

# THE NEW TIMES

Registered at the G.P.O.. Melbourne, for transmission by Post as a Newspaper.

VOLUME 14, No. 21.

MELBOURNE, FRIDAY, MAY 28, 1948

SIXPENCE WEEKLY

## Price Control Is Attack On Constitution

*In every attempt it has made to increase the permanent powers of the, Federal Government by Referendum, the Federal Labour Government has resorted to trickery in an attempt to stampede electors into voting Yes. The coming Referendum on Prices, Rents and Charges is the most dangerous attack yet made on the Federal Constitution—dangerous because it is so subtle.*

First let us take the question of rents. The Government and its "advisers" know that a great number of people rent the homes that they live in; further, that with the housing position so desperate as the result of high taxation and other Canberra controls, all those renting houses are worried about landlords bringing pressure on them for increased rents if rent control were abolished.

The fear of eviction is one which unfortunately is uppermost in the minds of many of those renting houses at present.

Those campaigning for increased Federal powers are exploiting this fear in a most blatant manner. They are suggesting that a No vote on May 29 will immediately result in rents soaring and the eviction of all those who cannot afford to pay the increased rents.

*Now the facts are perfectly clear.* All State Governments already have, or are in process of preparing, legislation, which permits them to ensure that landlords do not exploit tenants under the existing circumstances. Even Labor Premiers have made it perfectly clear that they are willing and able to handle the position at any time.

As a matter of fact, there has never been Federal control of rents in West Australia or South Australia. *Rents in those two States are the lowest in Australia, while landlords are generally satisfied.*

With building costs varying in different States, surely it is obvious that rents must vary. And those most capable of determining rents are the people on the spot. The idea of the Canberra bureaucracy determining rents for the whole of Australia is fantastic. The greatest contribution Canberra could make towards the housing position would be to free the people from the rigid centralised controls which are crippling building production, keeping houses short, and placing tenants, at the mercy of the unscrupulous landlord. Not, of course, that

landlords are any more unscrupulous than any other section of the community under the present jungle conditions created by the Canberra planners.

With adequate production of houses, the tenant would be able to control his own rents and that landlords gave him service. *While we have shortages of houses and goods, we will inevitably have black-marketing and all the other evils, which no Government bureaucracy can ever police without introducing the Police State.*

Electors must, on May 29, brush aside the misleading nonsense about rents if they vote No. They must refuse to accept the bait, which covers a very dangerous hook. But perhaps they will agree with what we have said about rents, but ask about prices.

*So-called Price Control is another bait.*

If the Canberra planners were genuinely desirous of real Price Control, that is control by the consumer under a system of free competitive enterprise freed from high taxation and producing to the maximum, they would further every policy which would provide all producers with every incentive to serve the consumer with maximum production and minimum prices.

But they will not do this. They want to use the chaos they have produced to stampede the consumer into giving them greater permanent powers.

*The one thing we should expect from increasing technological developments in production methods is a steady reduction in prices accompanying every increase in efficiency of production and distribution. But we see exactly the opposite. And Price Control has made the position worse.*

If electors want a real reduction in prices instead of a vast bureaucracy, for which they pay, vainly trying to stop prices from going up, they must Vote No

on May 29 and by so doing instruct the Federal Government to introduce policies which will automatically result in prices coming down instead of going up.

*The very fact that prices have increased, and are still increasing, condemns bureaucratic Price Control as operated at present.*

For the benefit of those people who feel that, with all its faults, the present system of centralised Price Control does give them some protection at present, it must be stressed that it is dishonest for Yes advocates for the Referendum to be suggesting that the present system of

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### OUR POLICY

1. The preservation of Australia's sovereignty as a part of the British Empire, and the exposure of all internal and external groups which attack that sovereignty.
2. The preservation and extension of genuine local government.
3. The preservation and strengthening of all Constitutional safeguards for the purpose of protecting fundamental individual rights.
4. The encouragement of all activities designed to bring Governments under more effective control by the electors.
5. The preservation and extension of genuine free, competitive enterprise and private ownership, and opposition to all Monopoly, whether it be "private" or State.
6. The support of a financial policy which will (a) permit free enterprise to make available to all individuals an increasing standard of living and greater leisure for cultural pursuits; (b) result in no further increase in the community's indebtedness and the sound business practice of gradually reducing existing debt.
7. Recognising that the basis of any sound economy is agriculture, the encouragement of agricultural policies which will ensure the preservation and building up of soil fertility by organic farming and gardening; and the prevention of soil erosion and the protection of forests and watersheds.

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.

# PRICES REFERENDUM IS ATTACK ON CONSTITUTION

(Continued from page 1)

Price Control would automatically be destroyed if they vote No on May 29.

Although the sponsors of this session do not agree with the maintenance of the present system of Price Control in any shape or form, they want to state as a matter of mere fact that a No vote at the Referendum does not mean that no system of Price Control can be maintained during a temporary period until production increases and genuine competition returns.

However, we must again stress the fact that genuine competition can never return while the present financial and economic policies are imposed upon the people from Canberra.

As there is no evidence that these policies are to be altered in any way, it is obvious that the Canberra "planners" are directly creating conditions, which will give them the excuse to continue with Price Control and other bureaucratic controls for all time.

If electors vote Yes on May 29 they will be virtually endorsing the destructive policies of the Canberra planners and encouraging them to continue.

Vote No and show your determination to put an end to present financial and economic policies. And remember, should you be one of those who desire temporary Price Control, the State Premiers have all made it clear that in the event of the Federal Government not being able constitutionally to continue with its present form of Price Control, they are able and willing to provide temporary controls.

Another dishonest argument being used by the Yes advocates is that the Government will be unable to continue subsidising primary producers if there is a No vote on May 29.

In answer to this argument it is only necessary to point out that Section 51, sub-section 111, and Section 90 of the Federal Constitution already makes specific provision for the Federal Government to continue indefinitely with any system of subsidy for primary producers thought necessary.

We might point out here that the system of subsidising prices introduced very considerably in this and other British countries during the war years could easily be expanded into a system which would ensure lower prices to consumers while guaranteeing producers an adequate price. The financing of such a system would, of course, need to be done without increasing taxation. We suggest that electors who are interested in some idea by which prices can be reduced with benefit to both producer and consumer should investigate the idea we have mentioned.

*The real objective of the coming Referendum is to further the policy of building the Monopoly State.*

What is termed central planning is the main feature of the Monopoly State. Now, if centralised planning is to be a success,

it is obvious that no individual must be free to withdraw from the central plan if he doesn't like it.

There is complete centralised planning in Russia, so much so that those who don't like the central plan are not even permitted to withdraw from it by leaving the country.

One of the major obstacles to centralised planning in Australia is the State Governments, which are, to some extent, protected by the Federal Constitution. It is the written Federal Constitution, which is the great barrier to the creation of the Monopoly State in Australia. Every Federal Party has been guilty of attempts to destroy this barrier.

That is why it must be clearly understood that this Referendum is a non-party issue. We must all unite to protect the Constitution, which is regarded with such strong disfavour by the Canberra planners.

Centralised power is a great menace, and the division of powers between the States and Commonwealth ensures that we have a division of power. The Canberra planners want to upset this

division of power by first destroying the States.

Already they have gone a long way towards their objective by the use of Uniform Taxation, but they want to intensify their offensive.

Before electors vote on May 29 they must look carefully at the proposition being placed before them.

How many have examined the question of what permanent Canberra control of all "charges" means? This is the real hook in the Referendum bait.

During the 1944 Referendum Dr. Evatt asked for control of "charges", but not charges controlled by State and local governing instrumentalities.

*No such provision is made this time to exclude the States and local governments. In other words the Canberra planners propose to take direct charge of all local government by determining their charges.*

If we electors grant the powers being sought, Canberra could crush out any local governing instrumentality it liked simply by fixing its charges at an unprofitable level.

Please don't say this cannot be done.

It can and will be done if electors are misled by the dishonest arguments now being advanced on all sides by those who want to impose in this country the very centralisation, which Hitler used to destroy the German people.

Vote No against the Hitler state in Australia.

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## State Control of Rents is Most Efficient

Now, contrast what happens in a State Fair Rents Court to what happens under the Commonwealth. Under the State law, the tenant goes along to his local police magistrate and states the facts simply. The owner gives his version, and the Court then gives its decision immediately.

There are no lawyers, and no fuss; no forms, and no red tape.

Under the present Commonwealth system, a tenant has to state his case in writing to the Commonwealth Rent Controller, in Canberra. He has Deputy Rent Controllers, and all the usual trappings of the Canberra, bureaucracy. There are forms to be filled in, and declarations to be made. This is all very difficult for the ordinary householder.

Then Canberra writes to the owner of the property and asks him to state his case in writing. After that, the Commonwealth Rent Controller, or a Deputy Rent Controller, consults his formula. He never sees the house. There is a fixed rental on a fixed valuation. It is all very scientific. To the Commonwealth Rent Controller, a house in Coolgardie is the same as a house in Coogee. It is a problem on paper to be worked out by some member of his rapidly growing staff.

After all the delays, the memos, and the minutes, the tenant is at last informed of the Rent Controller's decision. If either the tenant or owner is dissatisfied, then there is an appeal to the Commonwealth Fair Rents Board. Not a

magistrate sitting in the same suburb or town, but another Government Board. There are still further delays and more red tape.

That is the Commonwealth system of rent control. It is the typical Canberra bureaucratic approach. — *Sydney Radio Talk by J. T. Lang, M.H.R., May 8.*

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## Rank-and-File Action In Union

The following advertisement appeared in the Brisbane *Courier-Mail* for May 4:

### MASS MEETING

AMALGAMATED CARPENTERS &  
JOINERS.

Members of the Brisbane Branch are requested to attend an INDIGNATION MEETING in the Stadium on WEDNESDAY, May 5th, at 8 p.m., to emphatically protest against the dictatorial attitude adopted by the Union Executives and Paid Officials, and to decide what action will be taken to restore the control of the Union to the rank and file members.

Admission will be by "Official Receipt" only.

Authorised on behalf of "Rank and File" Committee.

M. CONRAD.  
W. RILEY.

# WHY THE COMMUNISTS ARE BACKING THE REFERENDUM

Broadcast by Mr. J. T. Lang, M.H.R., Leader of Australian Labour Party  
(Non-Communist).

**Australia and Soviet Russia have one thing in common. They are both in the hands of economic planners. They are both governed by bureaucratic dictatorships. Key to that dictatorship in Australia is the system known as Prices Control. Nothing is too big. Nothing is too small. From birdseed to atomic energy, everything is regulated and regimented.**

The amateur Socialists in Prices Control believe that with their orders, they can regulate the entire machinery of production, distribution, and exchange. That is why the Communist Party, at its 13th National Congress in Sydney last weekend, issued a directive to every Communist to support the Chifley Government's Referendum.

The Communists regard Prices Control as a bridge in the transition stage from Democracy to the Communist Dictatorship. That is why you find the Communist leaders putting so much energy and money into the YES campaign. The fact that the Communists are so eager for a YES vote is surely reason enough for every Australian to examine the Chifley Government's proposition with more than ordinary care.

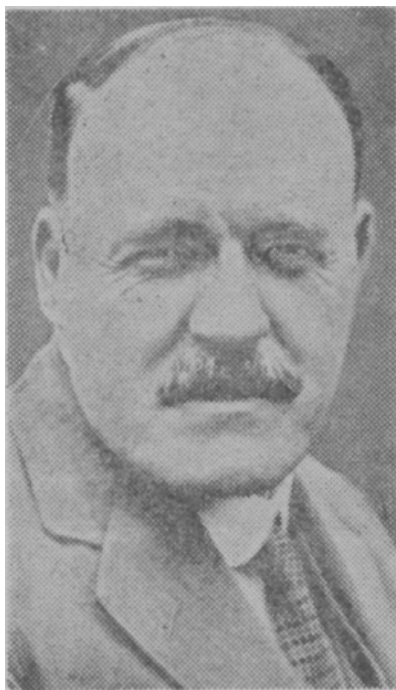
The proposal for this Referendum did not originate in the Government. *It came from the Brains Trust within Prices Control.* The object is to make Prices Control not only permanent, but superior to the Government. They believe that if they have permanent powers, they can control the Government. You have only to examine the dictatorial language of Prices Orders, and have a first-hand experience of the dictatorial attitude of the Prices staff, to realise how dangerous the system is.

Prices Control was not established by a Labour Government. *It was established by the Menzies Government.* It was started by Professor Copland, of the Premiers' Plan. He started out with a couple of desks, and a couple of clerks. Today, the staff can be counted by the thousand. There are accountants, investigators, assessors, inspectors, public relations officers, and all the usual Canberra trappings. The tentacles have reached out into the smallest hamlet, and cover the smallest transaction. You have read how an inspector has trapped an elderly couple in a corner-store into over-charging him a 1/2d, and how they are dragged before the Special Court like a couple of criminals.

But you never hear of the big combines and monopolies being caught. Prices control as operated under the present system, regards every honest man as a potential law-breaker. It sets traps and uses agents provocateur in the same way as the Communists do in Russia.

What, then, is the alternative? What will happen if NO is carried? The Chifley propaganda is that prices will go up immediately. That is an unmitigated lie. It is an insult to the intelligence of the voters of Australia.

I challenge the Prime Minister to say whether or not he will abandon all Commonwealth controls over prices if this Referendum is defeated. He knows that he will continue them as long as he can. He also knows that the Premier of New South Wales says that he is ready to



JOHN LANG

take over the control of prices in New South Wales as soon as the Commonwealth drops out of the picture. Is the Prime Minister asking the people not to trust the McGirr Government?

*The State Government has always had the power to control Prices. If the Referendum is carried, that power will be taken away from the State.*

A Labour Government in this State, led by myself, introduced the Marketing of Primary Products Act. Under that Act, Marketing Boards were established, with representatives of both producers and Consumers. One of their functions was to control prices of primary products. The price of Flour and of Bread has been controlled under a State Act. The prices of Gas and Electricity are also fixed under another State Act. The prices of Butter, Cheese, and Milk are also fixed. These are just a few concrete examples of State price-fixing.

In 1938, a State Act of Parliament gave the New South Wales Industrial Commission power to investigate the prices of food, clothing, and apparel, building materials, as well as rents of dwellings and of shops. That Act still operates. It was under that Act that the Industrial Commission, in June 1939, after a Public Inquiry, issued an order reduc-

ing the price of common bricks from 68/ to 58/6 per thousand, and face bricks from 118/ to 98/. Under the Canberra system, they are now 113/6 for commons and 159/3 for face bricks. There was no Public Inquiry. Just a Prices Order from Canberra granting these huge increases to the Brick Combine.

Under the State system, there is no unwieldy bureaucracy, involved Prices Orders, or attempt to pry into every trifling activity.

The State Industrial Commission, by exercising the right to fix wages and control prices at the same time, is in the best position to give the people a workable system of Prices Control. The State system works smoothly, and with a minimum of cost. The Canberra system is cumbersome, remote, and operates at a maximum of cost. The State system provides for a Public Inquiry. The Canberra system works behind closed doors.

In its official case distributed to all voters, the Government attempts to prove that we have had no inflation in this country. It says that in the two years after World War I, retail prices rose by 30 percent food by 50 percent, and rents by 18 per cent. But, it says, in the corresponding period after the recent war (and I now read from the Government's own pamphlet) . . . "retail prices generally have risen only 5 per cent; food by 6 percent; rents have remained practically unchanged."

Has there ever been a clumsier attempt to deceive the people? Every housewife knows the real position. When has she ever paid 3d. each for eggs before? The Oranges she used to get for one penny are now 4d. and 5d. The penny Apple is now also 4d. and 5d. Gas and Electricity Bills are the highest they have ever been. The twopenny tram section is now 3d. The cost of building a home is now twice what it was before the war. Does the Chifley Government take credit for all that?

The man in the street is just as conscious of the rise in prices as is his wife. We all remember those photos of the best-dressed man at Sydney Show, in his £5 suit, made to order by a leading tailor. What is the position now? A man has to pay £12 for a suit. And still he is not satisfied that he is getting the best Australian cloth. That is exported to Britain and Canada. Have you ever been told why?

Commonwealth Prices Control does not operate on goods exported out of this country. A manufacturer can obtain a higher price by selling outside Australia than by selling locally. So, Australian material is exported to Britain and Canada. There, it is made up into suits. These are then exported back to Australia. The suits are sold in this country, not for £12, but for £26 and £30 each. It is all perfectly legitimate.

(Continued on page 4)

# Centralisation Or — Decentralisation

The following excellent statement of principle was published in the April issue of "The Railways Officer" Victoria.

Centralised control results in dictatorship. Russia, Germany, and Italy are the outstanding examples.

The Fascists and the Communists centralised all power in the hands of a Junta, who ruled from the top down.

All effective Local Government was extinguished.

Where the centralised control operates, that country swarms with secret police, snoopers, investigators, pimps, informers, spies, and agents provocateur.

Until a reign of fear and terror prevails. The individual is almost afraid to breath, let alone speak—lest he be spirited away to some dread concentration camp, where death is more welcome than life.

In Europe State after State has succumbed to centralised control. The assassination of individual liberty quickly followed. Democracy is as dead as the dodo.

Even in the remaining democracies the gradual centralisation of power is being accomplished.

It proceeds by stealth. The individual scarcely knows that it is going on—until one day he receives a "blister" from one of the "Controllers" wanting to know why he had done the things he should not have done, or left undone the things he should have done.

This is how all dictatorships started. The individual was deprived of his individuality. He was numbered, tabbed, fingerprinted, kicked around, industrially conscripted, and finally shorn of all spiritual, mental, and physical freedom.

## SONG FOR THE MIRACLE MEN

Provide us a few books of reference,  
Compiled in their prime by the Webbs,  
And put in a pamphlet, for preference  
In popular style for the plebs,  
And we'll print you a programme for  
Planners,

A polished, perfectionist, Plan,  
For throwing theoretical spanners  
In the works of the practical man.  
In statistical regions unchartered  
By Newton and Einstein we fly,  
Since the prophet Emanuel imparted  
The prints of his fingers to Pi.  
All the myriad affairs of the nation  
We reduce to a mystical norm,  
And intend to rebuild the foundation  
With concrete that's abstract in form.  
Hot-foot from our clique and our  
cloister,

We invade the existence of men,  
The workaday world is our oyster,  
We will prize it wide open—and then  
We will put all the heavens on docket,  
The sun and the moon and the stars,  
And embark in priority rockets  
To socialise Venus and Mars.  
—A.C. in London *Truth*.

*In short, he became the slave of State absolutism—the worst form of slavery, the only release is death.*

### DECENTRALISATION

*It can happen here—unless as individuals we actively support the policy of decentralisation of power as against the policy of the centralisation of power.*

We want more and better Local Government — instead of more and better centralised government.

Under Local Government the individual can exert some direct control over his municipal and State representatives. He is in closer touch with them by virtue of the smaller constituencies.

If, however, Municipal and State Government were abolished altogether—

Australia would be well on the road to totalitarianism.

In a vast continent like Australia, we want more decentralisation of power—so that local communities can control local affairs, instead of having them controlled by officials located in a Federal Capital hundreds or thousands of miles away.

Under the Centralised Power Regime the individual is not even a fly on a dunghill. He has not even a dunghill. He is the property of the ruling Junta.

None of us can afford to ignore this paramount problem.

Our own liberties and the liberties of succeeding generations hang in the balance.

If we really believe in self-government—then we must stand for decentralisation of power by means of Local Government and resist by all constitutional means the tendency to centralise all power in the hands of any political or industrial Junta, whether of the left or the right.

## Why Communists Are Backing Referendum

(Continued from page 3)

Prices Control has approved. It fixes the profit margin on the landed cost of the suit in Australia. If Prices Control had not interfered in the first place, the cloth would never have been exported from this country.

This is just one of the factors in keeping prices up. The Canberra system is an impediment to both the production and distribution of goods. Until those impediments are removed, prices will continue to rise. Industry has to pass on the costs of all the delays caused by Canberra interference, and the consumer pays in every instance. Increased production is the quickest way to reduce prices, and increased production can only be obtained by removing these unnecessary Canberra bottlenecks.

If you vote NO, and NO is carried, then the State Government is free to control prices and rents through the Industrial Commission and the Fair Rents Courts of this State. At the same time, you stop the dangerous drift towards the totalitarian idea of government in this country.

When you vote NO, you are voting to frustrate the Communist Party's plan for the centralisation of government, which it regards as an essential first step towards the Communist State. The Australian way of life has no room for these imported ideologies. That is why I am satisfied that the Australian people will vote NO. The bigger the NO vote the bigger the defeat suffered by the Communist Party.

## Eric Butler In South Australia

Mr. Eric Butler opened his South Australian tour with a meeting at Port Pirie on Monday, May 17. Meetings have now been addressed at Clare on Tuesday, May 18; Gawler, Wednesday, May 19; Peterborough on Friday, May 21; and Quorn on Saturday, May 22. On Thursday, May 20, Mr. Butler took part in a debate sponsored in Adelaide by the pro-Communist Common Cause meeting. A factory meeting was addressed at lunchtime on Thursday, May 20.

Mr. Butler was scheduled to address the following meetings this week: Kimba, Sunday, May 23; Whyalla, Monday, May 24; Port Augusta, Tuesday, May 25; Adelaide Town Hall, Wednesday, May 26; Port Adelaide, Thursday, May 27; Murray Bridge, Friday, May 28.

Mr. Butler also addressed several factory meetings this week. He returns to Melbourne next Sunday, May 30.

## PRICE CONTROL AND UNIFORM TAXATION

The seeking of these powers is complementary to the adherence to the present system of Uniform Taxation, in spite of most definite promises by the present Prime Minister. The point to remember about Uniform Taxation is not that we all pay taxes on the same basis and to the one authority—which is an eminently sensible arrangement—but that State receipts are made as *voluntary payments* by the Commonwealth Treasurer.

*The States have no rights.*

Thus the Federal Government already has full control of Taxation, Capital Issues, and Interest Rates. Add to these control of a hoped-for Nationalised Banking system and permanent power over rents and prices (including charges) and the pattern would be complete. With these inter-linking powers at its command, the Central Government would have full control over Production, Distribution, and Exchange.

—From a leaflet issued by The People's Freedom Movement, Victoria.



# WHAT MAKES PRICES HIGH

The following is the contents of a leaflet issued by the Electoral Campaign (Tasmania), 101 Collins Street, Hobart:

People who produce goods for sale in shops, along with the shopkeepers, have to pay taxes out of their incomes; their incomes come from the money the housewife pays over the counter. The housewife, therefore, has to help pay the taxes for all those people. Taxes must go into prices, and you pay the price.

When the Government controls prices, and allows 20 percent, on costs, the producer with the highest costs shows the highest profit; the result is high prices and shoddy goods. Again, you pay the price.

Increases in wages go into prices. Again, you pay the price, whether or not your wages are increased.

The huge army of bureaucrats who hold up production are paid good salaries. You have got to pay these salaries in higher prices and in higher taxes.

The fact that you cannot pay these prices is shown in the ever-increasing debts, private, municipal, and governmental, and in the re-appearance of the time payment system. Mr. Chifley is also calling for another loan.

For a good many years now this organization, the "Electoral Campaign," has spent time and money trying to bring to the notice of the public the tragedy of ever-increasing debts and ever-increasing prices of goods; we have shown how these have robbed the people of the fruits of scientific discovery and of progress in the industrial arts.

With the prices ever-increasing, those who save for their future find their money constantly falling in value, making it almost impossible to obtain security in their old age. Governments and their experts know this; they also know the remedy, but they do not intend to alter a condition, which gives them so much power over a helpless people.

Those of us who for years have tried to obtain redress have met with a constant barrage of abuse and ridicule from the communists, and from the underground communists—the socialists. Why, we may ask, are the communists and the socialists so violently opposed to any useful alteration in the price structure? The answer is simple enough:

With the constant improvement in manufacturing processes and the use of power-driven machinery, goods should be increasingly more easily and more cheaply made—with a consequent reduction in prices. If the price system were to be altered to allow this to happen the people would enjoy to the full increasing economic prosperity.

This improvement, however, does not suit the big men behind the communist and socialist movement; these men, as you have seen, want to produce chaos and shortages, especially shortages of food, so that the people will suffer, and in their desperation will be persuaded to accept any remedy, however drastic. Only one remedy, however, will be permitted—the Moscow brand.

The men behind the socialists are not interested in financial reform, or in price reform; they want price control; that is,

the control of all prices, in their own hands.

By means of price control they can wipe out competition, *the only real safeguard the ordinary man and woman has*. By wiping out competition they wipe out the small man, and bolster up the great monopolies. The small man will then have no means of escape, and he will have to punch a clock in a centralised factory owned by the Finance-Trade Union-Labour Cartel.

These planners are in a desperate hurry to get rid of the Australian Constitution. Uniform Taxation has already destroyed most of it; Prices Control and Bank Na-

## U.N. JOB CAUSES COMMENT

Surprise is being expressed in Canberra that the wife of a Pole who was interned during the war for security reasons has been appointed one of the Australian members of the United Nations staff at Lake Success (USA).

She is Mrs. O. Podvielsky, formerly Miss Giselle Schneider, an attractive woman in her thirties. A Pole, she recently acquired Australian nationality.

She was at one time lecturer in economics at the University of Melbourne, and later was the representative of a Jewish welfare society posted in Canberra.

—Melbourne Herald, May 14.

tionalisation are expected to help complete the task of destruction.

That is what the referendum means; that is why we are asking you to vote NO.

We reprint below an important extract from J. T. Lang's speech in the House of Representatives on December 3rd, 1947, dealing with the question of Price Control:

*"Prices Control has resulted only in an aggravation of shortages and the establishment of the Black Market.*

*"The cost of living is an ascending spiral, despite the activities of Prices Control. In 1939 an apple cost a penny; today, it has become a 4d apple. The cherries that were then bought at 4d. per pound are today 2/ per pound. Mothers are paying 4d. and 5d. for oranges for their young children, although they are much inferior to those previously sold at fourteen for 1/.*

*"Even such staple commodities as bread and milk are dearer, and threatening to become even more expensive.*

*"Increased transport charges, sanctioned by the Prices Branch, clothing at twice its pre-war cost, and every item on the breakfast table testify to the failure of Prices Control.*

*"Under the present system there is no incentive to produce more goods. Even when goods are produced they are often stacked in warehouses, awaiting a decision from the Prices Branch, before they can be placed on the market. The result is that the wealthy, who can afford black market prices, get the goods, while the*

poor, who cannot afford to go to the black market, go without.

*"The removal of Prices Control would do away with many of the present impediments to production. The big monopolies flourish under prices control. They squeeze out competitors.*

*"Similarly, land sales control is another farce.*

*"The cost of building is more than double that operating in 1939. How can prices of those houses be equitably held down to 1939 levels when homes being built under present conditions are inferior in quality to, and cost twice as much as, those built then?"*

*"Rent control can be implemented by State Governments, because the States have the machinery for on-the-spot decisions by local courts. The Commonwealth has no such machinery, but has to rely on the special Federal Courts.*

*"There is no justification for the continuance of Federal Control."*

The communist menace is being played up in the daily papers, but it is well to remember that the work of the communists is only part of the Big Scheme; the limelight switched on to the communists serves to divert attention from the other parts of the scheme, which are going rapidly ahead.

The continuous procession of crises, which Mr. Chifley could halt tomorrow, but won't, serves well the planners, who find the Australian Constitution a bar to the introduction of the Socialist State.

Mr. Chifley's heavy taxation and the communist hold-up of production are two sides of the one coin, and the objective is the production of a scarcity of commodities.

The army of bureaucrats are a vested interest in the maintenance of scarcity. *Without scarcity there is no need for controls, no need for the expensive army of bureaucrats, and no excuse for the police State.*

Before emergency legislation can be introduced an emergency has to be created. This is the work of the communist fifth column. The attack on British and Australian institutions has been going on continuously for years; there is hardly one organisation, which has not been used for this purpose. The communists, having done their work, and provided the excuse for the removal of the Constitution, will then be dispensed with, and the main army of International Socialist planners will move in to take control of the country.

Remember, the controls demanded by the Canberra bureaucracy for the present temporary conditions *are not temporary controls*; they are permanent controls. If you want to change them later you will find it practically impossible. The State Government has full power to control rents. Play safe and keep your controls in your own State.

And remember, Tasmania has only one member in the Federal Cabinet; this is called "Democracy."

If you cherish what little freedom you have left, do not follow the other socialist States into serfdom; keep from behind the Iron Curtain, and vote NO while you still have a chance.

# THE NEW TIMES

Established 1935

Published every Friday by New Times Limited, McEwan House, 343  
Little Collins Street, Melbourne, C.I.

Postal Address: Box 1226L, G.P.O., Melbourne. Telephone: MU2834.

Vol. 14

FRIDAY, MAY 28, 1948

No. 21

## VOTE AGAINST MONOPOLY

*This journal has consistently endeavoured to show the underlying reason for power-grabbing attempts by the Federal Governments—complete economic and political monopoly.*

*To grasp the basic issues behind the Prices Referendum we must examine party policies of the past. We need go no further back than 1937 when the Lyons Government attempted to seize centralised powers over marketing or when Mr. Menzies, then in the Government benches, expressed himself in the Federal House on November 23, 1938, as being in favour of "giving complete industrial power to the Commonwealth of Australia." The striking feature of all attempts to centralise power at Canberra is the contributions made by all political parties to this end.*

*At a recent factory meeting conducted by a non-party organisation a shop steward informed the speaker that his union policy was in support of the Referendum and no member could act in contravention of that policy. The fight to him was on party lines and the "whips" were cracking.*

*The task of the Liberals to break through the party prejudice of the Labour voter is admittedly very hard. Mr. E. J. Ward has been attributed with the remark that Mr. Menzies is the greatest frozen asset the Labour Party has ever had. The Labour politicians are certainly exploiting their "frozen asset" today, and the result will be a blind unintelligent vote by many electors. Not without justification, many Labour supporters are suspicious of Mr. Menzies, who, in previous years, has advocated political centralisation.*

*The Liberal Party cannot effectively campaign for "No" votes and a policy of decentralisation unless they are prepared to recognise and dissociate themselves from the errors of the past and stress the advantages of local self-government as against Canberra control. If they were to do this they would not be led into the false position of defending their own errors, and could more successfully, then, focus attention on the real issues.*

*Instead of this, however, we find them again playing the old party game. We are told by the Labour Party that the issue is Liberal versus Labour while the Liberal Party echoes the same in reverse order. A Referendum leaflet issued by the Liberal Party states: "Is it to be Chifley in Canberra or Hollway in Melbourne?"*

*The mixing of party personalities and party labels with "No" propaganda is confusing electors of all sections of the community as to the fundamental issues at stake. All governments seek more power for themselves. All governments must have their powers strictly circumscribed and restricted by the people. Vote "No" to restrict arbitrary and totalitarian power being wielded at Canberra.*

## THE ESSENCE OF FREEDOM

It is significant that any scheme, however reactionary, such as Sir Oswald Mosley's new stunt (if it is Sir Oswald Mosley's), will be given a run on the one condition that it eliminates competition. There could be no more convincing

proof that competition is of the very essence of freedom.

The essence of competition is that excellence carries its own rewards. The essence of monopoly, neo-guildism, syndicalism, communism, and socialism is that rewards shall be apportioned by bureaucrats.

—The Social Creditor (Eng.), May 15.

## The Momentum Of Big Plans

There is a curious, awful, inevitability in events at the present period which, it would appear, involves the conclusion that they really are out of hand—that while they are the outcome of long-laid schemes, the schemes themselves have taken charge of affairs and we have to endure their consequences.

This conclusion is strengthened by the evidences of panic discernible in many quarters, which, not so long ago, showed every sign of confidence. It may be assumed that President Truman is a fair indicator of certain policies; and his poise is not impressive.

The more deeply these matters are pondered, the more important becomes the idea embodied in Captain Dunne's *Experiment With Time*. In one sense, of course, the idea is latent in every religion; it is latent in the commonplaces of engineering and architecture. Anyone with access to the blueprints of e.g., the Sydney Bridge, could have "seen" the Sydney Bridge before even one of its girders was rolled. And anyone with experience of large undertakings knows how they acquire momentum, and after a certain point, resist innovation.

There are dozens of Plans extant in which no one believes, not even their Planners; but they proceed to their inevitable failure.

—The Social Creditor (Eng.), May 15.

## "RESERVE POWERS"

The Federal Government's case for Yes states:—

"The prices power will become a RESERVE POWER."

Mr. Chifley stated in the House:—

"The Prices Branch has had many efficient men but numbers have gone and are going to other jobs because there is no security in their present employment. Efficient administration calls for continuity of employment."

Obviously a permanent department and control is contemplated.

So much for "RESERVE POWERS."

—From a leaflet distributed by The People's Union (Non-Party), N.S.W.

## Price Control Of Fish

About 4 tons of barracuda and mullet was "condemned" at the Melbourne Fish Market this morning, and carried off in 44-gallon tins to feed the fowls.

Wholesalers said that many hundreds of cases of "fish—chiefly barracuda—had been wasted in this fashion in recent months.

At the same time housewives have been protesting against the high price of fish.

Wholesalers claim that this surplus could have been sold to providers and fish-smokers at under pegged prices. But now the Victorian Professional Fishermen's League forbids auctioneers to sell fish belonging to its members at less than the ceiling price.

—Melbourne Herald, April 15.

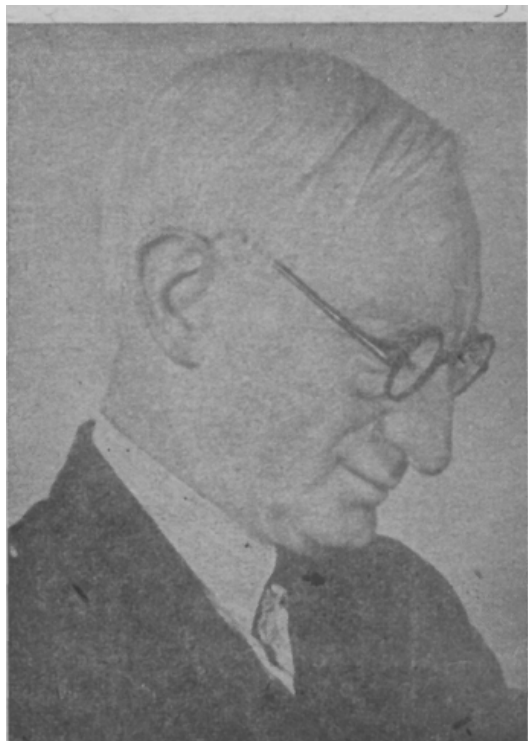
Responsibility for political comment in this issue is taken by John Weller, 343 Little Collins Street, Melbourne.

# DOES LORD BEVERIDGE KNOW WHAT IS GOOD FOR US?

By ERIC D. BUTLER

The reported statements of Lord Beveridge at an address to the University Association of Canberra on May 18 clearly reveal this famous planner's totalitarian philosophy. Although termed a Liberal, Lord Beveridge is, of course, the author of the famous Socialist Beveridge Social Security Plan. As he has been prominently associated with the notorious Socialist London School of Economics, it is not surprising that he is an advocate of centralised control of the individual.

His Social Security Plan received very favourable publicity all over the world. Anyone who cares to look up the files of the local press will find that many so-called anti-Socialists in this



LORD BEVERIDGE

country were loud in their praise for the Beveridge Plan, the details of which were exposed in these columns.

*Lord Beveridge is on record as having said that unless the British people were prepared to go halfway to Moscow, they would be compelled to go all the way.*

Judging by Lord Beveridge's remarks at Canberra, he wants to reach Moscow immediately without even bothering about the halfway mark. He believes that women do not like labour-saving devices in the home simply because they prefer drudgery. "We can educate them to give up that idea," said this arrogant planner.

A sample of the type of "education" proposed was given. Women are to be "educated" to appreciate the benefits of a community system of kitchens, restaurants, laundries, and heating.

Apparently private home life, without which the family cannot be maintained as a stable unit upon which to build a satisfactory society, is to be progressively abolished in favour of the community system of the army. It is surprising just how many people accept the idea that greater efficiency can be obtained by centralisation. It may be true that a certain degree of material efficiency can be temporarily obtained by centralisation,

but if this can only be achieved at the expense of fundamental values, which are not material, such centralisation is evil.

How often we hear that it is "wasteful" and "inefficient" for two or three bakers, &c., to deliver to one street. The argument is that with centralised planning this "waste" could be eliminated. Yes, perhaps, but only at the expense of taking from the housewife one of her most precious assets: freedom of choice.

If so-called efficiency is the sole aim of life, then let us take Lord Beveridge at his word and go all the way with his community centre idea. Let us abolish private houses and have community barracks. We would save such a lot of building materials in this way. All housework could be done on a roster system and children managed on the same basis. But every sane person knows that every real woman wants her own individual

home. And there is no physical reason why every woman should not have all the joy of an individual home without the "drudgery" which Lord Beveridge so loosely talks about.

Modern science has made it possible for every individual to have greater control over his environment than ever before. For example, there is no necessity to house the people in community barracks to obtain the benefits of a hot-water system. Every individual home could very easily have its own hot-water system. Every housewife could have the benefits of all labour-saving devices without any "community system."

The fact that these benefits have not been obtained by all housewives is not due to any defect in their education. Every housewife would soon avail herself of labour-saving devices in her home if she had adequate purchasing power.

*It is the centralised control of the credit system, which ensures that the individual is not able to get the benefits of all technological advances.*

Part of the "Big Idea" is to persuade the individual that he can get some benefits if he is willing to surrender those precious values, which have taken thousands of years to establish.

Lord Beveridge is one of the principal agents of this evil nonsense. Australian housewives should drop this totalitarian planner a line and let him know that they resent his proposals that they should overcome their natural prejudices against the ant state.

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# A Dedman Who Tells A Tale

By FOOTLE

Mr. Dedman, Minister for Postwar Reconstruction and Defence, has apparently rediscovered the Kipling theme that

"We are very slightly changed  
from the semi-apes who ranged  
India's pre-historic clay."

Or perhaps hardly that, but at any rate that we can produce the lineal descendants of those who "stole the steadiest canoe, ate the quarry others slew," etc.

He is reported as having said that "Twenty-eight years ago . . ." he "became interested in archaeology. This led him to study the oldest code of laws known to man . . . compiled by Hammarubi about 2500 B.C." . . . "The king's clay tablets recorded the laws controlling rents, prices, and other charges. . . ."

Well, I always thought the government didn't think that one up by itself, because only ten years ago when in opposition they were desperately opposed to the idea of the government having those powers. Still, I'd no idea that the government were so painstaking as to search the archives of ancient history for justification. And I certainly couldn't expect the government to pursue the inquiry in an effort to discover what happened to those ancient civilisations and why they disappeared so completely and ignominiously.

I regret that my reading is no great help to me in matters historical any further back than the reign of Harold. Beyond that point events become telescoped and even anachronistic in my mind. But I have absorbed the notion that whereas civilisations wax, wane, and finally disappear—sometimes without any trace worth mentioning—ungoverned savage peoples somehow have managed to persist throughout the centuries.

I deduce from this that civilisations disappear not from love of pleasure, not from laziness, not from immorality, not from anything in fact but government. While tribes were content with a code such as the Mosaic Law life apparently ran to a satisfying pattern, albeit somewhat harshly. It was when they started chipping rent and price controls on tablets that the trouble began.

No doubt there were plenty of excuses for King Hammarubi. Things must have become serious for the old boy to start chipping away at the old tablets. You know yourself that you'd have to be pretty nearly boiling before you took that on. But then everything was pretty laborious in those days. It is not difficult to imagine a serious permanent shortage of practically everything; in addition to which the king knew just how much money there was because he either made it or caused it to be made. And naturally the royal coffers would have to be protected against the operation of the go-getters who undoubtedly were there waiting hopefully generation after generation, century after century, for the advent of William the Third.

I think Mr. Dedman could have learned quite a lot more from the late

lamented Hammarubi if he had widened his terms of reference. He would, for instance, have noted the entire absence of national debt either then or for the next 4100 years. But he seems to have missed this important point. How on earth they managed without a national debt no one knows, yet no one can doubt the magnificence of the kings in those benighted days—all done without borrowing a red cent.

It appears that all they had to worry about was finding the men and materials and seeing that they kept their head on their shoulders. They don't seem to have discovered that you can't really build something without owing for it in perpetuity. Poor savages! No doubt this Hammarubi bird was on the right trail but he wasn't in the race without a national debt, security loans, bills, and P.Ns., and all the rest of it. He wasn't so very civilised after all compared with us. We have the finest national debt that ever was: the only catch is that in about another ten years at the same rate of increase we shall all have to work full time to pay the interest on it. I always

meant to ask Albert Einstein about this: but it's too late now.

To give Mr. Dedman his due he has at any rate made it a little clearer why the government is so carefully cultivating shortages. It's back to Hammarubi for us: back to the days when there were no machines, not even any wheels! Science must be a frightful thorn in the flesh of government; always thinking up gadgets and processes to do away with labour and yet produce more and more. What's the matter with science anyway? Can't it see that, we came into this world to SUFFER; that from the beginning, before there was light, when earth had no frame and the cosmos no ordered path, FULL EMPLOYMENT was the predestined goal. Very well then. If you don't keep things short where's the sense in going on making them? I fully expect all scientists to be interned before I die, except of course, those engaged in producing instruments of destruction.

There is a flaw in Mr. Dedman's contribution to political science, which perhaps I should mention. He claims that the governments of Great Britain, New Zealand, South Africa, France, Belgium, Norway, and Sweden have powers of control over rents, prices, &c., as though there has been a continuity of these powers from Hammarubi to Hammer & Sickle. But I have the sneaking thought that Mr. Dedman in his search through the pages of history drew blank until he ran dear old Hammarubi to earth. Besides, all those countries he mentions have only just had the handcuffs clapped on.

It looks to me as if some international superman is altogether too interested in us.

## THE PRICES REFERENDUM AND OUR CONSTITUTION

### TASMANIAN ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN BROADCAST

*Last week I discussed the question of what produced high prices. This week I wish to discuss the Referendum from the wider and more realistic point of view, that is, for what it really is—an attempt to wipe out the Australian Constitution. In other words, an attempt to wipe out the law of this country, and to substitute for it the will of a few men in Canberra.*

*The word law is important, and it had a very important meaning in the days before parliaments turned themselves into glorified sausage machines churning out laws by the hundred.*

The real value of the established law of the land, which constituted British justice, was the fact that it established men in their own rights; it protected the rights of the ordinary man against a powerful monarch, or against a ruling clique drunk with power.

Law, today, in the hands of the smart lawyers of Canberra, means something quite the reverse to what we have been used to. Every law that is passed in Canberra takes power from you and your family, and gives it to the ruling clique. In no case has it ever limited the power of the government to establish men in their rights.

This, of course, is the direct result of national socialist teaching, and the use of permanent government advisers sup-

plied from the London School of Economics.

The socialist theory that the State is all-important means that the *bureaucrat* is all-important. And as the bureaucrat makes his own laws, any victim of a bureaucrat finds that when he goes to court he cannot appeal to British Justice; he finds that the Common Law has been wiped, and there is no such thing as the law of equity. The bureaucrat simply hands the judge the latest regulation, and that's the end of it.

For a long time it has been recognised that there must be some limits placed on the activities of a small and powerful clique who may have captured the law-making machinery of the country, and

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# THE PRICES REFERENDUM AND OUR CONSTITUTION

(Continued from page 8)

in Australia the Australian Constitution was drawn up for that very purpose.

Under the Constitution, the States were left with sovereign powers to do anything they desired which was not given to the Federal Government. The Federal powers were purposely limited to such things as the Armed Forces, Foreign Affairs, Customs, Post-offices, &c. So that anyone who says that the State Governments have no powers to control rents, &c., is not talking the truth.

Everything the Federal Government can't do, the State Governments can, and because the State Governments are on the spot they can usually do the job more cheaply and better than the Federal Government. In fact, the Federal Government has got so much on its hands; it has interfered in so many spheres of activity, and so many problems from all over Australia are converging on Canberra that the Canberra officials are being driven out of their minds—And yet they want to take on more problems. "Whom the Gods would destroy, they first drive mad."

It is up to you to stop this mad game of power-hungry men before you too are driven mad; you have got to do everything you can to ensure that Tasmania gives an emphatic NO in this referendum—It *may* be your last chance of doing anything politically effective.

It is one thing to make a law; it's another thing to make it work. When the Government fixed the prices for second-hand cars, it simply drove the second-hand car trade into the Black Market, and deprived the legitimate car traders of their rightful business.

This present government has created a nation of law-breakers, and they have done more than any other government to bring the law into contempt. When the Federal Government rationed butter in Tasmania they drove farm-made butter right off the market, and the owners of two or three cows sent their beasts to the slaughter yards. And we, who always ate farm butter, now eat the factory butter, which used to be exported to Great Britain. There is less butter made under rationing than there was before, and the people in Great Britain are the sufferers.

That the people in Great Britain suffer—apparently, doesn't matter! That the farmers' wives are deprived of a source of income also doesn't matter. What does matter is that we now have a rationing office with a director, deputy director, assistant deputy director, complete with staff - - which all helps the manpower shortage!

The government's action in stopping butter making on the farms and concentrating it in the factories where it can be suitably taxed, is interesting in the light of home jam making. This year, when the soft fruits were harvested there was no sugar available for the housewives to make jam; this may have been accidental, but last year, during the soft fruit season there was no sugar available, and also the year before. It will be interesting to find out what happens next year.

The best price control there is over jam is the price the housewife can make

it for: that is the only effective price control. But evidently somebody doesn't like that kind of control—it's too democratic, altogether.

The idea that anybody should get butter or jam or anything else without working in the centralised price controlled factories, run by the Finance-Trade Union-Labour Cartel, repugnant to a large body of official opinion in this and other countries.

A few weeks ago a man was taken to court and fined for working in his own workshop on a Saturday. The factory laws had been extended in New South Wales to cover the one-man workshop.

Do you see what laws can do? Just the opposite to what they were supposed to do. Laws require wise and honest men to make them, and they should only be made after long consideration, and not rushed through at a few weeks notice, and then in a continuous procession.

When a bad law is made it interferes with a natural process, and therefore requires an expensive army to administer it, and an expensive army to police it. And then it won't work, and so another law has to be made to try to remedy the bad effects of the first. And so on and so on until we have the complete socialist Police State—just like Russia.

Making a bad law is like telling a lie—you have not to go on telling lies to bolster up the first one.

There are two kinds of price control available—the natural way which is controlled by the people without a police force; it is the democratic way. And there is the artificial way, which doesn't work, and which is controlled by the Canberra Bureaucracy.

The housewife controls prices when she decides to shop in one shop and refuses to buy in another. Competition is the only safeguard the ordinary man and woman has; without competition there can be no service, no decent quality in

goods; and without quality prices are meaningless.

There can be no competition where there is a scarcity of goods, and the Federal Government is producing a scarcity of goods in Australia by its high taxation, and by allowing a few communists to hold-up the shipping and steel and coal industries. Mr. Chifley could send these few communists about their business tomorrow if he wished to, but he doesn't wish to.

The communists are absolutely essential to Chifley's programme of socialisation; without scarcity there is no need for war-time controls, no need for the huge army of bureaucrats; without a scarcity of commodities Mr. Chifley and Dr. Evatt could not stage this referendum.

It was absolutely essential, in order to have this referendum at all, that the communists should hold up production and produce a scarcity; and they could only do this by the government allowing the communists to introduce their own constitution and usurp the functions of government.

Let any other group of citizens do one-tenth of what the communists have done and see what happens to them. The role played by the communists is crystal clear, and it is useless for the socialists to pretend they don't like what the communists are doing.

The real issue in this referendum is whether or not the people of this country are to have any protection or any rights against a small group of men who are anxious to control all jobs, all money, all law-making machinery, and all the armed force of the crown—and to control all these without let or hindrance from the suffering taxpayer. That is the real issue.

In other words, are we to have a written Constitution, which is not just a mere pretence and mockery? I advise all listeners to hang on at all costs to what is left of the Australian Constitution by voting a solid NO in this referendum.

## REFERENDUM STATEMENT ISSUED BY CITIZENS' RIGHTS ASSOCIATION (N.S.W.)

The following statement has been issued by the Citizens' Rights Association (Western Group), New South Wales and authorised by W. D. Harris, the Campaign Director:

(1) The powers sought by the Federal Government have previously been refused by the people—even for a limited period.

(2) This is an attempt to *Centralise* power to the disadvantage of the citizen—and a negation of our Federal system of Government.

(3) There is no need for such power to be placed *permanently* in the hands of a centralised Government—the Federal Government has the power *now* and will continue to have such power until at least the end of the year, whilst Court decisions are to the effect that until Peace is declared and the aftermath of the war cleaned up such power still remains with it.

(4) The States themselves—closer to YOU and therefore more in touch with you—will possess this power and can

exercise it if required, when Federal control ceases.

(5) Such control has been previously exercised satisfactorily by the States.

(6) The case for the Federal Government (vide their official pamphlet) is distinctly dishonest. They say that a "NO" vote will produce "Profiteering—rack renting—blackmarketing, etc." Are not these evils existent under present control? They state that it will produce "unrest." In view of Government support of Communists who cause the whole of the "unrest"—can we believe that there will be any more? They state (officially) that the cost of living during the war and since has risen 6%—Ye Gods! Ask the poor housewife who has to balance her wages.

## "RUMBLINGS IN ALBERTA"

The following Editorial from a non-Social Credit Journal, "The Western Producer," Canada, of March 4, 1948, is informative to those endeavouring to assess the current situation in Alberta.

Rumours of dissension within the ranks of the Social Credit Party in Alberta have been circulating for some time. Matters were brought to a head by the forced resignations of Hon. R. E. Ansley, Minister of Education, and the able and hard-working Deputy Minister of Economic Affairs, L. D. Byrne. Opponents of the Government are perhaps being a bit sensational in calling this a "purge," but it is of sufficient importance to be deserving of examination.

It is in the interest of all concerned that there should be the fullest and frankest discussion of a matter of this nature. This, not for political party reasons in which, as such, we are not interested, but rather on account of the significance of financial reform at this time. Despite the disposition of newspapers and politicians to sneer at it and despite the somewhat unfortunate manner in which its case has occasionally been presented Social Credit has always been important. But it is even more so now, when by the inexorable pressure of events at home and abroad a large and rapidly increasing body of opinion has reached the conviction that no enduring solution to present difficulties can be reached without a fundamental revolutionary change in the money system. That is why the affairs of the present Alberta administration, which owes its existence mainly to its advocacy of monetary reform, have a deep interest for students of public affairs of all political shades far beyond the confines of that Province.

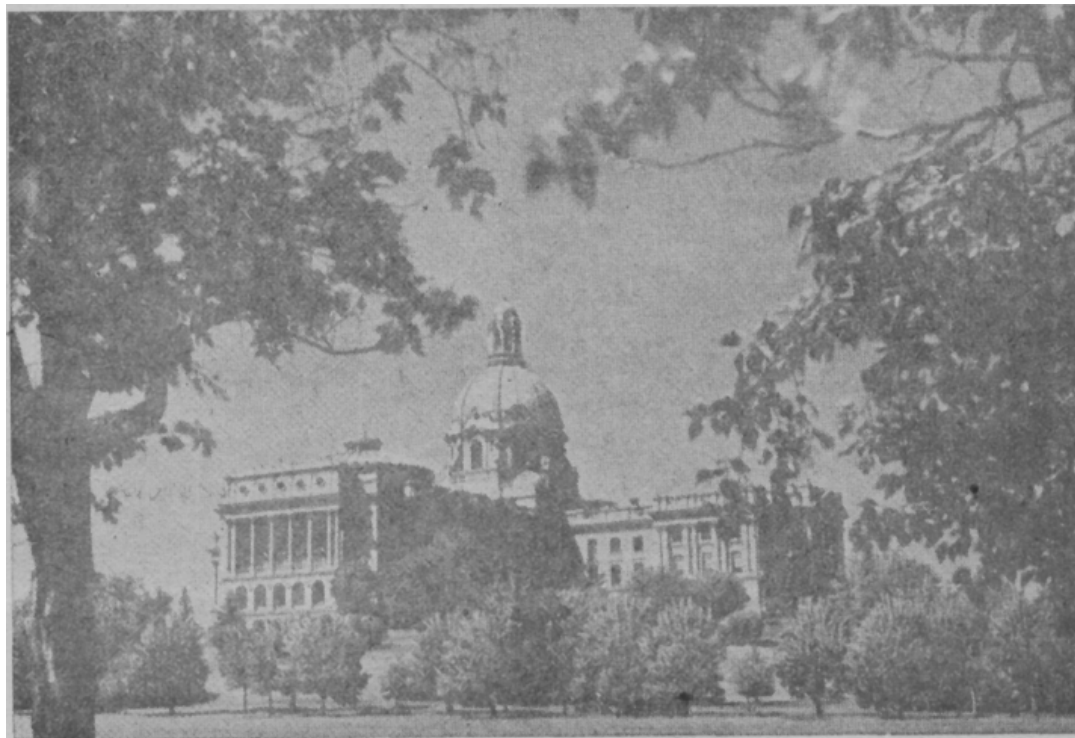
When Mr. Aberhart was elected some eleven years ago the issue on at least one important point was quite clear. The U.F.A. Government, which he defeated, were not by any means hostile to Social Credit. Indeed, on two occasions the U.F.A. had brought the founder of the movement, Major C. H. Douglas, to the Dominion and had a good deal of responsibility for popularizing the ideas associated with his name. No. A main difference — there were others — was Mr. Aberhart's insistence that a provincial government had sufficient power to introduce Social Credit policies and the equally insistent claim of the U.F.A. that a province could do nothing because finance and banking were federal matters.

The Manning Government held firmly to the same position until comparatively recently. The first hint that the official attitude was changing came at the 1945 convention in Calgary. But popular opinion in the ranks was adamant against change. This is clearly borne out by the following excerpt from the report, which appeared in our issue of December 13, 1945: —

Delegates attending the 11th annual meeting of the Alberta Social Credit League in Calgary last week rose to their feet in the convention hall to give

unanimous endorsement to a resolution authorizing the Alberta Government to renew its battle against finance, even to the extent of defying "law and the constitution."

The action came after Premier Ernest Manning made it clear that he personally was in favour of maintaining respect for all laws, even those which were not good, and after Attorney-General Lucien Maynard warned



Legislative Building, Edmonton, Alberta

the delegates to be quite sure of what they were voting for and whether they meant what they had said. "We've had disallowances and *ultra vires*," he reminded them. "We had war on our hands before this war. If you pass this resolution, it means another declaration of war on those who oppose the will of the people."

"Do you want to go beyond the law and the constitution?" he asked, and was greeted with applause and a shout from a delegate: "The sky's the limit." "Two of our boys went to jail," Maynard reminded the convention. "Are you prepared to take the same consequences?"

A roar of applause followed. Then the delegates rose, passed the resolution, gave three cheers, and broke into "Onward Christian Soldiers." Between that time and the 1947 convention last fall a change took place. That change may have come about from a normal shift in public opinion, the result of altered circumstances. Or it may have been engineered by smart staff work on the part of the leaders. We don't know. But there was nothing that happened in the intervening period, which would seem to justify it. Be that as it may, the cry of the 1947 convention was "On to Ottawa." In future all efforts to make progress in the provincial field were to cease. Most peculiarly the people

who still held the views so vociferously endorsed in 1945 were now called "Douglasites"—apparently a term of opprobrium in the opinion of some of the leaders.

In his announcement in the Alberta Legislature on Mr. Ansley's retirement, Premier Manning had this to say:

I want to make it very clear that the matter in which Mr. Ansley finds himself at variance with the Government does not arise from any change in the Government's position with respect to its allegiance to Social Credit principles and its determination to establish a true Social Credit economy in this country. It is in the matter of the proper and necessary procedure to attain this goal of a true Social

Credit economy that Mr. Ansley has felt unable to dissociate himself from viewpoints and actions at distinct variance with those of the Government and the Social Credit movement in Alberta.

The word "country" instead of "province" may be significant.

What seems to emerge pretty clearly from all this is that it is the Government position and not that of Messrs. Byrne and Ansley that has veered. They seemed to have embraced the former U.F.A. and present C.C.F. position — namely that in matters of monetary policy the provincial government is helpless, it can do nothing.

From this certain interesting conclusions may be drawn. First, it was a waste of time electing the Social Credit Party in the first place. True, they have given Alberta "good government." But as we have said on another occasion, good government is not enough. If it were there would have been no object in defeating the U.F.A. administration which was every bit as "good" as the one that succeeded it.

There may be some justification—outside of maintaining a number of nice people in nice jobs—for continuing the Manning regime in office. But surely if a provincial government is powerless in matters financial it is a palpable waste of

(Continued on page 12)



## Permanent Milk and Butter Rationing for Australians

*If Australians had been told in 1939 that less than ten years later Australian butter production would have been reduced by 50 percent, they would have treated such a statement as a joke. But the very serious fact that must be faced is that butter production today is approximately 60,000 tons less than it was in 1939. Unless the growing decline is soon halted we can, within a few years, expect such a shortage that there shall be no butter for export, or if we do export, there must be permanent butter rationing in Australia.*

Further, with a steady decline in the number of dairy cows, it is obvious that the growing population will have to submit to permanent milk rationing such as that already being occasionally experienced in Sydney.

In 1943 there were nearly 5,000,000 dairy cattle in Australia. By 1947 the number had declined to 4,590,000, while there is plenty of evidence that the decline is still continuing. The causes for this decline are numerous, but they are all directly connected with the economic and financial policies imposed by the Canberra "planners."

The seriousness of the position can be seen in the following figures from N.S.W.: The population of N.S.W. has increased by 278,000 over the past ten years, during which period the number of dairy cattle declined by 150,000 and the number of gallons of milk by 75,000,000 per year. The numbers of dairy calves under one year old have declined by 50,000 since 1943.

It is certain, then, that there is no hope of greatly increasing butter and milk production over the next few years—even if the present disastrous economic policies were reversed immediately. The economic assault upon the dairying industry is similar to the assault being made upon every primary industry.

Thousands of people, particularly young people, are leaving the country areas, and country towns every year to flock to the big cities, where, by "working" 40 hours a week in the tens of thousands of non-productive jobs resulting from centralised "planning," they are temporarily better off economically. It is not reasonable to expect people to stay on dairy farms working long hours when there is insufficient incentive.

This centralisation of the population into several big cities, if continued, must lead to food shortages in a country which before the war was a land flowing with milk and honey—even if all the people could not get adequate access to the milk and honey because of the chronic shortage of purchasing power.

There is little doubt that this destruc-

tion of the primary industries is designed to create a state of affairs where the "planners" will be able to say to the swollen city populations: "Private enterprise has failed to feed the people adequately. We must now introduce collective farming and other 'progressive' measures in order that the people can be fed."

The traditional independence of the countryman is being destroyed. The further destruction of our rural areas can only be stayed by the taking of determined action along the lines suggested by this journal.

### OWNERSHIP

"Man must in the ownership of land have the means of security in which he can express his individuality, and the power so to build that he can hand on his creative effort for the continuing attainment of his children."

—Viscount Lymington in *Alternative to Death*.

## NO DIGGING ON DRY SOILS

(From Mr. G. W. Boreham, Barstable Road, Stanford-le-Hope, Essex.)

This is the second year I have practised "no digging," following as closely as possible the suggestions put forward by Mr. F. C. King. I am on very sandy soil, situated in one of the driest parts of this country, and although I water as often as I can, I am not able to do as much this year as is my usual custom, on account of the water restrictions and lack of time.

Nevertheless, I managed during the season just past to win no less than 80 prizes and two Challenge Cups for flowers and vegetables at exhibitions, not only in this district but up to 25 miles distant.

I am an ardent composter and do not think it would be advisable to dispense with digging until the following condi-

### Foreigners Get Most Butter-Fat

Export of processed milk to countries other than England was defeating the purpose of the table cream ban and butter rationing, said the president of the Victorian Dairy Farmers' Association (Mr. G. C. Howey) at the association's annual conference in the Assembly Hall yesterday.

He said the latest annual figures available showed export of 29,713 tons of sweetened condensed milk. Only 3.63 percent of it went to Britain.

"With the Lord Mayor, Country Women's Association, and State Government all appealing for fats for Britain, and Australians going without cream and butter for the same purpose, it is an extraordinary anomaly that these huge quantities of processed milk are being allowed to go to foreign lands. These commodities all include butter-fat."

The conference requested the Commonwealth Government to place a quota on the export of processed milks to foreign countries with a view to directing increased quantities of butter-fat to the United Kingdom.

At the dairy farmers' dinner last night, the Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Dennett) said Mr. Howey's disclosures were an eye-opener. He promised to look into them. *Melbourne Sun*, May 19.

tions have been attained:

- (1) *Soil pan broken by subsoiling or deep digging.*
- (2) *Soil brought into good heart.*
- (3) *Sufficient compost made and/or sawdust obtained, to give frequent heavy surface dressings.*
- (4) *Worm population made healthy and considerably increased.*

On my hungry soil, it has taken me several years to bring about the aforementioned conditions, not forgetting the enthusiasm and ingenuity needed to keep two New Zealand compost boxes continually producing.

—Reprinted from *Mother Earth*, Journal of The Soil Association, England, Winter, 1947-8.

# RUMBLINGS IN ALBERTA

(Continued from page 10)

time and money for Social Creditors as such to waste their energies in trying, for instance, to elect a provincial administration in Saskatchewan. If the battle cry is "On to Ottawa," then on to Ottawa let it be.

A minor point, which might be explained, is how it comes that the term "Douglasite" is flung by professing Social Creditors at other Social Creditors as a term of reproach. After all, Douglas is the discoverer and founder of Social Credit. With the greatest of deference one may ask: Is it then necessary to deny Christ before one can claim to be a good Christian?

The goal now is Ottawa. In that case a key province is Quebec. No political party lacking strong French-Canadian backing has governed Canada. As it happens, though this does not seem to be well known, there is today in Quebec the strongest Social Credit movement that exists anywhere in Canada with the possible exception of Alberta. They preach the straight S.C. doctrine and are not ashamed of its origin. They have one member in the House of Commons and have scored good votes in elections and by-elections. If the goal is now Ottawa, Alberta should cultivate Quebec. In the past they have met on friendly terms and the brilliant Professor J. Ernest Grogoye has been vice-president of the National Social Credit Organization. But he no longer holds that office. He resigned as on January 30 last, on account, as he alleges, of the intransigence

of the English speaking majority on the executive. The first step in the march to Ottawa is thus marked by a quarrel with the powerful Quebec organization. That is not a happy augury. We do not apportion the blame, but certain it is that this breach will have to be healed before there can be any real advance on a national scale.

For all that has happened in Alberta there may be quite acceptable explanations. The enemies of Social Credit and of the Manning regime argue that they have grown fat in office, have lost their crusading fire and are now lazy and complacent. Being enemies of neither Social Credit nor Manning or of any other political party we are loath to believe this

## SOCIAL CREDIT SECRETARIAT

(Lectures and Studies Section.)  
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The next Examination for the Diploma of Associate will be held in March 1949.

The books set for special study this year are: —*Social Credit* and *The Realistic Position of the Church of England*, by C. H. Douglas.

Students wishing to take the Examination can obtain fuller particulars from Miss G. Marsden (Representative in Australia), 6 Harden road, Artarmon, N.S.W.

charge. But we do believe that a full and candid statement should be forthcoming. The supporters of the Government should be fully informed about exactly what has happened and why. In line with the professions of the Manning Government they should be given ample opportunity to discuss it and express their views. Elected Social Credit representatives never tire of insisting that they are merely the instruments for carrying out the wishes of the people. This is a time when that policy should be put into practice. The whole case should be laid before the public and a free expression of opinion sought. Then if it should really be disclosed that the electors do want to quit the provincial field, the wise course would seem to be that work there, outside of Alberta at any rate, should cease and the time and limited funds available should be expended in the Federal arena.

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Printed by Academy Printing and Publishing Co., 95 Brunswick St., Fitzroy, for New Times Ltd., McEwan House, Melbourne, on whose authority these articles appear.