced a war effort which American Generals wish could be reproduced in the United States." —O. B. H.

## BUTTER SUBSIDY OF PRICE INCREASE?

In all parts of Australia dairy farmers are selling their herds to replace the low-paid drudgery of the farm with more congenial remunerative work in the cities. Production has already dropped by almost 15 per cent.

To stop the drift from the farms, and to off-set this increase in farm costs, dairymen's leaders have demanded a 3d. per lb. rise in the price of butter. There is general agreement in farming circles that this increase in returns to the farmer is justified, but there are two schools of thought and action—as to how the increased return shall be financed.

The major section, headed by the Victorian Dairyman's Association in this State, are for loading the extra 3d. into the price of butter to the consumer. The minor, more progressive section, desire the Government to reimburse the farmers by the means of a subsidy, such subsidy not to be paid from the collection of taxes but as a draft on the national credit. As was only to be expected, the demands of the Victorian Dairyman's Association for an increase in the price to the consumer realised a storm of protest among the progressives.

There we find the Curtin Government between two fires; pressure on the one hand from the farmers and on the other from the main body of its party supporting the workers, who resent a rise in the cost of living. Nevertheless, an all round rise in the cost of living (inflation) is taking place.

We said the Curtin Government was

between two fires—we should have said three. The solution to the problem lies in a departure from orthodox financial methods, granting to the farmer an adequate return, without increasing the burdens of the consumer. This is the last thing High Finance will permit. Austerity may be all right for the farmer, or for the housewife, but for High Finance it is something to be imposed upon other people and not practised by oneself. And High Finance has the whip-hand of the Curtin Government, whether or not it is admitted by the Government itself. If this is not so then let Mr. Curtin and his Government colleagues hasten to prove it.

That they have to stop the drift from the dairy farms before long is certain, or go down in Australian political history as the greatest muddlers of all time. That they can save the dairying industry from collapse and assure the Australian people an adequate supply of dairy products, without increasing the burdens of the consumer, is known to them.

Major C. H. Douglas outlined the methods whereby this could be done years ago. That this preventive of price inflation has not been adopted is due to the sinister control over national policy exerted by a small group of private bankers who care neither for the primary producer or the struggles of the city housewife to make ends meet.

Let the producer and the housewife unite against the common enemy.

—H. A. Hotchkiss.

# 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.

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## TEMPORARY FOUR-PAGE "NEW TIMES"

Owing to the difficulty and uncertainty, under present war-time circumstances, of maintaining normal supplies of newsprint for the "New Times," we find it absolutely necessary to reduce the paper to four pages, so as to conserve our dwindling stocks of newsprint. We hope that this temporary expedient will be of short duration.

By using closer type, smaller headings and smaller type in some instances, and wider and deeper columns, as well as rigidly restricting all kinds of advertising, the average amount of actual reading-matter will NOT be seriously reduced. The essentials of our usual coverage of news and views will be fully maintained.

The foregoing changes of type, etc., will greatly increase our printing costs per page, while further restrictions of advertising will involve some loss of revenue. Apart from these two factors, costs in general (including that of newsprint) have increased substantially since the price of the "New Times" was adjusted fifteen months ago, and further increases in our costs may occur at any moment. Therefore, it seems neither practicable nor wise to reduce our price at present.

It is with extreme reluctance that this reduction in the number of pages has been decided upon. However, we have refrained from such action as long as possible; in fact, the "New Times" is the last paper of its kind to take this step. We are confident that our readers appreciate the difficulties under which we labour, and will continue their support.

## PERTINENT PARS

(From the "Social Creditor," England.)

Mr. Solly Bloom, President Roosevelt's right-hand man, expresses himself as pleased with the military report made to him by Mr. Churchill. On the other hand, Senator Ellender, of Louisiana, considers that the British are not fit to command their own troops and proposes President Roosevelt as supreme commander, "to avoid another Tobruk."

An alternative proposal to place the American Navy under Admiral Cunningham in order to avoid another Pearl Harbour is considered to be in bad taste.

"The opening gambit could not well be bettered: 'determination to make the utmost sacrifice in the interest of Victory.' He (Dr. Paul Einzig) does not say 'to win the war with, the least possible sacrifice of life, liberty, and property', but as a life-long enemy of liberty and property, sedulously cultivates the idea that the destruction of these things, of itself contributes to Victory."—Sir Ernest Benn, in "Truth." Of course it does, Sir Ernest. Hadn't you realised that The Big Idea is just that?

"It has sometimes been stated here that Supreme Court Justice Felix Frankfurter has more to do with guiding the war-time destinies of the United States than anyone except the President himself. Few major decisions are taken without consulting this trusted adviser. Justice Frankfurter was born in Vienna of Jewish parents."—Daily Sketch, New York Correspondent, June 13, 1942.

Lord Vansittart said to a London audience recently: "Don't pay too much attention to the English pseudo-intellectuals. There are two lots of people we have to defeat—the Germans and the English pseudo-intellectuals."

The "Times" of June 4, in an article on Heydrich, mentioned Admiral Canaris (alias Moses Meyerbeer):—

"At an early age he (Heydrich) became a member of some ultra-nationalist youth organisation. In 1922 he joined the German Navy, and in 1928 he became intelligence officer in the Baltic Command. It was probably in this position that Heydrich got into contact with Admiral Canaris, Chief of the German Military Intelligence, a connection which, according to rumour, had never been broken."

"To work in a self-sufficient world of paper, divorced from reality, is the general characteristic of bureaucratic government,

## ACT NOW

The Debt-Money Factory is cracking up —"so keep on keeping on."

A new and cheaper edition is being printed (the first being sold out) of—"A NEW CHARTER FOR AUSTRALIA and a Policy for the People," written by Stanley F. Allen, F.C.A. (Aust.). Price, 3d. each, or 2/6 a dozen (plus postage).

EDUCATE, PLAN, ACT—Now is your opportunity.

Send your orders for the new issue to Social Credit Movement, 88 Pitt-street, Sydney.

for its object is not achievement, but to keep the bureaucrats at their desks from ten to four."—A. J. P. Taylor, "The Hapsburg Monarchy."

"It takes a woman to strike a doughty blow for the family and family life. The other day a woman M.P. demanded that 'Every child over the age of two should come under the Board of Education.'

"I presume the father and mother, under strict Government surveillance, and subject to weekly inspection, registration, and so forth, would, in some special cases, be allowed a certain amount of control over their child until it reaches the age of two. After which age, of course, it would revert to the State.

"But the age-limit should be lowered. Every child should belong to the State from birth. Then there would be none of this absurd redundancy and dual control, with unenlightened parents behaving as though they had a right to their children."—"Beachcomber" in the "Daily Express."

## ABOLITION OF STATE PARLIAMENTS

Senator Foll: In view of the statement by the Government yesterday to the effect that it proposes to submit at an early date certain proposals for an alteration of the Constitution, will the Leader of the Senate state whether at the same time the Government will give to the people of Australia an opportunity to record their vote as to whether they are in favour of the abolition of State Parliaments?

Senator Collings: The honorable Senator is aware that the intentions of the Government with regard to matters of policy are not disclosed in reply to questions.

Senator Foll: Will the Government give consideration to the proposal?

Senator Collings: I shall give no answer other than that already supplied.

—"Hansard" report for September 3

## SECOND FRONT?

NEW YORK, Monday.—Criticising Mr. Wendell Willkie's statement that perhaps some military leaders need public prodding to open a second front, the New York "World-Telegram," in a leading article, says it is doubtful if any public figure, since the outbreak of the war, has uttered a statement so ill-advised or advocated a course so weighted with danger and possible disaster. It adds:—

"Not only every military commander, but Mr. Churchill and President Roosevelt, have made crystal-clear their eagerness and determination to open a second front at the earliest hour compatible with the possibility of military success.

"To move sooner would be to condemn hundreds of thousands of British and American soldiers to purposeless slaughter. Such an ill-timed move might even mean the loss of the war.

"We do not question Mr. Willkie's good intentions, but we do question the depth and clarity of his thinking. His several expressions on military subjects during his present tour have bordered on the sophomoric. Applause and photographic flash-bulbs apparently caused Mr. Willkie to talk out of turn. This is no time for innocents abroad."

--Melbourne "Herald," September 29.

## AN APPEAL TO DEMOCRATS

Extracts from a Broadcast from 7HO Hobart, at 6.30 p.m. on Sunday, September 20 by JAMES GUTHRIE, B.Sc.

This talk I am giving to-night is the 270th over this session. This Electoral Campaign Session has been "on the air" for almost six years. Each Sunday night we have put in front of you facts, ideas and beliefs which are held by those we consider to represent the finest thinkers and the finest traditions of Anglo-Saxon communities.

These beliefs we hold ourselves; we believe in them and we think they are worth fighting for. And we feel bound to stand up in public and speak out in support of those things which we hold to be of great value. I write these broadcasts and speak them "over the air," but I want you to understand that I am only a mouth-piece voicing the opinions of many people. I would be incapable of writing these talks had I not the assistance of other men scattered throughout the British Empire. Those who subscribe to our funds to maintain these broadcasts do not pay to hear me speak; they pay to have the beliefs for which they stand proclaimed in public. There are still some people living who believe that every man is entitled to freedom and security in his own country, and that freedom and security cannot be obtained for any length of time when a privileged few arrogate the right to order our lives when and where they choose.

We have explained to you the disruptive influences in the community; we have shown how they work and for what purposes. We have shown you that the surface of things gives no indication of what is underneath. We have shown how individual initiative—the most priceless thing we have—is being systematically destroyed; we have shown how the individual man or woman is losing all control over his or her own destiny: is becoming a mere puppet in a huge soulless organisation controlled by a few men. We are the only organisation in this State which has consistently warned the people against the exact nature of the systematic attack which is being made on the hard-won liberties of ordinary men and women. The struggle for existence has increased, not decreased, with the passing years. Men of education and training and initiative who should be helping us, who should be speaking over this microphone, are busy men; they are tired men; they have no surplus energy. Those who might help are tired men. The number of men who can appreciate the actual political and financial position as it is to-day is small; the number of those who have the time, energy and initiative to do anything about it is smaller still.

We have many appreciative listeners to these broadcasts, and the letters we receive are encouraging. But we find that the burden of paying for these broadcasts falls on the same small group of men and women, and that burden is heavy. I am now asking you to share this burden with us, because otherwise we cannot carry on and must discontinue these talks. Consistent help is what we want and must have. If a man says he holds our beliefs and is not prepared to back his beliefs with at least 6d. a week, then I wouldn't trouble any further with him. We are better without him—and safer.

At the present time we are in debt and are faced with the immediate necessity of clearing off that debt. Those who are willing to help immediately can get in touch with Mrs. Guthrie at the Electoral Campaign office, 101 Collins-street, Hobart. If you will do this you will lift a heavy burden from the shoulders of the few who have carried on for the last six years.

## ABOUT ALBERTA

The following is an extract from a letter written by a Sergeant-observer in the Air Force. He says he has never studied social credit, and knows nothing whatever about Alberta, except what he has just learnt. He writes:

"We have a lot of Canadian blokes in our squadron, one of them from Alberta. I have never managed to get talking to him much, but I asked them all what they thought of Social Credit, as I thought you might be interested to know, and without exception they all thought it a great scheme. They proceeded to tell me what a change had come over Alberta in the past few years, and how conditions had improved out of all recognition. They were very peeved at the way attempts were made to kill the scheme. Apparently a lot of big firms outside of Alberta with interest there refused to accept some credit vouchers or something of that sort, but found after a few months that the people refused to do business except in their own way, so in the end they had to climb down and accept them. It just shows you what can be done if people get together and insist on something which they can have."

No doubt some day, possibly when pigs begin to fly, or when their lower relations the international financiers, start practising the philosophy of the "Sermon on the Mount," that little monthly in Australia, known as "Sound Finance," will quote this from the "Voice" with the heartiest approval.

--"The Voice," Hobart.

We who share your views and beliefs have to pay to broadcast them because we are refused access to the National network and to the daily press. This is something that has to be altered ---we learn what freedom of the press and freedom of speech really means. But this fight is expensive and surely we are entitled to some help from you. We have to pay to broadcast our views but our opponents are paid for broadcasting theirs. This is neither fair nor reasonable. What are you going to do about it?

For six years we have put ideas in front of you as clearly as it is in our power to do. The organisations associated with are the only ones who have placed before you a clear and scientific analysis of the financial and political systems. We have not only shown you how they----- but have, given you the names of the ones responsible, and we have explained their motives.

The problem of the post-war work is not one of building houses----- and factories. The men capable of these things have been available for years. The problem we are up against is the question of power. Power that is the question—the supreme question. ---we get back into the hands of the people the power which has been taken from the people?

The Electoral Campaign is an organisation to help the people obtain power over their own their small district and their own Member of Parliament. If people would have had this power long ago if they had not been----- by the Party System) our job----- easy one, but with the help of a few -----men we can do it. The first job----- asked to do is to help us pay for these broadcasts. We need the money now. Our address is: The Electoral Campaign Office 101 Collins Street Hobart.

[Don't leave it to the other fellow. Ed., "N.T."]

## SOUTH AUSTRALIAN NOTES

(From United Democrats, 17 Weymouth Street Adelaide)

Membership.—Our list of members is steadily growing. We regret to note however, that there are still some old members who have so far let slip their renewal of membership fee. Some of them are amongst our hardest workers and while we appreciate that fact, which in a sense makes them one with us as Social Crediters, we must point out that we have a Headquarters which we are all free to use in some way or other, it must not be forgotten that we have our little obligations and responsibilities, as well as privileges.

Individual Effort.—There are several outstanding instances of this. Later I hope to have more to say about it, but at the present have not permission to publish the names of the persons concerned. We ----- to encourage such people all we can and, incidentally, to encourage others by showing what is being done.

"Blood Money."—We have had several enquiries for this little booklet, one of the "New Era" series, but they have run out of stock for some considerable time. If any reader has some copies which they could let us have we should be much obliged.

Next Executive Meeting,----- October 7, at 8 p.m.

--M.R.W. Lee Hon. Secretary.

## LOAN FLOTATION

On September 3 Senator Darcey asked the Minister representing the Treasury upon notice—

1. What was the total cost of floating the First Liberty Loan of £55,000,000?
2. What commission was paid to the private banks for their services in connection with its flotation?
3. When will the Government use the national credit through the Commonwealth to raise the necessary credit for prosecution of the war with-----money?

Senator Keene: The treasurer has supplied the following answers:

1. £134,332.
2. £ 32,678 The cost of flotation has since been varied from a flat rate of ---per cent, to 5/ per cent, up to £-----2/6 per cent. thereafter.
3. This subject is dealt with in his Budget Speech.

## G.B.S. ASSAILS PARTY SYSTEM

George Bernard Shaw in a -----Herald" says Capt. Randolph Church has found out, as his father found out, and Charles Dickens found out—100 years ago that the House of Commons under the Party system is a perfect weapon for the -----of Parliamentary Government, -----ness when anything democratic -----done being to find out how not to do so.

--"Argus" September 1942

### ASSIGNMENT IN UTOPIA

Reprinted from the book of that name, By Eugene Lyons, formerly the United Press correspondent in Moscow, etc.)

(Continued from last issue.)

#### BOOK 1. PRELUDE TO MOSCOW.

V. Working for the Soviets. The Soviet newsagency, at the time I arrived for service as general assistant to-----The American director,----- Later the name was changed to-----It operated on an agreement for exchange of facilities with the-----Press, and had its headquarters in -----of the United Press offices in the old-----Building. Our job was to report the news of the entire Western Hemisphere as it poured over the U.P.-----

-----we naturally emphasised aspects from the social and economic struggle and, -----to for earnest analysis of political ----- everywhere from Canada to ----- our despatches were as realistic and impartial??? as we could make them. -----Durant's theory that Moscow ---- -a truthful picture of affairs on this side of the Atlantic—whether it found-----to publish the picture was its own affair. At no time, in the years that I worked under him, did he knowingly ----- the picture to be touched up to -----the wishful thinking of Communists here or abroad.

But while Communist politicians in -----, partly through the ardour of their hopes and partly to magnify their own importance, fed the Kremlin empty -----of American recognition and -----Communist victories, our news service provided the antidote of unadulterated facts. Not infrequently the re-----of American party functionaries on some real situation and our report gave-----different accounts.

I was decidedly under the spell of Du----- especially during our years of -----He was a man of sharp mind and dour disposition, whose ----of malice was sheathed in a scab----of persuasive charm. In one mad ---- he had cleared the immense social-----between Rittenhouse Square and ---- -I say Sovietism rather than Communism advisedly. It was Communism as a functioning and ruthless system----by armies and secret services, I think that fascinated him, rather than Communism as a philosophy-----I was to meet others from the upper social strata who are thus-----by—a distant proletariat tri-----and ----- but feel not the slightest kinship for the flesh-and-blood-----all around them. Kenneth's-----dislike of all American Communists ----from his natural aversion to the -----social orders, though he would have denied this most vehemently.

-----, with aristocratically ascetic ----and a ruthless wit, Kenneth had no tolerance of a recent convert. Unknowingly he tried to make up for his -----of social and educational background, for the fact that he was a----in the adopted land of revolution by harshness toward non-believers -----and backsliders in particular,-----eruption against a political renegade, Kenneth was a magnificent and dis-----Those who offended him personally (and every real or imagined slur on the Soviets he counted a personal affront) became the objects of-----, brooding and patient attention. The maze of his character was a ---- -of dissention among those of us under his spell. I recall Joseph Freeman stating in one such discussion that-----given the scope, had the makings of----- He had a nose for-----which did not often mislead him----- persistence in following the trail.

-----and professionally I lived -----to the new Russia. I read all the -----on Russia, saw its motion pictures,-----of it emissaries dis-----it with returning tourists or -----Communists, defended it against -----, steeped myself in its legends----- For months at a stretch when-----was visiting Russia or ill, I contacted the Tass bureau, and corresponded with Jacob-----the head of the or-----, or Constantine Umansky, then-----editor, or others whom I was-----before long in Moscow. This -----relation with the centre of world -----though limited to the routine -----despatches, and cable tolls and ----news-gathering problems, surrounded the work with an aura of importance. It gave me a precious sense of-----to the one thing that counted above all other things in the modern world.

As an employee of a Soviet organisation, it was impolite, of course, for me-----openly in the radical movement in America. But from time to time -----in vortex all the same,-----remained in Boston, I -----an active interest in the -----defence, writing occasional-----or helping at the New York end -----of evidence or fund-raising-----Soviet system

from his vantage point of philosophic anarchism were a painful embarrassment, particularly since Communists here and abroad were the most active spokesmen for the case. In publicity material these views of Vanzetti were carefully soft-pedalled, but in his voluminous correspondence with sympathisers in all parts of the country he did not conceal them.

During the Communist-led strike of textile workers in Passaic, New Jersey, I prepared and saw through publication a sensational brochure of pictures which I called "Hell in New Jersey." If I recall correctly, about one hundred and fifty thousand copies were sold. I took part in the preliminary organisation meetings that led to the launching of the "New Masses," contributed random pieces to many of the Left magazines, and for some months conducted a tri-weekly column of comment and satire in the "Daily Worker."

That my political orthodoxy left much to be desired may be surmised from my experiences with the last-named enterprise. Since I rarely went to the editorial offices, merely sending my contributions by mail or messenger, I did not realise that my column had brewed a tempest in the teapot there. I tried in the column to provide a leaven of humour and light-hearted irony for the dough of class-war news and "theses" in the "Daily Worker." I packed my space with frivolous jingles, kits on people and events, now and then more serious divertissement—but often on subjects remotely if at all related to the revolution. Just where and how I offended the Communist proprietors, I was lever to discover. But I did discover that my column was being furiously attacked and defended. It threatened schism in the editorial ranks. In the interests of unity and peace, I promptly quit my short-lived role as columnist.

(To be continued.)

### UNDERHAND CAMPAIGN

(To the Editor.)

Sir,—In recent issues you have wamed your readers and supporters that insidious attempts were being made to undermine the good work being done by your paper in the cause of democracy. Although and interested and benevolent observer, I have never been actively associated with your campaign, and am quite unknown to your organisation; however, as the father of Eric D. Butler, who has spent so much time, thought and energy in writing and speaking against the enemies of Democracy and of the British Empire, I would appreciate this opportunity of advising your readers to give serious heed to your warnings. It would be a tragedy to underestimate your enemy's cunning, hypocrisy and ruthlessness. I am in a position to state unequivocally that determined and sinister efforts are being made to discredit Eric's work and his standing in the community. Your readers will be amazed to learn that Eric's loyalty and his personal integrity are the subjects of poisonous whispers in certain quarters. That his traducers' underhand campaign has not yet proved successful is not due to any lack of effort on the part of these unscrupulous sewer-rats, who lack the courage to make open charges. The latest of these insidious attacks was made very recently. I am not prepared to proclaim myself in complete accord with all the details of your policy, but I am keen to enlist my services with your thousands of supporters in the interests of democratic freedom and public decency. I am taking up this matter with the appropriate authorities. In the meantime, financial reformers supporting the "New Times" may congratulate themselves on the thought that the virulence of the underground attack against them is the strongest possible evidence of the growing success of their campaign.—Yours, etc., CHARLES H. BUTLER, Bellevue-avenue, Rosanna, Vic.

### THE A.B.C. AND WE SLEY CHURCH

To many eager souls, the week which ended on September 26 was a most disappointing one. The action of the A.B.C., in refusing to broadcast an address given by Professor Woodruff at the Wesley Church Pleasant Sunday Afternoon gathering, aroused much justifiable indignation, and the stage seemed to be set for sensational developments.

Following on Dr. Irving Benson's expressions of pained indignation, protests began to flow in from militant churchmen in various quarters. A doughty representative of Caledonia stern and wild, claymore in hand, and clanking armour inadequately concealed under his official robes and lace, was observed to be edging his way into a favourable position, eagerly awaiting the trumpet (sorry—bagpipe) call to charge. Then, to the manifest surprise and chagrin of eager onlookers, the affair suddenly fizzled out. To use unscriptural terms—Wesley "crayfished" and there was "no fight" The crowd melted away, and the Scot reluctantly doffed his warlike gear, with, no doubt, a secret sigh at the lack of fighting spirit shown by weak-kneed brethren. To many people this speedy ending to the affair brought little surprise, but — more on this point anon!

Notwithstanding this tame ending, the incident may perhaps serve a useful purpose, in directing attention to the unsatisfactory position which exists in regard to A.B.C. broadcasting. On behalf of the community in general, the Commission has been given a trust which it has failed to exercise with the strict impartiality and fairness which is reasonably expected of it. In defending the action of the Commission, the Acting Federal Superintendent made some amazing statements. He said, "It is not our policy to persistently air only one side of an issue. . . . Liquor is a controversial subject, and while the Commission does not evade the broadcasting of these subjects, it is not our policy to allow one side only to air its views consistently."

In view of the known facts, it would be difficult to find anywhere a more complete example of insincerity and hypocrisy than is contained in these statements. The Premiers' Plan was a highly controversial subject, but the A.B.C. "persistently" refused to broadcast the views of those opposed to it, whilst giving that privilege to supporters of the infamous scheme. This Plan was formulated on the advice given by prominent economic experts, and brought poverty and ruin to thousands of people throughout Australia. It proved to be a rank failure, and its failure has since been admitted by some of these "economic experts."

"To-morrow's World," a series of talks on post-war reconstruction, as desired by the bankers, was "persistently" aired by the A.B.C., which "consistently" refused to broadcast the views of those opposed to the suggestions. Another instance where the Commission is "persistently" allowing only one side of an issue to be presented is the case of "Federal Union." Briefly stated, Federal Union is a plot to bring about the destruction of the self-governing rights of the British Commonwealth of Nations, and to take from them their control of armaments, fiscal policy and finance, and to secure a return to the Gold Standard, the people's Hell, and the Bankers' Paradise. These subversive proposals are still being aired through A.B.C. stations, and no reply is permitted.

Further instances in proof of the charge that the Commission allows only one side

of controversial subjects to be aired could be given did space permit.

In some quarters, it was expected that with the advent of a Labour Government a more satisfactory state of affairs would be reached in regard to broadcasting, but there has been no change.

Like many of the Boards the Government has created, the Commission seems to regard itself as superior to Government or people.

The unwillingness of the Wesley Church authorities to make the banning of Professor Woodruff's address a major issue is not in the least surprising. From the outset it was apparent that its position was delicate. For some reason or another, the A.B.C. has granted it the privilege of broadcasting through the national station every Sunday afternoon—a favour not granted to any other denomination. Its action, or inaction, in the matter was, no doubt, due to prudential motives—remembrance of past favours, and hopes for similar favours in the future.

As a matter of fact, to a certain extent

### U.E.A. ACTION

The fight for liberty against the Man-power Regulations is under way, and must be kept snowballing along by individual actionists circulating the self-explanatory "Letter Forms" and getting them signed. Are YOU playing your part—if not, why not? All you have to do is to obtain "Letter Forms" from Headquarters and return them when signed to the United Electors of Australia, McEwan House, Little Collins-street, Melbourne. Public reactions will also be appreciated. Many campaigners have delayed returning the "Action Charts" forwarded to them with circulars—it will help us considerably when these are to hand—will you please give this matter your early attention?—O. B. Heatley, Campaign Director.

Wesley Church was hoist on its own petard, for it has faithfully followed A.B.C. lead in refusing to allow a reply to addresses on controversial subjects given from its platform. Only a few Sundays since an advocate of the subversive and disloyal Federal Union proposals delivered an address there. The so-called orthodox economists, who advocate the financial policies which produced poverty in the midst plenty, and the destruction of food-stuffs whilst people were starving, were welcomed there with open arms.

An eminent professor who appeared on its platform recently is remembered for his brilliant suggestion made during the depression, that in order to return to prosperity we must borrow more money—the practice that was mainly responsible for the depression.

If the audiences became aware that the economic experts were merely humbugging them, they would greet them, not with cheers, but derision. The essayist who suggested that people really enjoy having their legs pulled has perhaps furnished a feasible explanation for the popularity of Professor Copland at Pleasant Sunday Afternoon gatherings. While, from time to time, able addresses on social evils and other matters of national importance are given it seems remarkable that the evils of the present financial system are there never referred to. Evidently the views of the present Archbishop of Canterbury are not endorsed there. Speaking in London last Sunday, a cable message reports him as having "insisted upon the Church's right and qualification to intervene in social and industrial questions, AND ADVOCATED PUBLIC CONTROL OF CREDIT and land. (Our emphasis.)"

In connection with the matter under review, a newspaper in the course of its comments referred to the Pleasant Sunday Afternoon gatherings as being something in the way of a National Forum, but it is a misuse of words to apply such a term to them. Whatever else they may be, they are not "places of public discussion," and probably their management would not claim them to be such. A National Forum where all sides of questions of national importance could be discussed and broadcast, would meet one of the great needs of democracy, but for obvious reasons no Church could be expected to provide it. —"Stirrem."

### HAWTHORN MEETING

We draw the attention of our Melbourne readers to the advertisement in this issue announcing a citizens' meeting to be held at the Hawthorn Town Hall, under the auspices of the New World Reconstruction Movement, whose advertisement in our last issue incorrectly stated the date of this meeting. It is hoped that no one was seriously inconvenienced by the error.

## READ

### "TAX BONDS OR BONDAGE?"

By JOHN MITCHELL

With Foreword by TUDOR JONES, ScD., M.D., F.R.S.E. (Deputy Chairman Social Credit Secretariat).

It explains in detail:

The Tax Bonds Proposals of Major C. H. Douglas; The Dangers of Federal Union Schemes; The Fallacy of Mr. Keynes' Compulsory Loans Proposals.

\*

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"For STYLE and EASE: FRANK DEVLIN PLEASE!"

## COLONEL HAROLD COHEN

(A letter to the Editor from Bruce H. Brown.)

Sir,—Last Saturday morning pride of place was given in the "Australian News" session from the national broadcasting stations to the desire of Colonel Harold Cohen that he should not receive any pay while holding the position of Director of Amenities. It was also included in the metropolitan dailies as an item of important news, with the careful explanation that what he is giving up as a gift to the Treasury is equal to £17/13/6 per week, plus dependants' allowances!

This breath-taking announcement caused me immediately to ask myself how it is that a man who produces NOTHING is in the position to devote his full time to a job without getting anything for it, and why should such a man wish the world to know about it? I also wondered how it is that even Government instrumentalities can thus be made use of for personal propaganda at public expense? These questions could lead to quite a lengthy dissertation on the history of the man, his huge income without having to do any "work" for it—largely from breweries, his general associations, his native financial consciousness, and his obvious desire that members of society in general shall have nothing without "paying" him and his kind for it. It must suffice for the present, however, to issue a brief warning that this special publicity is in the nature of a sprat to catch a mackerel, and that the man and his ideas are a danger to the British conception of the place and value of the individual citizen.

As he has chosen to bring himself so prominently to our notice it is appropriate to remind ourselves that, in public matters, he is a wolf in sheep's clothing. His ideas on public finance are of such a nature as to make him a positive danger to our future conditions of living. Whatever he is doing is not being done with the object of bringing benefit and blessing to the many thousands of hard-pressed fathers and mothers who look in vain for escape from the never-ending struggle of trying to make ends meet on an insufficient income of money. On the contrary, all his public actions in the past have been directed towards keeping them short of money. Not only has he shown himself to be irrevocably against the provision of amenities for the people, but his general attitude on public questions is a terrible menace to our hopes for economic security, social justice, and any chance of real peace after the war. In other words, he has been working against the very things we and our sons are fighting for.

This selfsame Colonel Cohen took a significant part in helping Sir Otto Niemeyer to unnecessarily reduce the standard of living of the Australian people during what is now known as the period of the Depression. That was bad enough in all conscience, but he subsequently declared that Sir Otto's dictum should be the basis of all FUTURE governmental activities. The Melbourne "Argus" of 2nd April, 1936, gives a lengthy report (apparently no trouble for him to get publicity!) of a speech given by the gallant colonel at a luncheon the previous day at Scott's Hotel, arranged by the Taxpayers' Association. Archie Michaelis was also there, and has since retailed similar ideas. It may be the merest coincidence, but is it not a peculiar fact that prominent members of the Jewish fraternity seem intent upon fostering such ideas, not only here, but in other countries as well? They seem keen to prevent the transfer of the Money Power from the private financiers to the National Parliament. If this is not a fact, then I should be glad to be corrected; but if it is a fact, then we can begin to see at least one reason for the antipathy about which they complain.

Anyhow, Colonel Cohen's address on that

occasion was a fulsome eulogy of Sir Otto Niemeyer, and the newspaper report was specially emphasised with the following headlines: "Planned State Economy," "Lessons of 1931," "Politicians Forget." He strongly advocated that we should follow the advice of Sir Otto as follows:

- (1) Insist on the balancing of Government budgets;
- (2) Increase productivity per head of population;
- (3) Public works to be undertaken only if they will provide a return sufficient to cover INTEREST and sinking fund;
- (4) No overlapping of State and Federal finances.

This programme would make finance absolutely supreme over all, which is clearly the purpose of all agents of the Money Monopoly. He also said this:

"The trouble about public finance at present is caused by the fact that, with prospects of a continuance of improved economic conditions, the men in control of public spending are forgetting the lesson that we tried to learn in 1930 and 1931."

What a shame that was, and what a pity they spent anything at all! We should have been even less prepared than we were! When Governments are not spending, the workers' struggle for wages is intensified, paid employment is more difficult to get, and even when it is obtained the "worker" has to submit to greater deductions from his pay in order to provide a "dole" for his less "fortunate" comrades! The workers must be kept in such a condition that they must fight for their "tucker" like cattle, and certain people believe it to be quite proper that workmen generally SHOULD be regarded as cattle. It is precisely because our National Government is now spending freely that conditions for the workers appear to be better, and it is therefore plain that those who are against Government spending are against any effective increase in the incomes of the rank and file of society. Colonel Cohen is definitely in that category, and next week we may look further into the so-called "lesson" of 1931 and the four "requirements" laid down by his friend, Sir Otto.

—Yours faithfully, BRUCE H. BROWN,  
189 Hotham-street, East Melbourne, 27th September, 1942

### Industrial Conscription Not Necessary

(Continued from Page 1.)

warded to the Prime Minister, to the Premier of the State, to the Hon. Minister for Munitions, and to the Hon. Minister for Labor, and to the managing director of --- as well as to the secretaries of the unions represented at this meeting, urging them to join with us (the employees in these works) in demanding a maximum output from all our industrial organisations and in using their influence to that purpose.

I doubt whether it would be possible for any body of men, no matter where they came from, to pass more patriotic resolutions. It was specifically set out that there was to be no strike. The men only asked for an inquiry. THE MOVER

## ABOLITION OF FOOD-MARKETING BOARDS

The "Coburg Committee for the Abolition of Food Boards" held its first meeting on Tuesday, September 22, and decided that they would have only ONE objective, the abolition of Food Boards. They were not concerned with Tramway Boards, Country Roads Boards, Wages Boards, or any other similar Boards. They were determined, however, to work to abolish the Food Boards, for the very good reason that through the operations of these bureaucratic Boards, food production is restricted and prevented and actual food of high quality is destroyed whilst low grade fruit, etc. (usually fed to pigs), is put up at outrageous prices for human consumption. All this whilst the people are being kept in short supply. They want them abolished because it is sheer stupidity when the country is at war to employ thousands of persons at high salaries to destroy and restrict food production when they could be more usefully employed in restricting and destroying "the enemy. They want them abolished because they are a menace to the freedom for which the armed forces are fighting. Food production is attended by many pests for

which science has discovered sprays and antidotes but up to the present no antidote has been discovered for the greatest pest of all, the Cuckoo Food Boards, who ----- food is produced, after much-----which they do not play any part and then, like their prototype they ----- nest and the eggs. However the committee believes that there is an ----- antidote available to the people if they will but use it, by bringing people power to bear on their elected representatives in Parliament to have these pests abolished. To this end they urge all these people both producers and consumers ----- these Boards abolished, to-----tion committees in their respective districts, hold public meetings and take-----to ascertain whether the majority of the people want these Food Boards -----If the majority want these boards then they will remain. If on the other hand, they do not want them, then there is no reason on earth why they should have them imposed upon them. There is no power on earth greater than the -----will of the people.

—F. L. P.

### NATIONAL DEBT

#### Activities of Private Banks

On September 3 Senator Darcey asked the Minister representing the Treasurer, upon notice—

1 By what amount has Australia's national debt been increased since the declaration of war?

2 By what amount has it been increased by the present Government?

3 What amounts in inscribed stock, war bonds and treasury bills have the private banks purchased since the declaration of war?

4 What amounts in treasury bills have the banks converted in the same period?

5 Will the private banks be allowed to purchase bonds in the forthcoming loan, and will they be permitted to advance money to enable the public to subscribe to this loan?

Senator Keane: The Treasurer has supplied the following answer—Inquiries are being made, and a reply will be furnished as soon as possible.

—“Hansard.”

### AUSTERITY

A remark from a recent request by Mr. Curtin:—“Don't furnish your house just because you have money. When people show off their new possessions ----- them, don't admire or envy them.”

This is a gem, in view of the -----that a new carpet costing £---laid but laid in the Hotel Canberra which is owned by the Government. If -----is truly a case of: “Don't do as I do, do as I tell you.”

—“The Voice”, Hobart August 1942

quiry into South Australian munition factories.

The Hon. M. McIntosh: An employee of a munitions works cannot be sacked without the consent of the man-power -----ties, and whatever is done must be with the acquiescence of the Federal Government.

Mr. MacGillivray: The Ministers remarks reminds me of rather -----qualism, and I hope he does not take it personally, “That is what you think,” it is not what we think. I am -----definite case of three men who have been discharged.

The Hon. M. McIntosh: It has been brought under Mr. Makin's notice. It seems so incredible that I cannot comprehend it.

Mr. Thompson: It does not go to the Minister but, to the man-power office.

Mr. MacGillivray: I am not asking the Minister to comprehend it but I am bringing it to him because this is a very serious charge and I am fully -----my responsibility in -----because I believe it be a -----to ventilate this grievance in every way possible.

Mr. Quirke: To say nothing of the injustice of the case.

Mr. MacGillivray: Exactly. Here we are looking for man-power to carry out essential production and we know that there are men whose services are being-----I have heard a man say that if he could be taken out of the factory-----in without interfering with-----know a gentleman -----working in one of the factories who informs me that she has -----employed in the factory where she is engaged are not working to capacity because there is not enough to keep them---yet the authorities are still looking for more female labour.

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