

The "New Times" is a really independent, non-party, non-class, non-sectarian weekly newspaper, advocating political and economic democracy, and opposing totalitarianism in all its forms.

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).

# THE NEW TIMES

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## "NEW TIMES" SUBSCRIPTION RATES

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## Trades Unions and the Crisis in Industry

### A Broadcast by the Workers' Democratic League

In view of the present industrial crisis precipitated by Communist attempts to make political use of industrial unrest, according to their technique of the general strike as a prelude to revolution, we publish the text of a radio talk entitled "The Crisis in Trade Unions," broadcast on Friday last from 2KO, Newcastle, and delivered by Mr. S. Morrow on behalf of the Workers' Democratic League: —

Good evening, listeners. In our talk last week some reference was made to the growth of Communist influence in control of our trade unions. The position at present is a grave danger to the unions themselves as a means for the protection of the workers' interests, and to the welfare of our country as a whole.

There is a large body of unionists who allow themselves to be used as the dupes of their officials. It is too readily assumed that the political views of officials is no concern of the unionist—that they are only in office to carry out the work of the unions. But to the Communist, the policy dictates of his Party come first. He sees the union as a convenient organisation, which may be used to the advantage of the Party. It is urgently necessary that inactive members should realise the danger before it is too late.

Our unions were built up by earnest men, loyal to the interests of the workers. The unions have raised the status of the worker to a place of respect in the social structure. If they are to continue to serve the workers they must be kept under democratic control. The League urges workers to recognise the vital need to keep control in the hands of the rank-and-file.

This weapon, forged for the protection of the workers, is being converted into a machine to oppress and discipline them, not to further their aims. Already individuals and groups who dared to disagree with those in control have found themselves sub-

jected to penalties and victimisation by officials, who should be the servants, not the rulers, of their rank-and-file. Penalties are imposed in the name of the "Union," but that means little when the control of union policy, the making of rules, and so forth has been allowed to pass into the hands of the "select" few.

The present industrial troubles are obviously being spread as widely as possible to embrace as many sufferers as possible. That cannot, in itself, benefit the workers. But the greater the discontent, unrest and confusion caused, the better from the point of view of those who have waited and planned for years for revolutionary conditions. These people hope to hold control of the situation as it develops, and so the worker is being led to adopt the big-stick methods of all disciples of totalitarian gospels, and to throw aside his instinctive respect for law and order, reason and fair play, in solving his problems.

If the present disorganisation of industry can be spread more widely it will bring great inconveniences to all sections, including, not least, the workers themselves. It will turn the sympathy of the public into hostility towards the workers, till the workers will be able to see no other way out except to resort to violence. If they can be made to man the street barricades, after the fashion of European revolutionary movements, they may be used to lift those leaders into the position of supreme masters of the country. Should that occur, the

workers might try the effect of attempting to strike against the decrees of their new masters! If beaten in the rioting, the workers themselves will bear the consequences. The present tactic being used is to "consolidate disputes." When the Bunnerong men struck over a shift-work dispute their problem was taken over and converted into the wider issue of a general 40-hour week. Then came the printing dispute, and the printers were invited to amend their particular policy to bring it into line with the general policy.

The Printing Industry Employees' section wisely decided to handle its own dispute—to mind its own business. It took the only safe course in the interests of its members. As a result, a settlement has now been reached on terms, which the men concerned decided were acceptable. The key to democracy is to reduce a problem to the limits of interest and understanding of those concerned. The reverse policy is being steadily pursued in union affairs by the consolidation of disputes, and wider and wider affiliations and amalgamations, under the plea of "unity." This method suits the Comrades admirably. The printers, for example, could have had their altered issues settled to the satisfaction, in theory, at any rate, of miners, journalists, teachers, ironworkers, and so forth, but not necessarily to their own satisfaction. The members of other unions, however sympathetic they may be, do not clearly understand the special nature of printers' troubles. Moreover, they have enough problems of their own which naturally receive their prior attention. From this process of enlarging our various problems, it follows that the rank-and-file members become the easy victims of a few manipulators of union affairs. They cannot follow the details in any particular dispute. They must perforce accept the explanations and advice of those who claim to "represent" so many thousands when they give their own interpretations. The advice, and the remedies, generally boil down to "leave the matter in the hands of your union leaders—and hope for the best." The uninformed rank-and-file unionists thus become mere troops to be directed as their leaders think fit. These Left-wing leaders are becoming a body of professional minders of everybody's business in union affairs. At the same time members are losing or giving away the right to mind their own affairs, without interference by outside organisations.

These same leaders have the impudence to talk of democracy as though they had some respect for it. Will they tolerate any truly democratic decision of policy by the rank-and-file? When the men involved

mention such a small measure of democratic control as a secret ballot to decide their policy concerning the continuation of the present B.H.P. disputes, they are given the most extraordinary "reasons" why they should not be allowed to decide that simple issue of policy. And that power to decide POLICY is the basic fundamental of democracy.

All we get are proposals, initiated by the leaders, for endorsement by the rank-and-file. At one meeting no motions other than those so prepared for submission would be accepted by the chairman. Great play is made of the term "democratically elected," as a justification for elected officials deciding the POLICY instead of merely ADMINISTERING a policy formulated by the members. Well, Hitler was "democratically elected," too, and with an enormous support, but his regime is seldom referred to as a Democracy!

The workers must, in their own defence, recapture control and organise their unions on a democratic basis. They must keep all power of making of policy (not merely endorsement of a given policy) in their own hands. They must be prepared to mind their own business for themselves and allow nobody to make a business of minding them. They must decide for what purposes they will use their own union machinery and funds, not allow Communist or other leaders to decide how their machinery and funds shall be used as a political weapon.

The Workers' Democratic League aims at rank-and-file control of all unions. It desires to help unionists in the fight to make their unions and their elected officials their servants, not their masters deciding for them the course they shall take. The unions must not be allowed to be used to further the policies of the Communist Party. The League does not ask workers to put it into political power and then enter an industrial paradise. To do so would be a fraud. That is what has already been done. Unionists alone can secure their own victory. Any leader who professes to give them salvation if placed in a position of power should be discarded as suspect.

I wish to thank those supporters and inquirers who have written following last week's talk, and we would be glad to hear from other listeners. Our organisation is young as yet, and your support is solicited in the big job ahead. To develop our broadcasting and printing programme requires funds, and there also is plenty of physical support required. Write to the Secretary, Box 292, P.O., Newcastle. Good evening.

**The socialists never tire of saying how opposed they are to "big business." The Australian socialist Labor Party has been in office for the past few years, and one of the main results of its policies has been to make "big business" bigger than ever.**

Speaking at the recent Australian Labor Party Conference, Senator D. Cameron said: "Big business had come out of the war richer and stronger than ever before."

So much for government by the socialists. Socialism is, of course, complete monopoly. No doubt that is why Lord Rothschild has joined the socialist Labour Party in Great Britain.

Mr. Anthony Eden recently said in the British House of Commons: "I am unable to see any final solution that will make the world safe from atomic power other than that we all abate our present ideas of sovereignty."

Mr. Walter Lippmann, the Jew whose syndicated material appears regularly in the Melbourne "Argus," says that World Government is the only way to deal with the question of atomic power.

One hates to be suspicious, but the atomic bomb is the greatest weapon the power-

lusters have ever had. And war alone made the atomic bomb possible. Wars are used by international planners to further their own policies. It is, therefore, only logical to presume that the planners desire a state of war or the threat of war in order that they may continue to attack national and individual sovereignty.

The threat of the atomic bomb can be overcome only by the de-centralisation of government all over the world. The British peoples can give a lead.

Internationalism, with its corollary a World State (of which the happily defunct League of Nations was one attempt and the Bank of International Settlements another) is one end of the scale and self-determination of the individual is the other. It clearly cannot tolerate autocracy. The smaller the genuine political unit, the nearer you are getting to self-determination of the individual.—C. H. Douglas.

The Melbourne "Argus" of November 27 reports that a Mrs. Lindheim, speaking at a meeting in the St. Kilda Town Hall, Melbourne, said that the Jews had gone to Palestine as a liberating force to the Arabs, and not as a force of domination.

The Jews were more dominated and more suppressed than any other people in the world, said Mrs. Lindheim.

Mrs. Lindheim's idea appears to be that the Arabs should be "liberated" even though they are prepared to fight against such "liberation."

It is not without significance that the whole of the Moslem world is seething with unrest, which may lead to an explosion, particularly if provoked by insane demands by anti-British Zionists and their Gentile supporters.

At the meeting addressed by Mrs. Lindheim some 1600 people passed a resolution calling on the British Government to allow unrestricted Jewish entry into Palestine. People should be prepared to accept responsibility for their policies. In the event of the Arabs resisting militarily any at-

**Counsel for the Nazis at the Nuremberg war-guilt trial requested subpoenas to compel members of the "Cliveden Set" to give evidence "on the goals of Ribbentrop's foreign policy as far as the British Empire was concerned." Lady Astor, Lord Beaverbrook, Lord Londonderry and Lord Derby were persons specifically mentioned. The Court has decided that these witnesses will not be called. Any suppression of evidence indicates that the real promoters of war will have a fresh lease of life. It is reasonably clear that Hitler, Ribbentrop and other gangsters are merely those who administer policy; they do not determine basic policy. Clearly the Court should use such gangsters to locate the higher-ups.**

**CONSCRIPTION CONTEST:** At the recent conference of the Australian Labor Party, by a narrow margin of two votes (18 to 16), the plot to impose the continuance of military conscription was defeated. That is one of the few bright spots of 1945. However, it means that the 16 delegates who voted for conscription prefer the Fascist way of life, which should be sufficient reason for their not being re-elected to their position. In reporting this, the Melbourne "Herald" of November 29 capitalised on this narrow margin and intimated that it should be disregarded. The "Herald" also featured Fuehrer Menzies, who remarked that the decision was a violation of the Government's earlier ratification of the military requirements of the World Charter. He also argued that conscription was really democratic. Fancy that coming from one who himself refused to take part in military conflicts!

**PALESTINE PERILS:** Whilst Jewish terrorists in Palestine were attacking and murdering British soldiers, a public meeting was held at the St. Kilda Town Hall, in Melbourne, to arouse sympathy for the Jews in their attempt to forcibly dispossess the Arabs. This meeting was prominently reported in the Melbourne "Sun" of November 27, but the report contained no condemnation of the lawlessness, nor regrets for the murdered Britons and Arabs. It is worth noting that Labor stalwart, J. V. Barry, K.C., and Professor A. R. Chisholm were featured as speakers. Professor Chisholm remarked that Palestine was a coun-

try anxious to take the Jews, a statement which, in view of the open warfare, can hardly be described as realistic. The meeting observed a minute's silence in memory of Jews who died during the war. Apparently time did not permit non-Jews being included in the remembrance.

(Continued on page 4.)

### Alberta By-Election

From "The Canadian Social Creditor": — The overwhelming solidarity of Premier Manning's Social Credit Government was shown to Canada, when a single-taxer in Warner constituency decided to contest the seat left vacant by Solon E. Low, M.P. for Peace River and national leader of the Social Credit Association of Canada. The single taxer, H. J. Hierath, opposed the Social Credit nominee, Leonard C. Halmrast, a rancher at Lucky Strike, Alberta, who, when 26 out of 28 polls had reported, held a majority of 953 votes against a mere 297 for his opponent. It was a straight fight; neither the Socialists nor the old-line parties felt the courage to nominate a candidate against the clearly indicated determination of the people to maintain their Social Credit Government.

Some observers had expected a stiffer fight for Mr. Halmrast, since there was an opportunity for the opposition to combine its strength. The result of the by-election proves conclusively that, after ten years, Social Credit in Alberta has only become more entrenched.

Once again citizens of "the most enlightened electorate in the world" have spoken.

### Refunding Alberta's Public Debt

The following news-item appeared in the "Edmonton Journal" (Alberta), of Oct. 9, 1945, under the heading, "Debt Refunding Ready to Start": —

Alberta's \$113,200,000 public debt-refunding plan has been accepted by the holders of \$86,000,000 in bonds, more than the quota required to make the plan operative, Premier Manning announced Tuesday.

All that awaits final operation of the plan is the completing of arrangements with the United States Security Commission, whose approval is necessary for the marketing of the new bonds in the U.S.

Quota of outstanding debentures needed to be turned in to allow operation of the refunding plan was \$85,000,000, and Premier Manning expressed pleasure that this had been more than achieved.

The holders of the old bonds have deposited them with banks in Canada, the U.S. and Britain. They will receive bonds of the new issue in exchange.

## IDENTIFYING THE PROMOTERS OF WAR

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

Sir,—Very little seems to have been published in Australia about the New York financial panic of 1907. That panic was precipitated by a run on, and the subsequent designed failure of, the Knickerbocker Trust. Among the members of the Knickerbocker Real Estate Trust Company was Solomon Loeb, of the international banking house of Kuhn, Loeb and Co.

The panic was planned and used to direct attention to the "need" for "reform" of the banking laws, and led to the success of the Warburg campaign for the establishment in the United States of the Central Banking System. The principal man behind this campaign was Paul Warburg, a German-Jew and a partner in the firm of Kuhn, Loeb and Co.

This Paul Warburg married the daughter of Solomon Loeb of the Knickerbocker Trust and other companies. Jacob Schiff had also married a daughter of Solomon Loeb, and was therefore Warburg's brother-in-law. All were members of Kuhn, Loeb and Co., Warburg having taken up residence in New York in 1902, at the age of 34, as a junior partner in the firm. He went to the United States from Hamburg. His brother, Felix, also a member of Kuhn, Loeb and Co., married the daughter of Jacob Schiff, head of the firm and "beloved leader of the Jews." Another brother, Max Warburg, was head of the banking house of Warburg and Company, Hamburg, and has been described as the then financial dictator of Germany.

Mr. A. N. Field, who has been mentioned previously as the author of "The Truth About the Slump," quoting from the "American Review of Reviews" for June, 1930, tells us that in January, 1907, before the financial panic of the same year, Mr. Warburg wrote by invitation an article for the "New York Times" Annual Financial Review, under the title, "Defects and Needs of Our Banking System." Later, in the midst of the panic, he published a paper entitled, "A Plan for a Modified Central Bank."

As we shall see later, he succeeded in having established the Central Banking System, which was nothing more nor less than a plot to secure financial domination of the world behind the backs of the people at large.

The financial panic of 1907 has been denounced in the United States Congress and elsewhere as having been deliberately created by financiers at a time when the country was in a state of prosperity. A run was arranged on the Knickerbocker Trust and other institutions, which were left without support. Note particularly that they were "left without support." Had they been given support they would not have failed. The run is publicly stated to have been made by persons of the millionaire class, and this is confirmed by the New York "Banker's Magazine" of December, 1907, which said that, "The bank runs in New York at first were made almost entirely by the well-to-do, and at no time did the ordinary depositors take fright in large numbers." In Congress on 12th September 1913, Mr. Gray, of Indiana, pointed out that in New York financial circles the phrase "well-to-do" covered only millionaires and multi-millionaires, and that these were the people who made the run referred to.

Mr. Gray also pointed out to Congress that the currency scheme embodied in the Federal Reserve Bill then under discussion (1913) had been launched by Jacob Schiff before the New York Chamber of Commerce in January, 1906, and went on to say:

The next year, 1907, when nature responded with a most bountiful harvest, when manufacturers were running full time, . . . when every natural condition favoured

the greatest prosperity, a panic was suddenly precipitated on the country, and the only explanation given the people was that it was a currency panic."

Note carefully that the panic was PRECIPITATED, i.e., someone arranged it and enforced it, just as was done again in 1929, when our actual and potential production was greater than it had ever been. Strange, is it not, that Chambers of Commerce allow themselves to be hoodwinked in this way?

In addition to providing ammunition for Paul Warburg's campaign for the imposition of Central Banking, the financial panic of 1907 yielded immediate profit for the Money Ring. According to Mr. Gray's address to Congress:—

"A great amount of stock which had depreciated as a result of the panic in the hands of innocent bystanders and unsuspecting investors, was purchased at a ruinous sacrifice and held and re-sold at par. . . . And the further opportunity was taken advantage of to secure the absorption of the Tennessee Coal and Iron Company by the Steel Trust, its only formidable competitor, thereby making the monopoly in the steel industry complete."

A similar thing happened to bonds in this country after the bankers had imposed the policy of deflation in 1929.

In 1908 Congress set up a Monetary Commission to collect information on the subject of currency and banking reform. It did a good job for the small group seeking worldwide control of finance. It visited Europe and published a vast amount of matter having no special reference to the actual problems of the day, but being calculated to bewilder and awe the mind. Mr. Gray said it was designed "to impress both the common bankers and the citizens generally with the magnitude of the subject and the impossibility of a full comprehension of the problem by the ordinary mind, to the end that a special few assuming superior wisdom and financial judgment might be allowed to dictate without question the reforms so urgently demanded."

A great campaign for banking reform was conducted throughout the United States without regard to expense, and to innocent outsiders it was made to appear that it was the merchants and business people who were demanding the establishment of Central Banking, and that the great bankers were yielding to the demand with reluctance! No stone was left unturned, and the people were actually exhorted by the press to demand Central Banking without bothering about details. They were told it was enough for them to know that the proposal had been endorsed by Woodrow Wilson and William Jennings Bryan.

It will thus be seen that the 1907 panic, with all the needless suffering it entailed for millions of innocent people, was a planned incident in the plot of NON-CHRISTIAN men to secure control of the world through finance and war.

—Yours faithfully, BRUCE H. BROWN, 189 Hotham Street, East Melbourne, C.2. 2nd December 1945.

(To be continued.)

## BEWARE THE "MONEY REFORM" HOAX!

(From the "Canadian Social Creditor," 18/10/45.)

Once again we find it necessary to stress that probably the most deadly menace which threatens to weaken and disrupt the Social Credit Movement everywhere is the well-meaning but misplaced trust of some supporters of Social Credit in "monetary reform" and "national control of money."

As we have pointed out repeatedly, the term "monetary reform" is meaningless. It can be made to mean anything. It can be applied to the nationalisation of the banks, to a change in the size and colour of currency notes, to a change from a national to an international monetary system, or any interpretation, which any slickster cares to place upon the term.

Likewise the expressions "national control of money" or "national control of the monetary system" are just about as futile but even more dangerous.

It can be—and, for that matter, is being—used to describe the brand of "monetary reform" introduced by Hitler as the basis of the Nazi economy—namely, the "nationalisation" of the banking institutions without any fundamental change in the system.

This simply had the effect of transferring the centralised power of finance over human life and every aspect of the national economy, from a gang of private adventurers operating a monopoly to a gang of political adventurers operating a monopoly—namely, the political party in office. The only difference being that the latter could operate the system in the name of "the State" with all the sanctions of the law and the forces of the State to back up their control.

This is the financial policy of State

Socialism and Communism wherever they rear their heads. And the record tells the story.

### IN RUSSIA AND GERMANY,

The "nationalisation" of the banking system as a highly centralised State Monopoly under the control of "the Party" was carried out in Russia and Germany. It has been the official policy of Socialist Parties the world over.

### NEW ZEALAND STORY

In New Zealand, the strong Social Credit Movement which existed there, became obsessed with the "monetary reform—national control of money" complex, and was tricked into giving its support to the Socialist Labour Party and probably was instrumental in that party's election. All they got for their pains was the nationalisation of the Central bank without any change in system. Taxation rose to fantastic heights. Debt increased. The shackles of "the State" were fastened on the people with increasing rigour. And once entrenched, the Socialist Government became the bitterest antagonist of Social Credit.

### IN CANADA TOO

In Canada the Liberal Government embarked on a "progressive" policy of State Socialism. It "nationalised" the Bank of Canada without changing the system. Since then the Money Power has become more

strongly entrenched, while as in the case of New Zealand, taxation and debt have been increased by leaps and bounds behind the camouflage of war demands and of bogus "social security" measures.

### ELSEWHERE THE SAME

The story is the same in Australia during the short term its Socialist Government has been in office.

And now with a Labour Government committed to State Socialism in Great Britain we shall see the same policy being faithfully carried out.

What seems so difficult to get into the heads of some Social Crediters is that the mere transfer of the centralised power of monopoly control from several private institutions to a single State institution possesses no magic. Far from minimising the threat of financial dictatorship, it increases the danger.

### DEADLIEST MONOPOLY.

State monopoly is far more vicious than private monopoly, because there is no escape from its domination. Revolt against a private monopoly is simply a matter of exercising the ordinary rights of citizenship—but revolt against a State monopoly constitutes revolution!

A political group elected to office—i.e., a group of Party politicians, probably having the support of a minority of the people under our present electoral system—with a monopoly control of finance, industry, commerce and trade, backed by the sanctions of the law, the police and the armed forces, are virtually dictators of the nation.

They have a complete concentration of power in their hands.

And wherever there is a concentration of power, you will find the would-be dictators scrambling to fill the positions of control. Furthermore, while all power corrupts, absolute power corrupts absolutely.

Yet this monopoly control by the Party in office exercised in the name of the State is the official policy of Socialist and Communist political groups—whatever they may call themselves—and it is put forward in the name of "democracy."

### ANALYSE THEIR POLICY.

Here in Canada it is most significant that the leaders of the avowed Socialist Party—the C.C.F.—who hitherto have been jeering at Social Crediters for their "monetary reform" ideas, have suddenly become fanatical "monetary reformers" themselves. They urge "national control." They denounce the financiers and pillory their scarce-money racket. Yet analyse their policy and it simply boils down to the nationalisation of the banking institutions—the transfer of their private monopoly control to the State (and that means the C.C.F. Party.) The system would remain the same.

None of these Socialists will admit that there is any fundamental defect in the monetary system. They assert that there is no chronic shortage of purchasing power—but simply a mal-distribution: All that need be done is to soak the rich and distribute the proceeds in increased wages!

### STOOGES OF SERFDOM

As Major Douglas has pointed out, any criticism of the financial system, which is not a complete criticism automatically plays into the hands of the international financial gang. That is why the Socialists are so beloved by them. They can depend upon a Socialist government not only preserving the essential features of their system, but by setting up a State dictatorship and reducing everybody down to a subsistence level by means of taxation and expropriation—thereby rendering them subservient to "the Supreme State." Such a government provides the quickest short cut to the World Serfville State.

### THE SOCIAL CREDIT OBJECTIVE

The thing, which every Social Creditor should keep unfalteringly before him is the OBJECTIVE to which all the reform measures of Social Credit—both political and financial—are directed—namely, the freedom of the individual within a properly functioning democracy. Every restriction, every control, every prohibition—whether carried out by means of money, rationing, bureaucratic interference, or otherwise is directed against the individual's freedom and democracy.

Do not let us be blinded by slogans, meaningless labels and plausible trick phrases. And we shall not be, if we stick faithfully to first principles and apply the acid test to every proposition with which we are confronted: "Will this increase the freedom of the individual?" If it cannot stand up to that test it is a snare and a delusion. OPPOSE IT.

## TAX-LIMIT CAMPAIGN

### Action Wanted Now

Although a considerable reduction in Federal governmental expenditure is expected in the coming year, there is no sign that the Federal Government intends to ease the burden of taxation. Unless taxpayers are encouraged to exert pressure on their Members taxes will remain. This is a situation, which campaigners can use to further Electoral Campaign action. An excellent letterform is available for this purpose. Will you see that this "ammunition" is put to good use? Send NOW for supplies, which are obtainable from the United Electors of Australia, 343 Little Collins Street, Melbourne, Price, 1/6 per 100. Now is the time to ACT; see that your Federal Member gets a few thousand of these signed demands for a Xmas present. Please don't leave it to the other fellow.

—O. B. Heatley, Campaign Director.

## Political Pointers

(Continued from page 1)

tempt to carry out the policy enunciated in the St. Kilda Town Hall, it is to be hoped that those present will be prepared to volunteer to fight the Arabs. Or are the British to be left once again to do the dirty work? The Palestine question is being deliberately used to further the attack upon the British Empire.

\* \* \* \* \*  
From the Western Australian State "Herald," August 30, 1945:—

Mr. McDonald: "I pass now to reference to a few matters which appear to me to demand the attention of the Government and Parliament. There are many of them, but I shall refer to a few only. The first is: What are we going to do about uniform taxation? It automatically expires on the 30th June 1947. It is called uniform taxation, but it is Commonwealth income tax monopoly. It will automatically expire unless, by an amendment of the Constitution on Referendum or an Act of reference from the States, the power or the monopoly of collecting income tax is given permanently or for an extended term to the Commonwealth. The Commonwealth has made no bones about its determination to secure the monopoly apparently permanently."

Hon. J. C. Willcock: "That was not given by reference or any other Act of the States."

Mr. McDonald: "No, it was given by what Dr. Evatt called the exercise of the economic power over the States. In other words, they said at the time by implication, 'We come first in income taxation and we will collar the lot unless you take the hand-out we are prepared to give you.' We took the handout not because we succumbed to pressure—although perhaps the Government did, because it appealed against the decision and thought it was a wrong principle, and with some justification—but because it was a time of war and crisis. I am one of those who at the time of the debate were prepared to agree to the Commonwealth terms and give it a monopoly of tax collection for the period of the war and 12 months afterwards; but I will confess that I did so perhaps from that trusting nature which is unfortunately mine and in the full expectation that what the Commonwealth promised—namely, that the taxing power would be restored to us after the war—would be honoured."

\* \* \* \* \*  
It has become obvious that the rank-and-file of some of the biggest monopolies in this country, the Trade Unions, have become mere pawns in a very desperate game.

That game is to strip every individual of his last few remaining liberties and rights.

The history of the coalmining industry is very instructive to those who take the trouble to examine it. As with other industries, the more the coal industry has been subjected to the public ownership racket, the less coal the people (the "Common owners") have got, and the higher the price they have paid for it.

One of the real purposes behind all the industrial trouble now being experienced in this country is to discredit what little private enterprise is left, and thus pave the way for nationalisation. The "worker" will then be completely regimented, as he is in Soviet Russia.

It may be said that the present industrial trouble has an economic background. That only proves that those controlling the financial system have created conditions, which help the Communists and their henchmen to seize power. It is high time the "Liberals" made up their minds to do something about financial policy. Or are they irrevocably determined to commit suicide?

\* \* \* \* \*  
The Big Idea is being followed closely in the building industry.

The go-slow strike is undoubtedly designed to wreck even what little building is taking place. The Communists assert that private enterprise cannot build houses for the people and that the building industry must be nationalised. If that happens the people and the builders will be completely regimented. Social crediters can spend some time very profitably making this point clear to their fellow electors.

\* \* \* \* \*  
It is significant that the French demand for even a partial decentralisation of Germany is being bitterly resisted by the political and economic advisers of the "Big Three."

If Germany had been decentralised after World War 1, there would have been no second German aggression. Germany was kept centralised in order that a certain policy could be pursued.

The same policy is being continued today, and it is interesting to note that financial "experts" of the Allied Control Council have decided on a series of capital levies and greatly increased taxation.

No wonder it is reported that Germany is "going Red."

—E.D.B.

## A SOCIAL CREDIT SCHEME FOR AUSTRALIA

Hear—

MR. P. M. IRELAND

Thursday, December 13, at 8 p.m.,

at the

Douglas Social Credit Movement of Victoria, "The Block," Melbourne. (Entrance through grille in Elizabeth Street.)

# Big Offensive for social Credit Launched

## Radio Talks to Cover Victoria

A highlight of the Social Credit rally in Scots' Church Hall, Melbourne, on Thursday, November 29, was the statement by Mr. Eric Butler that within three months it was hoped to have weekly talks on Social Credit broadcast over at least five Victorian country radio stations.

"We already have the money guaranteed to start at Colac, in Western Victoria, within a few weeks," said Mr. Butler. "Negotiations are proceeding in other centres, and I am convinced that we will soon be covering the whole of Victoria with regular radio talks."

Mr. Butler also said that one of the primary objectives of the campaign being launched was the doubling of the circulation of the "New Times" by the end of next year, and the utilisation of the radio to bring the story of Alberta before the Victorian people.

The rally was held under the auspices of the Social Credit Action Group. The president of the Group is Mr. J. Bradshaw and the secretary is Mr. W. J. Carruthers. Mr. Bruce Brown and Dr. John Dale are also members.

After the singing of the National Anthem, Mr. Bruce Brown opened the rally by welcoming all those present and saying how pleasing it was to see so many familiar faces again after so many years. Mr. Brown briefly dealt with the state of the world today and pointed out that events were proving the truth of predictions made by Major Douglas many years ago. He went on to say that, in spite of the fact that many social crediters sometimes felt that they had not made the progress they desired, they have, over the past few years, done even better work than they realised.

"However," he said, "some of us now feel that the time has come for us to take far more positive action than we have in the past. When the idea of the Social Credit Action Group was brought to my notice I was only too pleased to be associated with it. Both Mr. Butler and Mr. Carruthers will tell you what they are attempting to do."

### "THOSE WHO KNOW WHAT TO DO"

In opening his address, Mr. Eric Butler quoted an extract from the book, "Social Credit," in which Major Douglas predicted that there would come a time well within the lives of the present generation when the blind forces of destruction would appear to be in the ascendant. Mr. Butler stressed the fact that Douglas had pointed out that civilisation would be saved by a small body of men who know what to do and how to do it. "I believe that I am speaking to some of those who know what to do and how to do it," said Mr. Butler. "If those of us who know will not accept our responsibilities and take that action which will alone help to save us, then we have no right to ask other people to take action."

### £20 PER WEEK DESIRED

Mr. W. J. Carruthers, Hon. Secretary of the Social Credit Action Group, reports:

"As I explained at the rally in Melbourne last week, the group of which I am the honorary secretary has as one of its primary objectives the doubling of the present circulation of the 'New Times' by the end of next year and the telling of the story of Alberta as a prelude to electoral action to bring to the attention of Victorian State Members the necessity of following Alberta's lead. It was decided to ask Mr. Butler to become organiser for the Group, the money for Mr. Butler's salary being quickly guaranteed by members of the Group and other interested people. Since then approximately 500 persons have been circularised, asking for their support of the big programme planned. The response has been excellent. The persons circularised, together with those who attended the rally last week, have already guaranteed £12 per week to our fighting fund. Every penny of this fund will be used to increase the circulation of the 'New Times' and generally advance the cause of Social Credit. But we aim at a regular revenue of at least £20 per week in order to get our complete programme under way. Another £8 per week is required. This should be easily obtained. Only another 160 people at an average of 1/- a week is necessary. Among those who have already guaranteed regular amounts is an anonymous donor of £1/10/- a week. Some are giving five, six, and seven shillings a week. But it doesn't matter whether the donor only gives sixpence a week. In order to save complications with receipts and extra cost for postage, those who desire to associate themselves with our work are requested to send their contributions for at least a quarter—13 weeks. At the end of six months a full report from the Social Credit Action Group will be sent to every subscriber to our fund, giving in full detail the progress made. Subscribers will thus be able to judge whether they desire to continue supporting financially. The Social Credit Action Group requests 'New Times' readers desirous of helping financially to send their donations to W. J. Carruthers, 32 Kendall Street, Ringwood, Victoria."

Canberra." Mr. Butler said that he believed the principal concern about the Federal Government should be to make sure it obtained no more powers—in fact, that it had its powers reduced. Mention was made of the urgent necessity of getting the anti-bureaucracy campaign under way before the next Federal Elections.

### TELL THE STORY OF ALBERTA

In dealing with the necessity of making the truth about Alberta as widely known as possible, Mr. Butler said that arrangements were being made for weekly radio talks over at least five country stations. He pointed out that it was possible to reach a large audience with the country radio, and said that he felt sure that with the use of the radio not only could the story of Alberta in particular and Social Credit in general be introduced to the Victorian public, but that it could be used to increase the circulation of the "New Times." "I have no hesitation in saying that we should be able to double the circulation of the 'New Times' by the end of next year."

Mr. Butler said that the proposed radio programmes would cost about £12 per week. However, he felt that there should be no difficulty in raising this amount once a start was made. He said that Colac social crediters had had no difficulty in raising the £25 necessary to pay for the first series of talks over the local radio station.

All those present were urged to do all that they could to assist financially. "However, it is not enough to assist financially. Every individual must take action. We want to have formed in every State Electorate of Victoria electoral groups, which will assist electors to bring pressure to bear on State Members of Parliament. There is an enormous amount of work which every individual can do, and now is the time for him to do it. We can certainly win the peace if we tackle the job enthusiastically."

### DEFEND PRIVATE ENTERPRISE

Mr. W. J. Carruthers, honorary secretary of the Social Credit Action Group, spoke for about fifteen minutes and appealed to those present to help financially and otherwise to make successful the proposals put forward by Mr. Butler. Pointing out that social crediters alone had the alternative to Socialism, he said that he had no doubt that businessmen could be induced to help themselves along the lines advocated by social crediters if only they were approached in the right manner. It was proposed to make a special effort to contact the business community and enlist their

"Major Douglas has said that only the social crediters themselves can prevent the coming of Social Credit. Far too many people have confused fundamental issues by putting forward ideas, which are not 100 per cent. Social Credit. It is essential that we ourselves are thoroughly familiar with Social Credit before we start to introduce it to other people."

Mr. Butler spent some time in pointing out how essential it is to understand the philosophical basis of Social Credit; otherwise people are liable to think that anyone who wants to alter the money system is a social creditor. He said that it should be made perfectly clear to the public that social crediters are opposed to the nationalisation of banking, that they uphold the system of private enterprise and the idea of genuine profit.

### MORE LOCAL ACTION REQUIRED

Mr. Butler said that it was his opinion that far too much attention had been directed to the Federal Government and not enough to the State Governments. It was pointed out that in the Federal sphere the electors of New South Wales can out-vote the voters of Queensland, South Australia, West Australia and Tasmania combined. Some very interesting information was given about the powers of the State Governments and how they are in a much stronger position than the Provincial Governments in Canada.

"Even if our State Governments only had the same powers as the Canadian Provincial Governments, I believe that it would be far more sensible for us to follow Alberta's lead and introduce a system of Treasury Branches rather than continue to submit to centralised domination from

## FINANCE AND SOCIALISM ARE ALLIES

By ERIC D. BUTLER

Those people who term themselves conservatives, using this term in the correct sense, must be thinking furiously as a result of Lord Rothschild joining the Socialists.

Dealing with Rothschild's entry into the British Labor Party, a Melbourne "Argus" report states that Rothschild's "leftist" views have been known for some time.

This merely confirms what social crediters have been saying for years. Big Finance and Socialism are almost synonymous terms. The rank-and-file of those who believe in private ownership and private enterprise are being betrayed by their "leaders" everywhere. The Australian "Liberal" leaders are merely re-hashing the worn-out Socialist shibboleths while hoping that the people will not detect the fundamental similarity between the policies of Mr. Menzies and those of Mr. Chifley.

Liberalism is being sabotaged in Canada as in Australia, by Liberal leaders. The Canadian Liberal Government is at present engaged in a campaign to get the Provincial Governments to surrender some of their powers to the Ottawa Government. "Eddie" Ward and other Australian Socialists would find themselves among good comrades in the Canadian Liberal Party.

While the rank-and-file of the Socialists were recovering from the shock of Rothschild's action, another "big capitalist," Sir Clive Baillieu, added to the fun and games by attacking Mr. Churchill's recent anti-Socialist speech. According to an article by Douglas Wilkie in the Melbourne "Herald" of December 3, Sir Clive "damped Mr.

Churchill's fire" with this statement: "We no longer regard the Government versus private enterprise as a moral issue or even a battle of ideologies."

Sir Clive Baillieu is president of the Federation of British Industries and has promised industry's co-operation with the Labor Government "with due regard to social considerations."

Mr. Wilkie reports that a section of the Conservative Party were very unhappy about Mr. Churchill's biting criticism of the Socialist doctrines. As this group, the "Progressive" Conservatives, is dominated by the socialistic P.E.P. group, it is not surprising that Mr. Churchill's remarks were regarded unfavourably.

The "capitalist" press in England is full of the writings of the Socialists. Even the allegedly conservative "Daily Mail" has invited the Left-wing publicist, Frank Owen, to act as "political adviser" to the paper.

If those who believe in real private enterprise do not soon start to pay attention to what social crediters have been saying, they will lose what may be their last opportunity of helping to preserve our British way of life.

### SOVIET DEBT TO BRITAIN

In the British House of Commons on August 22, Sir W. Smithers asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer the total indebtedness of the U.S.S.R. to Great Britain, and how much had been written off.

Mr. Dalton: "I assume that the Hon. Member has in mind advances to the Government of the U.S.S.R. in respect of supplies from this country. The outstanding indebtedness at the present moment is £44,580,000 on credits granted in respect of war-time supplies and £368,387 in respect of the credit granted by the Exports Credit and Guarantee Department under the Agreement of 1936. Repayments in respect of both these credits have been made punctually as they became due, and nothing has been written off either of the above debts."

### SOME GOOD GERMANS?

According to Beelzebub's Brethren Calling, the Germans had marked down certain "B.B.C. officials, and the Fabian Society, for liquidation."

We have always felt that there must be some good in the Germans, if only you could find it. —"The Social Crediter."

### FRUITS OF VICTORY

The War is won,  
The Peace begun:  
In clover may I bask?  
The coming year  
Will be austere;  
Bend, brother, to the task.  
Will they relax  
The Income tax  
And fill our lives with joy?  
Strain every nerve  
To toil and serve:  
The future's grim, my boy.  
We've toiled enough,  
So may we stuff  
Ourselves with meat and food?  
The fattened calf!  
Don't make me laugh.  
"With meat," by Jove, that's good!  
Then, since you're wise,  
What is the prize  
For having held the fort?  
To sweat and slave,  
To scrimp and save,  
To—steady, boy—export.

—"The Scotsman," August 29.

### SEND FOR BACK COPIES OF "NEW TIMES"

At the conclusion of the Social Credit rally last week, Mr. Butler stressed the fact that the big drive to double the circulation of the "New Times" by the end of next year would necessitate as many individual readers as possible doing all in their power to obtain new readers. It was pointed out that there are thousands of copies of back issues of the "New Times" available for readers to use. Mr. Butler said that there were adequate supplies of back copies stamped "Specimen Copy" at the meeting, and he urged everyone present to take a parcel and place them to the best advantage. Those present took over 4000 copies. It is reported that several keen workers were already "on the job" with their parcels over the weekend, and were making a big drive through their own locality. This is something every reader can do. Parcels may be obtained by writing to the Hon. Secretary, Social Credit Action Group, 32 Kendall Street, Ringwood, Victoria, asking for a supply of stamped specimen copies of the "New Times." There is no charge. Even if only desiring a few dozen copies to post to friends, readers are invited to obtain supplies and use them as desired. Every back copy distributed means one more potential reader. Every back copy distributed brings one more person in contact with Social Credit ideas.

support in the fight to save private enterprise.

Mr. Carruthers said that prior to the rally financial support to the extent of £7 per week had been guaranteed, and that he hoped to see that considerably increased by those present. The guarantees at the rally increased the amount to £12 per week. The Social Credit Action Group is confident that it will reach its objective of £20 per week.

After the collection, which totalled £10, had been taken, many questions were asked and answered satisfactorily. The rally finished on a very enthusiastic note, and members of the audience expressed the opinion that the results achieved were very encouraging.

### MR. JAS. GUTHRIE, B.Sc., TO SPEAK IN MELBOURNE

Melbourne readers of the "New Times" will be pleased to know that Jas. Guthrie, B.Sc., is to address a meeting of social crediters in Melbourne on Tuesday evening, December 18. The meeting will be held in the Associated Teachers' Booms, 8th Floor, McEwan House, 343 Little Collins St. (one door from Elizabeth St.). The chair will be taken by Mr. Eric Butler.

### PERNICIOUS PROPAGANDA

Two rather strange posters are to be seen in London just now.

(1) Says, "Demand Amnesty for All Military and Civilian Prisoners Under War-Time Laws." It is published by the Freedom League. The people to benefit would be deserters and black-market Jews.

(2) Is a picture of the ruins of a city completely devastated, and letterpress to the effect that if the reader wants to avoid this he must join Federal Union.

"The Social Crediter," 22/9/45.

### SUBURBAN TOWN HALL MEETINGS PLANNED

The Social Credit Action Group reports that plans have been made for a series of suburban Town Hall meetings in Melbourne, starting early in the New Year. The main objective of these meetings will be to bring before the public the urgent necessity of drastically reducing taxation, an issue that is causing business people in particular grave concern. Special material on the subject of taxation and private enterprise is being prepared for the business community. The menace of continuing Uniform Taxation in any shape or form will also be stressed at the Town Hall meetings. Members of State Parliament will be invited to attend in order that they can learn the views of their electors on Uniform Taxation. Speakers at meetings will be Mr. Bruce H. Brown and Mr. Eric Butler.

In order that this series of meetings can be properly organised, it is considered essential that social crediters form groups in the suburbs where they are not already formed, for the purpose of ensuring that this series of meetings is an outstanding success. All those social crediters in Melbourne suburbs who are willing and able to help are invited to send their names and addresses to Mr. Eric Butler, care of Box 1226, G.P.O., Melbourne

## SOCIAL CREDIT M.P. ON TAX BURDEN

### DENOUNCES THE POLICY OF BORROW AND BUST

#### DEMANDS BIGGER, EARLIER PENSIONS, WITHOUT MEANS TEST

During the Throne Speech Debate in the Canadian House of Commons on September 10, a notable speech was made by the Hon. Solon E. Low, former Treasurer of the Province of Alberta. Two weeks ago we quoted the first part of his speech and in last week's issue the second part, in which he vigorously attacked centralisation of power. In the course of the concluding part, as reported by the Canadian "Hansard," he said:

"I should like now to turn for just a few moments to another important matter which is closely allied with centralisation and which is of grave concern to the people of this land; I refer to the matter of taxation. My search in the Throne Speech failed to disclose any intention of the Government to set about a reduction of the tremendous tax burden under which Canadians have been staggering these past years. Many of us had hopes that, with the cessation of hostilities and with the consequent relaxation of serious war necessities, we might expect at least a start this session in the scaling down of taxation.

"I am not unmindful of all of the substantial commitments already made by the present administration to meet post-war needs. With many of these commitments I find myself in substantial agreement. But here again I fear that the Government have become confirmed victims of an inevitability complex, as if there were no better and other ways of meeting their commitments than by continuing to heap intolerable burdens of taxation upon the people.

"If one takes the trouble to study the history of taxation in this country as well as in all other countries operating under the same vicious system of debt financing, he will find that the tax burdens have increased consistently decade after decade, through good times and bad, and through peace times as well as war times."

"I would not be so much concerned about the matter of increasing rates and varieties of taxation if I did not know that an ever-increasing percentage of the national income is being taken by governments to carry on their business, and particularly to pay the growing tribute to the merchants of debt in the form of interest on our growing obligations.

"I maintain, Mr. Speaker, that the only true way of ascertaining the burden of taxation is to measure it as a percentage of the national income. An examination of the figures for the year 1923, 1939 and 1944 will yield a good deal of food for thought. I chose 1923 because it is the earliest year for which figures representing the national income of Canada appear to be available. The year 1939 was chosen, of course, because it is the last pre-war year, and, of course, 1944 as the last fiscal year. "In 1923 the national income was, in round figures, 4,200,000,000 dollars. The tax revenues to the Federal Government for the same year were, in round figures, 154,020,000 dollars. Those taxes represented for that year 3.7 per cent. of the national income. In 1939 what was the picture? The total national income was, in round figures, 4,553,602,000 dollars; the tax revenues were 436,000,000 dollars, and those figures represented 9.8 per cent. of the national income. In 1944, admittedly a war year, and a very heavy war year, the national income was estimated at approximately 9000 million dollars; the total tax revenues were 2,283,000,000 dollars. Those taxes last year represented 25.3 per cent of the national income.

These tables show in twenty-one years an increase in the tax burden from 3.7 per cent. of the national income to 25.3 per cent. of the national income.

"These figures, too, represent only what the Federal Government is exacting by way of tax toll. When we add to the schedules the aggregate of Provincial and Municipal taxes, the percentage of the national income taxed from the people in 1944 approaches close to fifty per cent of the national income; that is, fifty cents out of every dollar of income of the Canadian people.

"I wonder just where we are heading. The taxation burdens of our Canadian people are intensified tremendously by debt financing; and I suggest that every hon. member acquaint himself with the debt history of Canada. From 1867 onward the total of all government debts in our country steadily mounted. For a number of years prior to the outbreak of World War II the aggregate of Dominion, Provincial and Municipal debts increased each year by almost exactly the total amount of the interest on those debts, indicating the utter impossibility of paying even the interest on our obligations without resorting to taxation of confiscatory proportions. It is chiefly this ever-growing interest burden, which causes the debt load, measured in terms of a percentage of the national income, also to grow ever greater and more intolerable. Debt financing has failed.

"In his last report to the United States Congress, President Truman announced that an overwhelming portion of Allied obligations of 42,000 million dollars worth of American Lend-Lease would be cancelled. President Truman further said that to add forty-two billions to the already enormous financial obligations of the Allies would disrupt political stability. These debts had to be cancelled because they represent the utter failure of the debt finance system, which if pushed to its logical conclusion would destroy the economic as well

as the political stability of the whole world. That debt finance system is basically unsound. Unless and until we make a new approach to public financing in Canada, an approach which relegates debt financing to the limbo of past nightmares, the Canadian people can have little hope for tax relief, especially if we are to keep up the services to anything like the level required for social justice to our people.

"I am convinced that there is a better way than debt financing. My experiences of the last twelve years have intensified that conviction. If that better way is applied to our country an immediate downward revision of taxation will be possible.

"My colleagues and I will continue our fight for the application of that new principle of finance, which is simple, scientific, and easy to administer; for we are convinced that taxation of the punitive intensity we now suffer not only in the end-

## ARE WE ON THE ROAD TO SERFDOM?

(Extracts from "The Road to Serfdom," by Prof. Hayek.)

Most planners who have seriously considered the practical aspects of their task have little doubt that a directed economy must be run on dictatorial lines, that the complex system of interrelated activities must be directed by staffs of experts, with ultimate power in the hands of a commander-in-chief whose actions must not be fettered by democratic procedure.

The consolation our planners offer us is that this authoritarian direction will apply "only" to economic matters. This assurance is usually accompanied by the suggestion that, by giving up freedom in the "less important" aspect of our lives, we shall obtain freedom in the pursuit of higher values. On this ground people who abhor the idea of a political dictatorship often clamour for a dictator in the economic field.

Unfortunately, purely economic ends cannot be separated from the other ends of life. What is misleadingly called the "economic motive" means merely the desire for general opportunity. If we strive for money, it is because money offers us the widest choice in enjoying the fruits of our efforts—once earned we are free to spend the money as we wish.

Through the limitation of our money incomes . . . many have come to hate money . . . Actually, money is one of the greatest instruments of freedom ever invented by man. It is money which in existing society opens an astounding range of choice to the poor man—a range greater than that which not many generations ago was open to the wealthy.

We shall better understand the significance of the service of money if we consider what it would really mean if, as so many Socialists characteristically propose, the "pecuniary motive" were largely displaced by "non-economic incentives." If all rewards, instead of being offered in money, were offered in the form of public distinctions, or privileges, positions of power over other men, better housing or food, opportunities for travel or education, this would merely mean that the recipient would no longer be allowed to choose, and that whoever fixed the reward would determine not only its size, but the way in which it should be enjoyed.

Since under modern conditions we are for almost everything dependent on means, which our fellow men provide, economic planning would involve direction of almost the whole of our life. There is hardly an aspect of it, from our primary needs to our relations with our family and friends, from the nature of our work to the use of our leisure, over which the planner would not exercise his "conscious control."

The power of the planner over our private lives would be hardly less effective if the consumer were nominally free to spend his income as he pleased, for the authority would control production.

Our freedom of choice in a competitive society rests on the fact that, if one person refuses to satisfy our wishes, we can turn to another. But if we face a monopolist we are at his mercy. And an authority directing the whole economic system would be the most powerful monopolist imaginable.

It would have complete power to decide what we are to be given and on what terms. It would not only decide what commodities and services are to be available and in what quantities; it would be able to direct their distribution between districts and groups and could, if it wishes, discriminate between persons to any degree it liked. Not our own view, but somebody else's view of what we ought to like or dislike, would determine what we should get.

The will of the authority would shape and "guide" our daily lives even more in our position as producers. For most of us the time we spend at our work is a large part of our whole lives, and our job usually

result makes men submissive and tolerant to the nefarious doctrine of the centralisation of power, both national and international, but also enslaves mankind.

"I turn for just one moment, Mr. Speaker, to another matter which was raised in the Speech from the Throne and about which I should like to speak briefly. I wish to commend the expressed intention of the Government to take over the full cost of old-age pensions and to abolish the means test. That is good so far as it goes, but it does not fill the need at all adequately. The Social Credit group in this House have always felt and do now feel that it will be necessary to lower the pensionable age to sixty years and to bring up the general pension to not less than 50 dollars a month, and that, Mr. Speaker, without the means test.

"The absolute necessity of a measure of this kind will become more apparent as the problem of unemployment develops to its full intensity under the discredited system of finance which this Government persists in following.

"It may sound like a big undertaking to pay a pension of not less than 50 dollars to every Canadian of sixty and over, but in the light of the colossal gifts which we made to our enemies during the war, and to our friends in the same period—and in the giving, Mr. Speaker, made ourselves prosperous—the aggregate sum required to carry out the undertaking which we recommend in connection with old-age pensions becomes quite commonplace.

"Some of my colleagues doubtless will deal with this subject more in detail when they take part in this debate."

determines the place where and the people among whom we live. Hence some freedom in choosing our work is probably even more important for our happiness than freedom to spend our income during our hours of leisure.

Few people ever have an abundance of choice of occupation. But what matters is that we have some choice, that we are not absolutely tied to a job which has been chosen for us, and that if one position becomes intolerable, or if we set our heart on another, there is almost always a way for the able, at some sacrifice, to achieve his goal.

Nothing makes conditions more unbearable than the knowledge that no effort of ours can change them. It may be bad to be just a cog in a machine but it is infinitely worse if we can no longer leave it, if we are tied to our place and to the superiors who have been chosen for us.

In our present world there is much that could be done to improve our opportunities of choice. But "planning" would surely go in the opposite direction. Planning must control the entry into the different trades and occupations, or the terms of remuneration, or both. In almost all known instances of planning, the establishment of such controls and restrictions was among the first measures taken.

It is often said that political freedom is meaningless without economic freedom. This is true enough, but in a sense almost opposite from that in which the phrase is used by our planners. The economic freedom which is the pre-requisite of any other freedom cannot be the freedom from economic care which the Socialists promise us and which can be obtained only by relieving us of the power of choice. It must be that freedom of economic activity which, together with the right of choice, carries also the risk and responsibility of that right.

(To be continued.)

## OPEN LETTER TO J. BEASLEY, M.H.R.

Dear Mr. Beasley, —How times have changed! It is hard to realise that only a few short years ago you were leader of the Lang Labor group in the Federal Parliament, outspoken critic of the Bank of "England" and its policies, and a legitimate target for the abuse of

But all that became unpleasant history—after John Curtin took you to his bosom and the "Sydney Morning Herald" acclaimed you as one of the "Big Four."

Far be it from us to cast doubts on your motives. Many a Member of Parliament learns after obtaining Ministerial rank, and, of course, increased salary and influence, that some of those he criticised in the past are really good fellows. Look how you and your Labor colleagues came to admire Copland after you got to know him. And no doubt Mr. W. S. Robinson has broadened the outlook of Labor Members.

Yes, Mr. Beasley, you have been an apt pupil in the political game. You have mastered the art of "getting on." Soon you are to arrive in London to take up residence as Australian Minister. We note with pleasure that you are to travel by the "Australian Star," one of Lord Vestey's ships, and that you are to have the luxury suite. Also that Dr. Armstrong, brother of Labor Senator John Armstrong, is to accompany you as your private physician. This is all in the best Churchill and Stalin tradition, and will impress the Australian workers.

## Notes On The News

(Continued from page 1.)

**P.R. PROPAGANDA:** As usual after elections, many arguments are advanced in favour of Proportional Representation. It is sometimes pointed out that Tasmania uses the P.R. system; but the important point is in what way has it benefited Tasmania? The Party cliques are just as well entrenched there, and the economic and social blots are all there. It might also be pointed out that Germany likewise used the P.R. system between the first and second world wars, and it certainly did not benefit the German people, nor did it enable them to control their political servants.

**EMPLOYMENT ERROR:** In an address to the Institute of Industrial Management, a leading industrialist recently made some pertinent remarks, reported in the press as follows: "Totalitarians and Planners believed in producing what the 'State' thought was best for the individual. Australia today was getting a foretaste of the paper prosperity that such a system would give. No one ate well, dressed well, went on a comfortable holiday or had such good housing conditions as before the war, yet we were said to be prosperous because everyone was working. By that definition the slaves in America before the civil war never had anything but prosperity."

**RUSSIAN RULERS:** Much press publicity has recently been given to the question of who will rule when Stalin goes? In one of the articles featuring Molotov, appears the following: "Formerly President of the People's [?] Council of Commissars of the U.S.S.R., now head of the almost all Jewish-manned Foreign Office, Molotov, although a Jew himself, closely resembles men of the western professional class." (Melbourne "Herald," November 17.) There are lists of names available covering other Russian Government executive jobs, and showing that they also have mostly been Jewish-manned. Such revelations give a rather clear indication of the real rulers of Russia. This situation is, of course, not confined to Russia; the difference lies in the fact that in other countries the Jewish influence is exerted, but usually more from behind the scenes.

**POLITICAL PARTIES:** Four organised political Parties are now operating in Berlin—Communists, Social Democrats, Christian and Liberal Democrats. No indication is given as to what, if any, principles or policies distinguish the last three groups. It is reported that all four Parties publish newspapers, but the Soviet authorities allow the Communists' organ newspaper for 200,000 copies daily, while the others have only enough for 100,000—so it looks like the old, old story, with Uncle Joe holding the loaded scales. A similar situation existed in Russian-controlled Hungary, and when the Communists failed to obtain a majority at the municipal elections, Joe ordered the remaining Parties to merge with the Communists for future elections. The "one Party" was the idea that Adolf worked, so Uncle Joe hasn't a patent on it, apparently.

**VOTING VEXATIONS:** Following publicity given to correspondents objecting to compulsory voting, the Melbourne "Sun" pointed out that nearly 8000 failed to vote at the recent Prahran by-election. The paper also remarked that many people had only the choice of two Party candidates, that often neither of these appealed to the voter, and further, that compulsory voting often concealed trends of public feeling. So far so good, and the "Sun" is to be congratulated for publicising this blot on our electoral laws—but, on the day of the general election the same paper, also in its leading article, carried a venomous attack against independent candidates, many of whom probably would be acceptable to the dissatisfied voters. It also pointed out that there was little if any difference between the respective Party policies, and advised voters to get behind one of the Parties and by-pass the troublesome, neutral independents. The attack was in very bad taste, and it is to be hoped that "Sun" readers have written to the editor about it.

—O.B.H.