

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.

THE NEW TIMES

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Christmas in a Strife-Torn World

Peace on Earth! Goodwill Toward Men! Where?

(A Letter to the Editor from 3. BRADSHAW, A.F.I.A.)

Sir,—Once more the Christmas season has come: once more the time-honoured message of 2000 years rings across the world. Never before, however, do conditions prevailing in the world seem to have been so completely out of harmony with that message. The daily papers contain threats of further industrial upheaval in our own country as a result of dissatisfaction with the decision of the Arbitration Court in the Basic Wage case: already a "gas-less Christmas" is contemplated by Union officials, following the breakdown of a conference between the National Gas Association and the Australasian Council of Trade Unions on aft issue involving wages. Reports on the international situation are likewise disturbing.

The Melbourne "Herald" of December 14, in addition to copious references to the situation brought about by the decision of the Arbitration Court, contained other items of news under four prominent headlines, i.e., "Persia Warned By Russia"; "U.K. Envoy in Spain to be Recalled"; "Warning of Civil War in India"; "Russian Attack on Australia."

I do not propose to comment on the four last-mentioned items, as it seems to me to be more profitable to strive firstly for the recognition and adoption of principles whereby our own unhappy house may be put in order.

BASIC WAGE AND PRICES

In its judgment announcing an interim rise of 7/- per week in the basic wage, the Full Arbitration Court estimated that the increase will involve a total addition of £26,600,000 per annum to the wages of employees throughout the Commonwealth, assuming that every wage-fixing authority in the Commonwealth ultimately extends the increase to those employees under its jurisdiction. According to the Melbourne "Herald" (14/12/46), it has been estimated in Canberra that the increase will ultimately add £50 million to Australia's annual wages bill.

It was also stated from Canberra that the basic wage increase ALONE could increase prices by 3 per cent, unless steps were taken to prevent such a rise. As no hope need be entertained that any steps will be taken except within the restrictive, frustrating framework of financial orthodoxy, it can be affirmed with absolute certainty that, to the extent to which such steps may be taken to prevent the recovery of the increase in the form of higher prices, it will be recovered out of the taxation which will be needed to pay subsidies to employers.

The "Herald" also included an announcement by employers that there might be a

temporary shortage of manufactured goods unless price margins were quickly adjusted to cover the rise.

And so, Mr. Editor, the same old futile pursuit of prices by incomes is being continued with the gap between the two becoming wider! Quite apart from this aspect of the question, a proportion of the basic-wage increase will be directly taken in higher income tax, and therefore will not even reach the pay envelopes of wage earners.

UNION BOSSES' OBJECTIVE

Every Trade Union secretary approached by the press for a statement has declared that the rise is inadequate, that it is not acceptable to the unions, and that further industrial upheaval can be expected unless, in its final award, the Court prescribes an increase satisfactory to the Unions. According to Mr. J. J. Brown, A.R.U. secretary, the trade union movement expects an increase substantially larger than the 7/- now granted, to be met at the expense of profits without any increase in prices. The sheer impossibility of achieving that objective is totally disregarded by this man, and evidently is not recognised by the rank and file unionists who are being led from one disaster to another by either incompetent or unprincipled "leaders."

In his article published in your issue of last week, "R.H." gave a clear analysis of the causes of the present industrial unrest; and, amongst other things, he called attention to the survey made by the Commonwealth Bank revealing that the total dividends paid last year by Australian industries amounted to £38 million. It is reported that the most comprehensive statistics indicate £50 million.

As I have already stated, the Full Arbitration Court, after making the most thorough investigation, has computed the total addition to the wage costs of industry involved in the 7/- basic-wage increase at

£26,600,000 per annum: Canberra estimates, after making allowance for the probable further additions to the wage bill likely to result from the lifting of the wage-pegging regulations, arrive at the figure of £50 million as the total increase.

It will be seen, therefore, that the estimates indicate that the basic-wage increase, plus any marginal increases based thereon, will be enough to absorb all the dividends paid by industry.

In face of this, however, Mr. J. J. Brown claims that a larger basic wage increase than 7/-, which he declared to be "nowhere near the increased cost of living the workers had been subjected to for a long time," "must be met at the expense of profits without any increase in prices."

Were the situation not fraught with such grave danger of imminent catastrophe, it would be humorous. If civilisation does survive, one can imagine future generations who have discovered the imbecility of ideas by which we are being tortured, regarding the people of this country very much as we regard the savages who practised cannibalism, or our forefathers of centuries ago who believed in the rite of trial-by-ordeal for alleged offences against the law.

THIS FUTILE FRICTION

Instead of each decision of the Arbitration Court resulting in an increase of wages benefiting the recipients thereof, it can be seen by all who will face the facts that such decisions serve rather to aggravate the friction existing between employers and employees.

It is futile for "the workers'" spokesmen to condemn the Judges of the Arbitration Court; futile also for employers' representatives to harangue union leaders. The Judges are obliged to take into account the financial consequences of any decisions they may make. As such, it is not their

function to devise suitable mechanisms for remedying the prevailing utterly insane state of affairs.

So long as trade union leaders on the one hand, and employers' spokesmen on the other, blindly refuse to recognise that a mutually satisfactory settlement is impossible without a fundamental change in financial POLICY; so long as they continue to do disservice to those they PROFESS to speak for by setting employer against employee and vice versa, instead of endeavouring to combine the two at present conflicting interests in a joint DEMAND on political representatives for such a change in financial policy, so long will the present conditions not only persist—they must deteriorate.

"R.H." in his article last week, and I in my recent letters, have indicated the principles WITHOUT THE ADOPTION OF WHICH THE MUCH-DESIRED IMPROVEMENT IN CONDITIONS IS UTTERLY IMPOSSIBLE.

Undoubtedly, if the time and energy expended in endeavours to improve conditions by methods which have been tried and proved to be worse than ineffectual, were mobilised in DEMANDING that change in financial POLICY along the lines indicated and to which reference has been made, the men responsible for prevailing conditions would be obliged to CHANGE THEIR POLICY. The men responsible are our Federal Parliamentary representatives, and the DESPOTIC ECONOMIC ADVISERS at whose behest crushing taxation burdens, which stifle incentive and rob the people of the just rewards of their efforts, are maintained.

GOVERNMENT HYPOCRISY

Is it not flagrant hypocrisy for Government spokesmen to attempt to justify the crushing taxation by alleging that it is necessary

(Continued on page 3.)

Significant Political Pointers

Speaking in the Federal Parliament on June 4, 1942, a private Member said:

"We are asked to approve of the appropriation of £50,000 for the Department of Information. If ever there was a department that ought to be abolished it is that department . . . Apparently the department is to continue, because we are still spending £200,000 a year on it. The money is being raised by all sorts of methods that are obnoxious to me. The Government does not seem to worry about squandering money."

The name of the Member who made the above observations is Mr. Arthur Calwell. Demonstrating the truth of the wise Lord Acton's statement that all power corrupts, Mr. Calwell is now Minister of Information and no longer finds the raising of money for the Department of Information obnoxious. Mr. Calwell's Department cost £326,000 last year. The Budget for the current year allocates Mr. Calwell £324,600.

The reaction of the British public to the statement by the Zionist, Professor Smerenko, that the British Grenadier Guards had gone through a Jewish settlement in Palestine with bayonets, gives point to the fact that the International Jews, at this critical period in history, are overplaying their hand. This will yet prove to be their undoing. Now, as right throughout his long history, the Jew cannot resist the temptation to become arrogant when he feels that his plans are near fruition. The fact that there is no longer any serious attempt made to camouflage the plot to create the World Slave State, indicates that the plotters are now confident of success, and that the time left for decisive action is desperately short.

"A cleverly concealed band of Jewish propagandists, forming what is believed to be an important staging post on the Jewish underground route to Palestine, has been discovered here (Hamburg, Germany). It was acting under the cover of a so-called fisheries school. Supported by U.N.R.R.A., the school purported to train its students, now numbering 56 men and 14 girls, in deep-sea fishing and trawling."

—The English "Daily Telegraph," November 18.

"Asked whether Mr. Menon had not Communist views, and whether he was the right person to negotiate on India's behalf, Pandit Nehru said: 'I myself hold Communist views on a great many matters.'"

"The Times," London, November 13, reporting Central Legislative Assembly in Delhi, November 12.

"The Bill Railways Standardisation Agreement Bill) is born out of a mistaken political philosophy. The

Commonwealth Government has the philosophy of providing work for all. Instead of that, it should have sought a higher standard of living for all. We can test that 'work for all' theory out under existing conditions. In Australia at present we have ample work for everyone—in fact, there is more work than can be done by the manpower available. However, we are not getting a higher standard of living, which would be possible for our people if, instead of thinking in terms of work, we thought in terms of production. Production and work are two different things. The Bill is introduced to provide work . . . Before we spend money on standardisation of the gauges it is only right that we should know exactly what the railways are doing with the money that has been invested in them. . . . Let me remind the House of the deficits that have occurred in our railways (Continued on Page 4)

BRETTON WOODS

Opponents of the Bretton Woods plan will need to quickly bestir themselves to influence the decision of the A.L.P. Federal Conference in January, because it appears that the decision is, in effect, really being made beforehand by the State Executives of the A.L.P., considering the Bretton Woods question and each defining its attitude. It will be incumbent on the delegates from each State to voice the attitude of the State Executive, and vote accordingly, at the Federal Conference. In N.S.W. the State Executive has already resolved to support ratification. So it is obviously urgent to immediately make last-minute efforts elsewhere to influence individual members of the State Executives. Some of them may be very inadequately informed of the facts and arguments against Bretton Woods, but our local readers can supply these, through the post or otherwise. One thing in particular, to which their attention should be drawn, is the item from the "Labor Call" reprinted in our issue of December 6. A general argument, which should be stressed, is that the alleged INDEFINITE disadvantages of not joining the Bretton Woods scheme are altogether outweighed by the DEFINITE disastrous consequences of joining it.

NOTES on the NEWS

According to Melbourne press reports, families will soon be moving into socialised Commission "houses" with NO WATER, LIGHT OR SEWERAGE—three socialised utilities have failed to produce what they were established for, namely, service. What a howl there would be if private enterprises failed to "deliver the goods"! The Communists and Socialists would raise the cry of "nationalise them." But when the evidence of socialistic failure is beyond doubt, there is no agitation to hand over the utilities to private enterprise?

It is also worth recalling how the failure of trains and trams dislocated transport. Apart from continued unsatisfactory performance of these and other publicly owned utilities, there is an increasing discontent amongst teachers, police and other servants of the mighty "State." Public ownership, judged on results, is certainly not even reasonably efficient.

PRICES POLICE: Ballarat Trades Hall officials have decided to police retail prices and Communist Brown, of the Railways Union, is insisting that wage increases must be met from profits. Apart from union officials becoming snoopers, this question of profits providing wage increases needs examination. Part of increased wages could

be borne by some businesses, but it would only be a small part. When the limit was reached they would naturally cease producing—then where would we be? Our production system would break down and chaos would result when profit disappeared. Some workers have at long last realised that increased wages, which automatically increase prices, are a snare and a delusion. Only drastic reduction in taxation and the issuance of additional income in such a way as not to go through industry as a cost will give increased purchasing power and stimulate production. The constant disregard of this by union officials leads to the belief that they are interested only in establishing chaos.

HUMAN RIGHTS: Lord Temple, addressing the Catholic Federation of Belgium, made a strong appeal for the creation of a "Human Rights Organisation," which he (Continued on Page 2)

SPECIAL NOTICE

TO NEWSAGENTS & READERS

The "New Times" will NOT be published on December 27 and January 3.

The next issue of the "New Times" will be published on Friday, January 10 1947.

GREAT VICTORY FOR THE WORKERS?

(From a Radio Talk by Eric D. Butler over 3CS, Colac.)

The increase in the basic-wage is being hailed as a great victory for the workers. If the workers are satisfied with this type of victory, it is obvious that they are allowing themselves to be duped by those who are supposed to represent them. In this talk I am going to outline a few simple facts, which will prove that the 7/- a week increase in the basic-wage, over a period, will not benefit the workers.

No reasonable person will deny that the basic-wage earners are justified in complaining that the increase in cost of living over the war years has depreciated the purchasing power of their wage. But if the basic-wage earners were to examine the major cause of that increase in the cost of living, they would realise that an increase, in the amount of the basic wage does nothing to remove this cause—in fact, it will aggravate the cause. The major cause of the increase in the cost of living is high taxation.

The immediate effect of the new basic wage increase will be to increase the amount of direct taxation the basic-wage earner will have to pay. After paying this increased taxation, the basic-wage earner will really only get 5/3 extra per week. But note this important fact: The full 7/- per week will be passed on to the consumer in the increased prices of goods and services. Already we are being told that the Victorian Railways are to increase their fares and freights in order to meet the increase in the basic-wage. Under the present financial rules, every increase in labour costs is passed on to the consumer in increased prices.

BROWN'S BUBBLE BURST

A few facts will disprove the loose claim being made by some Union leaders that industry as a whole can afford to pay the increased basic-wage and other increases without increasing prices. We hear a lot about the profits of the big monopolies.

Mr. J. J. Brown, the Communist controller of the Victorian Railway Union, recently visited a large engineering establishment and proceeded to tell the workers that they must have an extra pound per week. He then went on to give some figures of the war-time profits made by B.H.P. and other large industrial organisations, and gave the impression that if these profits were used to pay more to the workers they could get their pound per week increase. Unfortunately for Mr. Brown, there was at least one observant worker present who progressively totalled up the profits mentioned. They were approximately £42,000,000. This observant worker then pointed out that £42,000,000 over six war years averaged £7,000,000 per year, or, approximately £1 PER YEAR per head of the entire Australian population. And Mr. Brown was suggesting that these profits would provide £1 PER WEEK for the wage earners! Mr. Brown was very upset by this incident.

WAGES AND DIVIDENDS

It is estimated that the 7/- per week increase in the basic-wage and other increases arising from it are going to cost approximately £50,000,000. Commonwealth Bank figures show that the total of dividends paid by most of the companies in Australia was approximately £38,000,000 for last year. It is estimated that complete

figures bring the total somewhere near £50,000,000. So even if Australian industries paid no dividends at all (which would, of course, mean that they would not function), they could, in theory, barely meet the aforesaid wage increases without raising prices.

All consumers, including the workers getting the basic-wage and other increases, may as well face the hard fact that the increases will have to be passed on in increased prices. Increased prices will mean increased indirect taxes such as excise and sales tax.

Let me summarise briefly what will happen as a result of the basic-wage increase: The basic-wage earner may be temporarily just a little better off, but it will only be at the expense of others above the basic-wage and such people as the old-age pensioners. The Taxation Department will be a big gainer. But, most shocking of all, all those people with savings are to have the value of their savings depreciated still further by increasing prices. Perhaps Mr. Chifley and others who urged workers during the war years to put their money into War Loans upon which they could realise after the war, might now care to recall the pretty stories they told in order to get the small wage-earner to contribute. When those workers who put their savings into War Loans receive their money back in a few years, they are going to find that it will not have the same purchasing power that it had when they loaned it.

What the community is experiencing at present is what some economists now term "controlled inflation." All inflation is designed to rob the entire community. The desire of the basic-wage earners for increased purchasing power has been exploited to further this policy of inflation.

DRASTIC TAX CUT NEEDED

Listeners may well ask what should be done as a first step to improve the position of the basic-wage earner, thus removing much of the present industrial unrest, without increasing the basic-wage and thus increasing prices?

The immediate issue to be faced by all sections of the community is taxation. What we want is a reduction in prices in order that we can all buy more for our money. This reduction in prices can be brought about if there is a drastic all-round reduction in taxation—not only in direct taxation, but in all indirect taxation.

If the present taxation policy is persisted with, we can, as predicted over this session some months ago, confidently expect deliberately restricted production, increasing industrial unrest, and permanent shortages in turn leading to an ever-increasing black market and an ever-increasing army of snoopers and controllers to consolidate the Police State. This use of the taxation weapon to destroy our society is part of the conscious plot to reduce us to serfdom.

THE ERRORS OF PRIMITIVE PEOPLES

By "FOOTLE."

Now and again my newspaper is almost interesting, but I usually have to search for the tit-bit. There was one such the other day, in the form of an announcement that "Indians may pay taxes in yarn"—merely a suggestion emanating from a Mr. Rao, member of the All Indian Congress Committee.

It's funny how hard it is to stop people from thinking in terms of things instead of numbers. Hasn't Mr. Rao had ANY education? Doesn't he realise by now that the whole effort of civilisation is being concentrated on the non-recognition of things, so that we may be free to play about with the symbols we call "finance"? How easy it is to say "millionaire" and how difficult and ridiculous it would be if, every time we referred to his status, we had to recite a catalogue of his possessions!

All primitive people have fallen into the error of thinking in terms of things. That's what makes the patriarchal accounts of happenings and possessions such uphill reading. The patriarchs were very painstaking in cataloguing possessions, but had very vague notions of money. That desperate transaction of Judas Iscariot for instance, involving the unsatisfactory sum of thirty pieces of silver, illumines the point. The sum doesn't seem enormous even in comparison with the Good Samaritan's penny, but its great lack is precision.

We have corrected the error. A man receives so much a week (based on an index admittedly, but no one believes in it). Our statistical returns rarely deal with pounds avoirdupois, but preferably with pounds sterling, or, to bring the argument up to date, with dahls. The "British" rationing commission isn't concerned with the quantity of meat consumed per caput, but with how many shillings' worth. The credit creating "authority," the Big Five, through the "national" agency, the Bank "of England," has carried this civilised refinement almost to the ultimate. It "releases" credit composed mainly of ciphers with a fine disregard of material things, and if this doesn't convince us of the relative unimportance of

human activity in relation to the financial system, we are being merely obtuse or perverse.

NATIVES V. BANKERS

There must be an uncivilising influence at work in Madras, where the Government is conducting an experiment to "make every village self-sufficient in the matter of clothes." The next thing we shall hear of is an experiment to make every village self-sufficient in the matter of food. And what will become of us then? We shall have to start our civilisation of numerology all over again.

I don't think the Big Bankers are worrying unduly, however, because numerology works (sort of) and producing things doesn't work. They had to deal with this primitive independence in the rubber plantations a few years ago. The natives at first found considerable amusement in tapping rubber trees, but as they had lived whole epochs without tapping rubber they went back to their villages when they were tired of the white man's new game. Of course, "we" were most considerate and humane. "We" paid them wages and sold them beads. But they were too selfish to think of anything but themselves and their own silly little wants. And now you can see how vastly superior and more compelling are numbers compared with things: All "we" had to do was to impose a village tax and back the natives had to go to the rubber plantations to get the money to pay the taxes.

And yet people will talk about injustice to native populations. What rot! I mean to say, if it's good enough for us, it's good enough for a bunch of coons.

TWO LITTLE EXPERIMENTS

I will admit that even among civilised people like ourselves, thoroughly broken to

government-by-numbers as we are, you will find groups ready to "go native" on small provocation. For instance, after the first world war a community in Austria went primitive and fed and clothed its people in defiance of the Big Bankers, and with a selfish disregard of suffering humanity in the civilised portions of their own country. But that nonsense was soon stopped and very soon the community was so civilised it hadn't get a mark to its name.

I don't think anything drastic will be needed in this Indian experiment. It looks like undoing itself, for Mr. Rao's idea is that everyone pay his taxes in yarn, dis-

regarding transport, storage cockroaches and silverfish. Why not claim the right for each to contribute his own production? There will, of course, be official hostility as there was in the case of the Frenchman who paid his taxes in the form of unsaleable bricks—and got sued for obstruction. There will also be difficulty with the professional classes. What, for example, would doctors do once the supply of tonsils and appendices ran out?

But it isn't up to me to discover objections, for there is a simplicity about the wheeze which appeals to me. I wouldn't mind paying my own taxes with a yarn.

NATIONALIST NEWS FROM THE U.S.A.

(Mostly Missing in the Daily Press)

In the "Australian" daily press, practically all cable "news" from the United States is selected and/or "slanted" (before or after transmission, or both) according to the internationalist, pro-Judaic viewpoint. Therefore, for the information of our readers, we publish the following exclusive items provided by the Nationalist News Service (but it does not automatically follow that we endorse all the persons and policies associated with the N.N.S. or kindred organisations): —

WASHINGTON, October 14, 1946. The Justice Department is about to call on certain Communist leaders in the United States to register as foreign agents, agents of the Russian Government. Those who know and understand the Communist movement in America know that every member of the Communist Party is an agent of Josef Stalin, and owes his first loyalty to the Kremlin. According to the law it is a crime to represent a foreign nation without registering with the State Department. The penalty for violating this law is \$10,000 fine or five years imprisonment. This law may be used and enforced to curb the activity of Red revolutionists in our nation.

President Truman had planned to visit New York State and make a speech in behalf of the candidacy of former Governor Lehman, who is running for the Senate, and Senator Mead, who is running for Governor. But the Democratic Party in New York State is strictly Left wing and pro-Wallace. Consequently, Truman is likely to cancel his proposed visit to the Empire State. When Truman's picture appears in motion picture theatres in numerous communities in New York, the audience boos and hisses. The heckling comes from pro-Communists and Left-wingers, who are very angry because the President fired the pro-Russian Henry Wallace.

The American Federation of Labor is about to purge its organisation of Communists all over the United States. It has done a pretty good job already, but some of its Unions are still being directed by Left-wingers. Within the C.I.O. an anti-Communist movement is developing real strength. Several of the C.I.O. Unions have already purged themselves of Red agents.

King George of Greece will face the daily threat of assassination when he returns to his throne. Soviet Russia is encouraging every revolutionist in Greece. Stalin will not rest until King George is either dead or forced to abdicate.

U.S. Senator Robert La Follette, writing in his magazine, "The Progressive," says: "I part company with Mr. Wallace and

Senator Pepper when they accept or applaud the extension of dictatorship and tyranny. It is criminal folly to think of war with Russia, but it is criminal folly, too, to underwrite and approve actions by the Soviet which must end in world collision."

The Russian Embassy has more than 2000 agents and representatives in the United States. These people are allowed to go without restraint into our cities, our factories, our communities. We have but 30 or 40 representatives in Moscow, and these people, representing the American Government, are not allowed to go any place except under the surveillance, direction, and observation of an agent of the Russian Government.

According to Monsignor Fulton J. Sheen, the eminent radio priest, 263 priests were slaughtered in Yugoslavia during the first six months of the Marshal Tito regime.

The leaders in the new Pro-Stalin "appease Russia" set-up are Henry Morgenthau, Jr., C.I.O. President Philip Murray, Harold Ickes, former Congressman Charles La Follette, Jack Kroll, successor to Sidney Hillman, James Pation, head of the Farmers' Union (a pro-Communist outfit), Henry Wallace, and Robert Kenny, Attorney-General of California. These men held a meeting on strategy in the City of Chicago the last week in September.

Leaders of the Palestine underground are now operating in the United States, raising tremendous sums of money. One such leader, speaking in the Hollywood Bowl in Los Angeles, California, on the night of September 18, said: "The Jews have lost faith in the Gentile world. They do not want any part of it. Most of the 600,000 Jews in Palestine have close relatives in Europe and desire their immediate removal to Palestine." This statement was made by one Dafni Rubin. Speaking on the same programme was Edward G. Robinson, the screen actor. Robinson is active in Left-wing circles. His real name is Emanuel Goldenberg.

NOTES ON THE NEWS

(Continued from page 1.)

believed would establish elsewhere certain basic human rights similar to those existing in the Western Democracies. Apparently he does not know that bureaucracy, which has undermined the parliamentary and judicial institutions of these so-called Western Democracies, has usurped such rights. However, his words may kindle a desire for the restoration of laws protecting the individual, and if a lead were given in a demand for a Bill of Rights, there is no doubt that considerable support would be forthcoming. One essential right would be that only courts of law could impose fines or penalties. That would eliminate one of the evils of bureaucracy by removing a weapon it depends on—the fear of immediate reprisals. This is just one suggestion for a 1947 Magna Charta.

FILCHING FASHION: Once again the Victorian State Government has set an example for thieves in dishonest practices; for the second time it has robbed the motorists by diverting £110,000 of their funds to consolidated revenue. Political Parties other than the present one have followed this practice, and even the Legislative Council has condoned it. So the practice of misappropriating citizens' money goes on, and the culprits are above the law, which is always for the "other fellow." This is another example of the need for a Bill of Rights to protect citizens from political gangsterism so rife today. There must be some deadly virus, which infects politicians, one that destroys all codes of honour and fair play. Unless this virus is destroyed, it will disintegrate our society.

PRESS PROBE: A motion to appoint a Royal Commission to enquire into the financial control, management and ownership of the British Press was recently carried by the British House of Commons. During the debate it was pointed out that in the past 27 years 47% of the morning papers had vanished along with 25% of the evening papers, and that Right Wing papers were most ready to open their columns to Left Wing contributors but Left Wing editors

did not reciprocate. The enquiry is obviously intended to prepare the way for socialised control of news, which would clearly be worse than the existing monopoly. There is no doubt that the world's news is both suppressed and distorted; but despite this there are occasional opportunities for the truth to break through. Even these few gaps would be closed under a socialised monopoly.

MOTOR MUSINGS: U.S. motorcar producers and dealers dislike the possibility of having to charge 30 to 50 per cent, above 1941 prices; but they see no alternative! The saying "that which goes up, must come down" doesn't apply to the economic muddle. Hundreds of would-be buyers are refusing to take delivery at the present prices, and others find themselves unable to meet the time payments; this is rather pathetically described as "a buyers' strike." The method they suggest for correcting the situation is the same as suggested here, and, indeed, everywhere by "certified" economists, e.g., more production and less absenteeism. Perhaps this is intended to apply to those responsible for maintaining the money supplies, but it is very much doubted.

CARDINAL'S CANDOUR: A New York report of November 6 quoted Cardinal Spellman, leader of the Roman Catholic hierarchy in America, as making a very realistic criticism of Russia and the peace proposals. He said, "This is not a peace but a decade of delusion and despair, which recalls the era when the Mongols spewed over the face of the earth and erected an empire from the Yellow Sea to the Danube over the skulls of five million slain. Every Communist is a potential enemy of the United States; only the blind can fail to be aware of the Communist invasion of America." This should create a mild stir amongst our pink professors and prelates here in Australia, who attend to the higher-level propaganda, while the lower strata of Communists disrupt industrial organisation.

O.B.H.

DEFENSE AND MR. MAHER'S NOTABLE SPEECH Bureaucracy and Taxation are Strangling Australia

Those who think that the only worthwhile parliamentary speeches made in Australia are heard in Canberra, and that statesmanship is not to be found in this country except in the rarefied atmosphere of the Federal capital, should have their attention drawn to examples to the contrary such as the following speech, delivered in the Queensland Legislative Assembly on October 11, 1946.

Although ideas with which we are not in accord seem to be implied in a few places—principally in the quotation used in the latter part—this speech contains much vital information, as well as being better than most Canberra speeches if only because it deals with real key problems of post-war Australia and is "right on the target":—

MR. MAHER: . . . We are down to 52,000,000 bushels of wheat for the year 1945 . . .

In barley we dropped from 15.6 million bushels in 1940 to 5,000,000 bushels in 1945. In maize we fell back from 6.5 million bushels in 1940 to 6.3 million bushels in 1945. In oats we dropped from 25 million bushels in 1940 to 8.9 bushels in 1945.

Although the quantity of sugar cane crushed in 1945 was the highest since 1942 it was only 75 per cent, of that of 1939-40, when the record production of 929,000 tons of sugar was obtained. So it is obvious that there has been a heavy decline in the production of sugar in Australia. The tobacco crop was the lowest in 1945 for 14 years. The area sown to cotton in 1945 was the lowest in 10 years, being one-quarter of the average.

In dairying there has been a heavy decline in all production. For 1938-39 the figure was 203,500 tons, and that has fallen to 142,000 tons in 1944-45. On the exportable basis, in 1939 102,000 tons was exported and in 1945 our exports had fallen to 42,000 tons. The dairy cows in milk declined by more than 340,000 between March 1941, and March 1945, and about 5000 holdings ceased supplying milk or cream to dairy factories.

This is a fair overall picture of the grave and serious decline that has taken place in cropping operations in Australia during the last few years, at a time when the world is in need of food, and when, according to the speech of Mr. J. R. Adams, British Trade Commissioner in Sydney, a few weeks ago, 500,000,000 people throughout the world are faced with acute starvation, and when, despite all that anyone can do about 2,000,000 were in fact doomed to perish . . .

Moreover, you must have read in the Queensland Press recently, Mr. Duggan, the report of the Queensland Government Statistician, Mr. Colin Clark, indicating that sheep flocks in Queensland alone have declined from 25,500,000 sheep in 1943 to 19,000,000 sheep in 1946. In the last three years our flocks have declined by no less than 6,500,000 sheep. . . .

WHY PRODUCTION FALLS

You may ask me, Mr. Duggan, to what I attribute the decline. There are several factors. First of all, Government restrictions have applied to wheat-growing, then there has been the ill-balanced man-power policy, by which because of the points Scheme of the Department of the Army and approved of by the Federal Government, thousands of men were kept in army camps in Australia long after the war had ended instead of being permitted to return to industry to help in post-war reconstruction. Another reason is the slow movement of the price-fixing machinery, which often fails to operate or be approved of by the bureaucrats responsible for the food front in Australia until economic conditions have made it difficult to arrest the downward trend of production in the industry concerned, as in the case of butter. It might be appropriate to use a war-time phrase; action is generally taken on the scale of "Too little, too late."

But most important of all is the general detrimental incidence of excessive taxation. I think you will generally agree with me that there appears to be a slowing-down of effort. There is an inclination on the part of many people who formerly worked hard to earn large incomes to slow down now and limit their effort according to the amount of tax payable. One sees that exemplified in a fair cross-section of the people. We are inclined sometimes to blame the industrial worker, the coal-miner, the wharf, and other sections of industrial workers when we find they indulge in go-slow tactics, absenteeism, and strikes on the most foolish pretext, but all these strikes, this absenteeism, and go-slowism are symptomatic of a basic unrest, and the worker merely indicates by these irresponsible actions—the only process left to him—his protest against the heavy incidence of the taxation being imposed on him . . .

Why is that shortage continued 12 months after the war has ended? Does it not seem to indicate that the big industrial plants are not being utilised to their fullest extent, that there is a slowing-down of effort, because the incentive to produce on a big scale has gone? The manufacturer in many cases, I should think, accommodates his outlook to the amount of tax that he feels he should be called upon to pay.

HORSHAM VOTERS' POLICY ASSOCIATION

We are pleased to report that Mr. Lawrence Rudolph has formed a Voters' Policy Association at Horsham, Victoria.

profitable to me and then have to face a heavy tax assessment at the end of my year's effort? The tendency, therefore, is for the dairyman to milk fewer cows; and the evidence is there, because I showed from the figures issued by the Commonwealth Statistician that 340,000 fewer dairy cows are being milked today than in 1941, and 5000 dairy holdings have ceased supplying milk and cream to dairy factories throughout Australia.

What are the reasons for that? Can the Treasurer supply any better reasons than those I have suggested to the Committee this morning as to why we are not producing the volume of butter, why we are not producing the volume of cheese, why we are not producing the volume of milk, or the quantities of wheat, barley, oats, tobacco, cotton, indeed all the crops that are vital to our continued prosperity? I submit that the reason is the silent protest of the producers of this country, both primary and secondary; and of the workers of this country by their go-slowism, by their absenteeism, by their striking on foolish pretexts. There is a certain cross-section of people in this country today who are slowing down in effort, and that is what is responsible for the downward movement.

And unless it is corrected, Mr. Duggan, I say that rationing will become a permanent industry and famine conditions will appear in our own richly productive country. History is full of instances where excessive taxation has created famine conditions in the past. I propose to quote this morning an extract from a book entitled, "The New Deal in Rome," by H. J. Haskell, which bears on the problem facing Australia today. He heads a chapter on the subject, "The New Order that Ruined Rome." I am speaking of Rome in the sense of ancient Rome. He said—

A LESSON FROM HISTORY

"Most of these 'Plans' for continued State control—these 'New Order' schemes, are exactly the same as ancient Rome adopted when it began to decay. They are all 'Decay Schemes.' And this ought to be made widely known.

"History repeats itself. Every prosperous nation has to fight for its life against dictators, or against demagogues, officials and parasites.

"This is a startling fact that ancient Rome, when it began to go down, had the same sort of Government departments that Great Britain, Australia and the United States have today.

"It had a Farm Debt Conciliation Committee, a Re-settlement Administration, a

The cattleman is inclined to say, "Why should I put up with the conditions of heat and drought and risk over-stocking my property, living in remote regions of the State, suffering all the difficulties of sand flies, buffalo flies and ticks, only to be levied upon excessively by the taxation authorities at the end of my year's work?" There is a tendency there, I should say, for less calves to be bred.

The same thing applies to the sheep man. Admittedly drought has played havoc with our flocks, but many sheep are being fed, and the big decline in our sheep population is not altogether blamable to drought conditions. In my opinion many sheep men find the incidence of taxation so heavy that they are obliged to reduce sales, so to speak, and carry less stock.

As to the agriculturist, the position is reflected in the figures I have just quoted. Obviously there is a slowing-down of effort there. Over the periods of heavy taxation there has been a gradual slowing-down by agriculturists in the sowing of the various vital Australian crops until we have reached low-water mark today in the production of agricultural products within the State. I believe that the continuance of excessive taxation is having these effects to which I allude this morning. The tendency can end in disaster to Australia unless it is corrected.

The same thing applies to the dairy farmer. When he looks round he says, "Why should I work seven days a week with my wife and family, milking cows to produce butter and cheese at a price that is not

FINANCIAL APPEAL EXTENDED More Donors Urgently Required

The Social Credit Action Group reports that it has decided to extend its financial appeal for £2500 into the New Year. This decision is the result of the fact that, as indicated by the figures below, only approximately one-fifth of the total sum required for the 1947 offensive has been guaranteed. The Action Group has received several letters urging that the appeal be extended for several weeks longer, as many more supporters will be stimulated to contribute now that the comparatively small number of 238 has guaranteed nearly £600 for next year. The Action Group urges all those thousands of supporters who have not yet contributed to back up the lead given by the few who have already led the way.

The Action Group is determined on a big 1947 offensive, which will accomplish far more than was accomplished in 1946. One of its major objectives is a regular eight-page illustrated issue of the "New Times" and a greatly expanded circulation. A small contribution from each supporter will provide the necessary finance.

The table below sets out how many donors are being sought to contribute various weekly amounts, and progress results:—

Weekly Amount	Donors Required	Donors Obtained	Donors Needed
4/-	50	11	14
2/-	100	30	70
1/-	200	22	178
6d.	400	68	332
3d.	800	101	699

Previously acknowledged, 11. Previously acknowledged, 4; MK., South Melb.; S.W.N., Hawthorn, Vic.

Previously acknowledged, 22; R.G.C. Murrumbidgee, Vic.; Miss E.L., Glen Iris, Vic.; G.F.G., Balwyn, Vic.; Miss L.R., Kew, Vic.; S.G.M., Camberwell, Vic.; S.W.B., Red Cliffs, Vic.; J.J.F., Red Cliffs, Vic.; J.S.L., Kew, Vic.

Previously acknowledged, 10; P.M., Yackandandah, Vic.; K.O., Nhill, Vic.; H.G.M., Kew, Vic.; T.S., Geelong, Vic.; T.D., Geelong, Vic.; E.H., Geelong, Vic.; H.A., Geelong, Vic.; A.P.McD., Highton, Vic.; D.N., Highton, Vic.; "Always", F.G.McM., Seaton Park, S.A.; J.M., Burwood, N.S.W.

Previously acknowledged, 35; Miss E.G.L., Upper Ferntree Gully, Vic.; J.E.R., Myrtle Bank, S.A.; C.H.C., Yallourn, Vic.; W.C., Melton, Vic.; F.P.T., Moorabbin, Vic.; Mrs. M.F.G., Brisbane, Q.; H.P.R., Alvie, Vic.; J.M.G., Ben-digo, Vic.; J.W.A., Dripstone, N.S.W.; A.E.S., Sydney, N.S.W.; W.McC.S., Port Douglas, Nth. Q.; R.E.H., Glen Iris, Vic.; G.A., Preston, Vic.; J.A.Y., Waratah, N.S.W.; W.T.H., Wang-d-ratta, Vic.; W.F.S., Red Hill South, Vic.; A.G., Launceston, Tas.; C.P.R., Wondalga, N.S.W.; P.V.J., Wollstonecraft, N.S.W.; W.H.L., West Ryde, N.S.W.; J.W.F., Mildura, Vic.; F.G.K., Lismore, N.S.W.; M.Q., Barellan, N.S.W.; R.E.C., Plympton, S.A.; P.P., Neutral Bay, N.S.W.; P.P., Upper Barron, Q.; J.K., Alvie, Vic.; J.C.U., Perth, W.A.; C.P.R., Wondalga, N.S.W.; N.S.McC., Roseville, N.S.W.; the following person has promised three shillings weekly: P.P., Geelong, Vic.

Previously acknowledged, 49; Miss L.N., Ivanhoe, Vic.; E.S., Lancefield, Vic.; F.L.T., Geelong, Vic.; R.J.B., Malanda, Q.; CR., Gordonvale, Q.; M.M., Ouyen, Vic.; F.I.G., Elsternwick, Vic.; A.S.M., Burwood, Vic.; G.McL., Nullawil, Vic.; T.K., Westgarth, Vic.; Mrs. I.M.Fullarton, S.A.; G.R., East Cannington, W.A.; J.G., Edwardstown, S.A.; J.D.T., Rochester, Vic.; C.R., Cairns, Q.; W.C.W., Lindfield, N.S.W.

The following have given 3 threepences weekly: W.G., Sandy Creek, Vic.; R.L.H., Hamilton, Vic.; W.T.K., Horsham, Vic.; Miss J.A.T., Kalorama, Vic.; P.J.M., Townsville, Q.; F.C.B., Illabo, N.S.W.; W.K., Elwood, Vic.; The following have given 5 threepences weekly: H.W.McD., Brim, Vic.; H.A.H., Thorp-dale, Vic.; O.C.R., Camberwell, Vic. Total annual sum now guaranteed, £572.

In order to save time, labour and postage, contributors are urged to pay their donations for twelve months in one amount if possible; failing this, for not less than three months if possible. 5/- per week is £13 per year; 4/- per week is £10/8/- per year; 2/- per week is £5/4/- per year; 1/- per week is £2/12/- per year; 6d per week is £1/6/- per year, and 3d. per week is 13/- per year.

All payments to be sent to W. J. Carruthers 32 Kendall Street, Ringwood, Vic.

CHRISTMAS IN A STRIFE-TORN WORLD

(Continued from page 1)

to prevent "inflation," seeing that the major factor causing inflated prices of food and clothing, etc., is the taxation for imposition of which they are responsible.

Workers and others who are justifiably complaining of the high cost of living, should join in a demand for an immediate reduction of 50% in all taxes.

Until such action as will COMPEL our Government to yield to the wishes of the people is energetically embarked upon, unrest will be intensified, social disintegration will be accelerated. Under such conditions, Mr. Editor, I regard the Christmas messages, which, doubtless, will be disseminated by "leaders"—political, ecclesiastical, and industrial—men who are conscious of the policy they are pursuing—as no better than blasphemy!

May I conclude my contribution to this, your last issue for the year, by wishing all readers of the "New Times" as happy a Christmas as enlightened people can hope to enjoy. May I also hope that, ere next Christmas, that impetus necessary to such reversal of prevailing policy as will lead to the regeneration of society—the impetus mentioned by C. H. Douglas in "Social Credit"—will have been given by the small body of people who know what is requisite to that end. If and when this eventuates, the words "Peace on Earth, Goodwill to-Toward Men" will not be the hollow mockery, the empty platitude, which, regrettably, they are today.

—I am, very truly yours, J. BRADSHAW, A.F.I.A., 169 Walsh Street, South Yarra, December 15th, 1946.

Public Works Administration, a Food Relief Scheme, a Home-owners' Loan Corporation, an Agricultural Adjustment Administration, a Farm Credit Administration, a Price-and-Wage Act, and so on.

"The profit motive was attacked. There was a Price Control Act in A.D. 301, when the end of the Roman Empire was near. Prices were set too low, and at once there was a shortage of commodities.

"Rome was eaten up by doles and subsidies. At one time 320,000 people were on the dole for wheat. To keep the masses quiet they were given bread and games. They were pauperised by State help.

"As many as 200,000 were given free bread—21b of bread a day. Also, they were given pork, olive oil and salt every now and then. The Government became a giver.

"The dole attracted to Rome the vagrants and the lazy people. They attracted the German tribes, too, and they began to filter into Rome. And most of the enterprising, self-reliant men left Rome and went elsewhere.

"The soldiers and the Government employees clamoured for more and more money. They made incessant raids on the Treasury. As a result, taxation steadily increased until it became intolerable.

"Then the currency was inflated by "a flood of new money. This inflation destroyed the rich and middle classes. Almost all private enterprise came to an end, and the whole nation came to a standstill and decayed.

"Rome fell because of internal decay. The heart was taken out of enterprising men. The masses were taught to expect something for nothing.

"Rome became totalitarian. The Government set out to control everything. As a result, there was soon not much to control. The controlled industries became extinct.

"Just before Rome collapsed, half of the people were on the public pay-roll. And there was not enough money to pay them, as the taxpayers had been bled to death.

"At the height of its power Rome had a population of 1,000,000 and ruled 70,000,000 people. But in the year 1400 it had only 20,000 and no empire. It went back to pasture land, and cows and sheep wandered about in it.

"The Romans were the greatest and wisest people in the world for 400 years. Then a rot set in. Then came degeneracy—A degeneracy that still exists, as we have seen in recent years. From Marcus Aurelius to Mussolini, is a tragic drop from the heights to the lowest depths.

"Rome had a 'Golden Age' under the 'five good Emperors.' It lasted for 84 years. It was the peak of ancient civilisation.

"During this period taxes were low. Private enterprise was encouraged and business men were in high positions. There was real social security for all industrious people.

"Then came the planners, and the whole shining structure of Roman life was broken down. This story of how Rome fell should be taught in all English-speaking countries."

* * * * *

That book covers a position that those who see and observe things about theirs cannot fail to conclude resembles the deterioration in our own country, a deterioration that brought about the fall of a great civilisation in ancient times. I quote from the book so that the views of the writer may be published in "Hansard" and read by thinking people in due course.

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From the "Social Creditor," England, 26/10/46

THE REPORT OF THE ROYAL COMMISSION INTO THE DISCLOSURE OF CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION TO AGENTS OF A FOREIGN POWER, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE REPORT THAT WOULD-BE PURCHASERS OF THE REPORT ARE BEING TOLD THAT THE FIRST EDITION IS EXHAUSTED AND THAT THE NEXT "WILL BE RESERVED FOR 'THE LEGAL PROFESSION'," WE PUBLISH BELOW EXTRACTS TAKEN PARTICULARLY FROM THAT PART OF THE REPORT WHICH THROWS LIGHT ON "THE DEVELOPMENT OF IDEOLOGICAL MOTIVATION," THE ROYAL COMMISSION'S PHRASE FOR THE EXTENSIVE AND LONG-CONTINUED PURPOSEFUL PREPARATION OF THE SOIL FROM WHICH THE ANTI-NATIONAL ACTIONS REPORTED BY THE COMMISSIONERS GREW.

The Commissioners emphasise, not once only, but over and over again, the relatively small size of the "patch" of subversive, conspiratorial activity which they were able to study. They recognised that much larger areas were hidden from their inspection—e.g.: "We have endeavoured to obtain from Gouzenko [the cipher clerk on the staff of the Soviet Embassy at Ottawa whose revelations initiated the enquiry] all the information he could give us about the various circles' or 'parallel systems.' He has expressed the opinion that the records he placed before us give the names or cover-names of all the persons in Zabolin's organisation. This is the one organisation with which he is personally familiar." The implication is made clear that, besides "Red Army Intelligence" (Colonel Zabolin's department) there were other "nets," some only of which are mentioned in the report, while others are hinted at. Thus there is N.K.V.D. Intelligence, and, separately organised, Comintern Intelligence. There is the Political as well as the Military. So far, the picture evoked is one of highly elaborated, professional espionage, organised on the basis of secret, independent but overlapping units, coordinated centrally. The reduplication scarcely adds a third dimension to the picture of a two-dimensional "net," like a fishing-net: the fact that there are several nets packed close together does not seem to make for much more than technical efficiency. Another dimension is added with the observation of Gouzenko: "To many Soviet people abroad it is clear that the Communist Party in democratic countries has changed long ago from a political party into an agency net of the Soviet Government, into a fifth column in these countries to meet a war, into an instrument in the hands of the Soviet Government for creating unrest, provocations, etc., etc., . . ."

These etceteras are eloquent, and it is evident from many passages in the report that the Commissioners have heard and heeded the message they convey.

It is in this direction that the report may be of the greatest value, if it can break down the psychological resistance to the idea that the evil of society is something which can be isolated, in the fashion that the scum or the dregs can be isolated from the rest of a given volume of liquid. Even this separation is not always possible, even in simple cases. But those who have charge of our affairs are dangerously disposed to exploit the possibilities of the facile view that, for example, there is no harm in a "swing over to the Left" provided it is not "Communist." The Commissioners are getting near to the bone when they say:—

TRAINING OF TRAITORS

"Perhaps the most startling aspect of the entire Fifth Column network is the uncanny success with which the Soviet agents were able to find Canadians who were willing to betray their country and to supply to agents of a foreign power secret information. . . ."

"Many of the Canadian public servants implicated in this espionage network were persons with an unusually high degree of education, and many were well regarded by those who worked with them in agencies and departments of the public service, as persons of marked ability and intelligence." It goes with this that "There is no evidence that monetary incentive played an important part in the original [emphasis is original] motivation of those persons whose ideology was sympathetic to the Communist cause, who agreed to act as espionage agents." Money was often pressed upon them some time after their initiation, for reasons, which the Commissioners explain. It is part of the technique of demoralisation. The "object is to accustom the young Canadian adherent gradually to an atmosphere and an ethic of conspiracy. The general effect on the young man or woman over a period of time of secret meetings, secret acquaintances, and secret objectives, plans and policies can easily be imagined. The technique seems calculated to develop the psychology of a double life and double standards."

The initiative does not come from the individual conspirator. "Thus within a short period of time what had been merely a political discussion group, made up of Canadian scientists as members of a Canadian political party, was transformed on instructions from Moscow into an active espionage organisation working against Canada on behalf of a foreign power. It is particularly startling that none of the initiative for this transformation was supplied by the three scientists themselves."

TECHNIQUE OF CONSPIRACY

"The community is so much raw material. The enquiry has revealed the names of a number of Canadians, employed in various

Departments and Agencies of the Government, who while presumably quite ignorant of the espionage network and certainly innocent of implication in such illegal activities, were being subjected to 'development' by the same means for use in the future.

"For these reasons we are analysing with some care the question of motivation, and the highly organised methods employed to develop an appropriate moral and mental state among potential Canadian recruits before they are informed of what has been planned for them. . . ."

"It seems to be general policy of the Communist Party to discourage certain selected sympathisers among certain categories of the population from joining that political Party openly. Instead, these sympathisers are invited to join secret 'cells' or study groups, and to take pains to keep their adherence to the Party from the knowledge of their acquaintances who are not also members of the Communist Party. The categories of the population from which secret members are recruited include students, scientific workers, teachers, office and business workers, persons engaged in any type of administrative activity, and any group likely to obtain any type of government employment. . . ."

"One objective, we conclude, is that this technique facilitates the achievement of a basic policy of the Communist Party, viz., to get control, through the election of secret members to the directing committees, of as many types of functional organisations as possible, including trade unions, professional associations and broad non-party organisations such as youth movements, and civil liberties unions. Similarly, secret members or adherents of the Communist Party may be used to take the lead in organising new, broad, and ostensibly non-political organisations, after which they obtain for themselves and other secret adherents key positions on controlling committees of the organisation. . . ."

SCIENTIFIC WORKERS' ASSN.

"One illustration of the use of this technique is furnished by the Canadian Association of Scientific Workers. Professor Boyer, in whose house the informal meetings at which the establishments of the organisation were held, became National President. Norman Veall, upon whom we are also reporting, told us that he 'took an active part in the formation of the organisation'; and that he became a member of the National Executive Committee, charged with maintaining liaison with corresponding organisations in other countries. There is evidence that he used this position as a

cover in making contact with members of the staff of the Soviet Embassy in Ottawa.

"David Shugar testified that he had been very active in organising and extending the Association, and was elected a member of the Executive of the Ottawa Branch. In fact, Veall and Shugar each showed an inclination to claim credit for founding the Association. Mjazerall stated that the Association was something 'which people in the study-groups were interested in forming.' . . ."

"Control by the Communist Party over a broad organisation such as the Canadian Association of Scientific Workers could be used in a variety of ways not only for propaganda purposes, but eventually as a base for recruiting adherents to that Party from among scientists, and in due course no doubt for recruiting additional espionage agents in key positions in the national life."

THE USE OF STUDY-GROUPS

"An inevitable result of . . . emphasis on a conspiratorial atmosphere and behaviour even in political discussions, correspondence and meetings which are in themselves perfectly legal and indeed are the cherished right of everyone in a democratic society, would seem to be the gradual disintegration of normal moral principles such as frankness, honesty, integrity, and a respect for the sanctity of oaths."

What do the Study-groups do? "The curriculum includes the study of political and philosophical works, some of them far from superficial, selected to develop in the students an essentially critical attitude towards Western democratic society. . . . But this curriculum would appear in reality to be designed not to promote social reform where it might be required, but to weaken the loyalty of the group member towards his or her own society as such."

"Linked with these studies at all stages, moreover, goes an organised indoctrination calculated to create in the mind of the study-group member an essentially uncritical acceptance at its face value of the propaganda of a foreign State. . . ."

"This system has been functioning for years, and was already a going concern used for espionage in 1935."

(Perhaps, after all, that disconcerting phrase, so glibly current, has a meaning—"We wouldn't know"?)

JEWISH FIFTH COLUMNISTS

"The evidence before us strongly suggests that anti-Semitism and the natural reaction of persons of Jewish origin to racial discrimination, was one of the factors played upon by the Communist recruiting agents. It is significant that a number of the documents from the Russian Embassy specifically note 'Jew' or 'Jewish' in entries on their relevant Canadian agents or prospective agents, showing that the Russian Fifth Column leaders attached particular significance to this matter. . . ."

"Gerson said:—
"I consider myself as a second-class Canadian—not as a first-class Canadian. That is not a laughing matter, Mr. Commissioner; it is very serious."

"He elucidated this point:—
"Q. You have been speaking about Communism and you have also mentioned Fascism. What is your idea, of the difference, if any, between Communism and Fascism?
"A. Well, my idea is that it would be based on a question of anti-Semitism.
"Q. I see."

DECLINING STATUS OF PARLIAMENT

Policies Decided in Party Rooms

Under the above headings, the Melbourne "Age" of December 2 published the following political report and commentary from its Special Representative in Canberra:—

CANBERRA, Sunday. —In the next two weeks, comprising eight sitting days and nights, the Commonwealth Parliament will rush and slur over work that properly should occupy months of deliberation—a bad practice in a tradesman, and deplorable in the nation's Legislature.

This bad habit of long periods of recess and short spasms of cramming and overwork, which was accentuated in war-time as authority passed almost completely from Parliament to the Cabinet, unless checked will reduce the parliamentary institution to impotence and contempt.

Debate and deliberation do take place in the building called Parliament among persons elected there, but not in the House of Representatives itself, within sight and hearing of the public and the press. It takes place in the party rooms. There the decisions are made; they are merely placed on record in the House. Parliament thus is becoming a sounding board, a recording chamber, a quiz session and a forum of the air.

There are 17 orders of the day on the notice paper for Tuesday and others pending. Even allowing for those which are more formal and could each be disposed of in a few hours, such as the reports on the surplus canteen profits of the R.A.A.F., and various reports by the Tariff Board, each of which affects some industry or group of industries, there are major measures worthy of much more careful and serious consideration than they are likely to be accorded.

TRANSITION BILL

Prominent among these is the Defence (Transitional Provisions) Bill, which will repeal the National Security Act, but retain a lot of its provisions. Mr. Menzies, as Leader of the Opposition, while probably agreeing in principle that the special powers

necessary in war should be prolonged enough to deal with the immediate effects of war, will probably make a lawyer's analysis of them in detail.

This will not be enough. Every one of the powers proposed to be continued should be discussed by private members in the light of their probable effect on the daily lives and homes of the people. But, of course, this will not be done, except by the two Independents, whose votes alone will not be enough to have much effect in divisions on strict party lines. Every Government supporter is pledged to vote as the majority in caucus may direct.

There will take place in the Labor caucus meeting on Wednesday, for instance, the renewed debate on the Bretton Woods proposals for the establishment of an international monetary fund and an international bank. If there is any question which should be subject to free and open debate in Parliament it is this one.

OPEN COVENANTS

Caucus adjourned twice last week without reaching a decision on the agreement. Indications are that in the long run Mr. Chifley and Dr. Evatt will persuade caucus as they persuaded Cabinet and the A.L.P. Federal Executive. But as this Bretton Woods decision will have far-reaching effects upon the trade and economy of Australia, what reason is there for digressing from the principle of "open covenants openly arrived at"?

Should a narrow majority in caucus approve of the proposals, ratification by Parliament will be a formality. A pledged majority, including the Ministers and members who have implacably opposed the Bretton Woods proposals, will then vote for them. If caucus on Wednesday fails to ratify the proposals they will be dropped for the time being.

Political Pointers

(Continued from Page 1)

system during the past ten years. In round figures, the deficits on South Australian railways are as follows: 1936, £718,000; 1937, £756,000; 1938, £779,000; 1939, £1,011,000; 1940, £995,000; 1941, £772,000; 1942, £134,000; 1943, £72,000; 1944, £474,000; and 1945, £928,000. That shows an average loss of about £750,000 a year, except for the two war years, which forced traffic on to the railways. . . . but we are again on the up grade, because in 1945 the losses were higher than in the pre-war years."

—Independent Member MacGillivray in the South Australian Parliament on November 19.

* * * * *

"We have indeed no need to concern ourselves further with the excuses for a continuance of the (Party) machine. Nothing remains in practical politics but for the practical politician to destroy the Party system rapidly and thoroughly. The alternative, a free Parliament, the ancient theory of a national deliberative Assembly, is there underlying the evil. All we have to do is to make the Party system impossible, and that end will be accomplished when a sufficient number are awake and demanding the real privileges of their franchise."
—Hilaire Belloc and Cecil Chesterton in "The Party System."

* * * * *

It is really amazing how the Sydney "Bulletin" can discuss most subjects rationally except that of finance. In its editorial of December 11, it attacks the Labor Government for not ratifying Bretton Woods.

It is inferred that because Mr. Ward led the campaign against Bretton Woods in the Labor Caucus, the only people opposing Bretton Woods are pro-Communists. The "Bulletin" makes a great point out of the fact that Russia has not yet ratified Bretton Woods. The "Bulletin" has a very good news service from overseas, and must be aware that the British Government only ratified Bretton Woods under great economic pressure from America, aided by the Socialist products of the London School of Economics such as Mr. Atlee and Dr. Daiton. It must also be aware that the most effective attack upon Bretton Woods in the British Parliament was made by members of the Conservative Party. And surely it is not inferred that the London Chamber of Commerce is pro-Communist because of its official denunciation of Bretton Woods. It is reliably reported from New Zealand that the anti-Labor group, the Nationalists, is opposed to Bretton Woods. Here in Australia it is no secret that all the opponents of Bretton Woods are not in the ranks of Labor.

The "Bulletin" often criticises the daily press for its lack of accuracy and suppression of vital information. Its attitude on the Bretton Woods issue indicates that it would do well to examine its own policies.

From the English "Social Creditor": "The feature which is really frightening about the condition of the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland is the universal corruption which is spreading downwards like a plague. It is only eight years ago that anyone with sixpence in his pocket had an absolutely equal chance of buying a packet of cigarettes with the man who had a ten-pound note, if they both wanted cigarettes sold at sixpence. But, passing over the fact that no cigarettes are now sold at sixpence a packet, the important consideration is that you must have a powerful friend who will see that you are served first. It may be a matter of a "priority"—that is, the comparatively clean form. It may be the Black Market, or it may be a straight bribe. And it is only necessary to notice the manners of the population to see the effects of the system."

All of which applies to conditions in Australia.

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Mr. Jeff Bate in the New South Wales Legislative Assembly on November 19:—

"In the Newcastle fish marketing council the other day Mr. Karl Sundelius said that 1500 boxes a day were being delivered to the wharves at Newcastle, and at that date one-sixth was going to the Newcastle market, one quarter to Sydney, and the balance of seven-twelfths to the 'black market'—and I should say the pick of the fish, the bream and flathead. Only the shark and rubbish goes to the regular markets; the rest goes to the 'black market' at high prices, as everybody knows. At 1s a lb., this represents 'black market' sales amounting to £4000 a day, or for the whole of the State, £10,000 a day and several million pounds a year."

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One important incident of the recent New Zealand election campaign was the manner in which Mr. Holland, leader of the "anti-Socialist" Nationalist Party, was compelled to subscribe publicly to the main feature of Socialism: delegation of powers to a bureaucracy which then governs by decrees and regulations.

Mr. Holland had said that one of the major objectives of the Nationalists was to reduce the bureaucracy. Leaders of the greatly expanded "civil" service forced him to retract a statement that there were thousands of civil servants who could be done without. They also demanded an assurance, which they got, that the policy of Mr. Holland's Party would not involve retrenchment of the bureaucracy. Thus an "anti-Socialist" Party subscribed to one of the main features of Socialism.

During the Australian Federal elections, Mr. Menzies said nothing specific about reducing the Canberra bureaucracy.

—E.D.B.