

# THE NEW TIMES

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SIXPENCE WEEKLY.

## Bureaucracy in Australia

### CONTINUANCE OF WARTIME POWERS

**The leader of the Australian Country Party (Mr. Fadden) referred to the dubious nature of wartime powers being exercised by the Canberra Government when he spoke on the Defence (Transitional Provisions) Bill in the Federal Parliament towards the close of the session.**

Mr. Fadden said the purpose of the bill was to continue for another 12 months a great number of the provisions of the 1947 act of the same name, which itself prolonged the provisions of the 1946 act.

The original act, he said, was introduced in accordance with a promise made on April 2, 1946, by the Prime Minister (Mr. Chifley), who announced that Cabinet had decided that the National Security Act would expire on December 31 of that year.

Although the act did expire on the date mentioned, a good number of its war-time provisions continued in force, and had continued in force under successive Defence (Transitional Provisions) Acts.

The Minister for Postwar Reconstruction (Mr. Dedman), in his second-reading speech, had said that most of the wartime control provisions had either been abandoned by the Commonwealth or transferred to the States. Those, which had been abandoned, could hardly have been sustained under the diminishing defence power permitted by the Constitution; and those, which have been transferred to the States, were transferred in accordance with the will of the people emphatically expressed in a referendum. The people, Mr. Fadden said, obviously preferred State control to the form of Commonwealth control, which they had experienced under this Government.

Twenty years ago, Mr. Fadden continued, an English legal authority, Mr. Justice Hewart, had given the following apt description of the bureaucratic system:—

"To those who are convinced that the best Government is that which governs least, it is alarming to contemplate the increasing scope of legislative interference in those matters which in the past have been considered the private affairs of the citizen.

"Legislative interference is sometimes supported by attractive pretexts, preceded by certain harmless intrusions, and, if they are tolerated and ignored, the attack will become more aggressive, the advance more permanent and more rapid, and individual liberty and corporate activities will find themselves hampered by unnecessary restraint.

"The insatiable appetite to control other men's affairs is often evinced by those whose capacity to manage their own affairs, is in

inverse proportion to their desires."

The activities of the bureaucrats in Australia constituted the chief reason for the defeat of the Government's proposals for the continued control of rents and prices, said Mr. Fadden. It was true that the defence power under the Constitution did not cease immediately upon the termination of hostilities. Mr. Justice Latham, now Chief Justice, put the matter clearly in 1946 when he said:—

**"The defence power includes not only the power to prepare for war and to prosecute war, but also power to wind up after war, and to restore conditions of peace."**

Mr. Fadden said: "No one would cavil at the legitimate employment of the defence power for a reasonable time after the cessation of hostilities in order that the national economy might be restored. The Government, however, was using those successive Defence (Transitional Provisions) Acts, and giving them a temporary operation of 12 months only, because it feared that their protracted operation, if disclosed, would be judged to be *ultra, vires* the defence power.

### REGULATIONS

"If the power were sought for a period of, say, seven years, instead of for one year at a time, the High Court might take a different view of the legislation, the very form of which had been devised to stretch the defence power to its utmost legal limit, and, therefore, to provide the opportunity to govern directly by regulation rather than by legislation.

"The bill itself is printed on four pages," said Mr. Fadden, "but the preamble which seeks to justify the measure takes up nearly three-quarters of a page.

"From the preamble we gather that a state of war still exists, although for three years there has been no actual fighting. The preamble also informs us that the gradual and orderly return to a condition of peace has not yet been completed. That admission is evidence of the ineffectiveness of the Government's postwar reconstruction schemes.

"At the present rate, it might not even be necessary to declare war should another war break out.

"Successive yearly measures of the kind we are now considering will probably maintain an artificial state of war until the outbreak of the next conflict.

### UNDEMOCRATIC

"National Security Regulations, which grant almost unlimited power to the Executive, are necessary in wartime. However, government by such regulations is undemocratic in that it takes from the Parliament its power as the supreme legislative authority. As the Chief Justice of England, Lord Hewart, said  
(Continued on page 2)

### 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.

# BUREAUCRACY IN AUSTRALIA

(Continued from page 1)

in his book, *The New Despotism*: —

"Of all methods of administration, that is the worst whereby real power, is in the hands of one set of persons, while public responsibility belongs to another set of persons. It is a method, as all experienced know, well calculates to encourage the performance of acts which either set of persons, if they had both the responsibility and the power, would be astute to avoid."

"In another part of the book, Lord Hewart made this observation, which is clearly applicable to postwar Australia: —

"Usually the power is given nominally to the Minister or other head of a Government department, sometimes to the department itself, and it is commonly provided that his or its decision shall be final and conclusive.

"When it is provided that the matter is to be decided by the Minister, the provision really means that it is to be decided by some official, of more or less standing in the department, who has no responsibility except to his official superiors. The Minister himself in too many cases, it is to be feared, does not hear of the matter or the decision, unless he finds it necessary to make inquiries in consequence of some question in Parliament. The official who comes to the decision is anonymous, and, so far as interested parties and the public are concerned, is unascertainable. He is not bound by any particular course of procedure, unless a course of procedure is prescribed by the department, nor is he bound by any rules of evidence, and, indeed, he is not obliged to receive any evidence at all before coming to a conclusion. If he does admit evidence, he may wholly disregard it without diminishing the validity of his decision.

"There is not, except in comparatively few cases, any oral hearing, so that there is no opportunity to test by cross-examination, such evidence as may be received, nor for the parties to controvert or comment on the case put forward by their opponents. It is, apparently, quite unusual for interested parties even to be permitted to have an interview with any one in the department. When there is any oral hearing, the public and the Press are invariably excluded. Finally, it is not usual for the official to give any reasons for his decision."

## TEMPORARY POWERS

"The executive and administrative phases of government had free play during the war to the detriment of parliamentary government. Many Ministers and their departmental administrators are loath to hand back to the Parliament the wartime powers which they exercise.

"The need to re-enact this legislation indicates either that the Government has failed to effect the postwar rehabilitation of the country, or that the Executive is unwilling to recognise the peacetime authority of the Parliament.

"The defence power in the Constitution is a temporary power, to be exercised only during a national emergency, after which

it should be tapered off. Any attempt to prolong the power artificially in time of peace in order to bolster up the authority of the Executive is opposed to the spirit of the Constitution.

"No member of the Parliament should stand idly by and allow the Executive to govern by regulation rather than by legislation.

"It may be argued that the National Security Regulations, and other regulations that are to be prolonged by this measure, will be technically acts of Parliament, in that they are mentioned in the schedules to the bill. That, however, is merely an administrative device for keeping in force regulations, which were drafted in time of war, and became law without adequate consideration, by those who were elected by the people, and are responsible to them.

"An important act which dovetails with this defence legislation is the Re-establishment and Employment Act 1945. The greatest affront ever offered to any parliamentary institution in the British Empire is contained in section 137 (2) of that act, which states that regulations may be made providing for the repeal or amendment of, or addition to, any of the provisions of the act.

"Regulations have, in fact, been made, which have altered the act as passed by this Parliament, and those regulations have not even been debated in the House."

—*The Countryman*, Feb. 4.

## Dr. SOEKARNO'S RECORD

The name of Dr. Soekarno has not the same associations in British or American minds as that of Quisling, and it is not sufficiently appreciated that to the Dutch he appears in a similar light, nor how far they are justified. But the details of Dr. Soekarno's public career are in fact sufficiently striking. Exiled by the Dutch to New Guinea after resorting to "direct action" in 1926 and 1927, he was set free by the Japanese as soon as they overran Dutch territory, and he was called to the headquarters of Marshal Teranchi, who assured him of the friendly attitude of the Japanese authorities and gave him instructions to set up an Indonesian Government. As early as December, 1942, Queen Wilhelmina broadcast the Dutch plan for Indonesian autonomy after the liberation, but this was, of course, carefully kept from the Indonesians by the Japanese, and in November, 1943, Soekarno went to Tokyo to receive the Order of the Sacred Jewel, second class. He recruited a police force to assist the *Kempetai*, the Japanese equivalent of the Gestapo, and raised an auxiliary force of 200,000 men for the Japanese Army, as well as organising deportations and concentration camps. On July 24th, 1944, he declared in a broadcast that Indonesia would remain faithful to Japan even if it lost the war, and on November 8th he arranged for the public burning of effigies of Mr. Churchill and President Roosevelt. On August 11th, 1945, he and Dr. Hatta, who was also awarded a Japanese decoration, went to Saigon to receive the permission of the Japanese for Indonesian independence.

—*The Tablet*, Jan. 15, 1949.

## The Works Of C. H. DOUGLAS

In a review of his latest full-length work, *The Brief for The Prosecution*, the *English Truth* states that C. H. Douglas is undoubtedly one of the greatest minds of this century. In his various works he has provided a penetrating analysis of finance, government, philosophy, constitutionalism, &c. Those responsible members of the community who are concerned with the present increasing plight of the world must study Douglas if they desire to know what must be done to save our civilisation.

The following list of Douglas's works are available:

*Social Credit* ..... 6/6  
Written in 1924, this is one of Douglas's earlier works.

*Credit, Power, and Democracy*, 6/9  
An analysis of certain aspects of the credit system.

*The Brief for the Prosecution*, 11/  
Douglas's latest full-length work. A brilliant exposure of the international groups, which worked to destroy the British Empire between the two world wars.

*The Big Idea* ..... 3/2  
Exposes the forces working towards World Domination.

*The Programme for the Third World War* ..... 2/2  
This book is particularly appropriate at the present time.

*The "Land For The (Chosen) People" Racket*, 2/2  
Deals with the politics of the land.

*The Tragedy of Human Effort* ..... 1/1  
One of Douglas's most outstanding addresses on the principles of human association.

*The Policy of a Philosophy* 11d.  
An address dealing with the definition of Social Credit.

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A special address given to the Constitutional Research Association, London. This address must be read by every individual concerned with the protection and extension of constitutional safeguards of individual rights.

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A "must" for every Christian.

All prices listed above include the cost of postage. Order now from *New Times Ltd.*, Box 1226L., G.P.O., Melbourne.

# AN ARK TO WEATHER THE STORM

By C. H. ALLEN.

**There was more than a modicum of wisdom in the old commercial quip that the value of an article is remembered when the price is forgotten. At such a time as this when complaints are widespread concerning the lack of quality in the goods and services available, it is important that we search for the reasons why those engaged in industry so often fail to be guided by wise considerations, and descend to undesirable courses of action in the production (or the sabotage of production) of the commodities which consumers are expected to buy.**

Not all of those who, over twenty years ago, considered, and saw the necessity of, subsidies to reduce retail prices (according to Social Credit proposals) realised that the real and important consideration was that such a procedure would certainly tend to emphasise in commerce the criterion of quality as a ruling factor.

In the realm of academic philosophy one can trace a Christian element, which prompts thoughtful and accomplished writers to exalt the subject of human values to its rightful place. Etienne Gilson ("The Unity of Philosophical Experience") and the Mexican, Oswaldo Robles ("The Main Problems of Philosophy") are examples, which can be cited. Such abstract dissertations are very welcome and very intriguing, but they cut very little political ice.

There is an exact train of reasoning in the accountancy sense by means of which anyone who has an aptitude and the time to devote to the subject can be assured of the following proposition: that the money distributed via industrial and commercial activities so that it reaches the pockets of consumers is chronically short or deficient, compared to the total price-money of the goods distributed ready for the public to buy. But the significance of the situation arising out of this state of affairs goes well beyond the realm of accountancy, and develops eventually into the problem of re-establishing peace amongst the bewildered inhabitants of this turbulent world of ours.

In his "Peace is in the Heart," Lin Yu Tang, the gifted Chinese writer, expresses the opinion that there is an "almost com-

plete absence of a philosophy of peace in Western thought."

Those who accept this estimate of Lin Yu Tang will have their ideas altered considerably if they will take into account the basic philosophic conceptions inherent (and since amplified) in the book "Economic Democracy," by Major C. H. Douglas.

The truth is that if and when the chronic shortage of purchasing power is properly corrected, and certain supplementary rectifications are made, in accordance with the suggestions of Douglas, then the power of those who exercise any form of centralised control of policy will be effectively terminated. The tempestuous conditions which prevail on all sides are evidence, to those who look into matters critically, that certain internationalist power-maniacs are battling for all they are worth to retain, and make permanent, the subjection to them which we must endure while the present policies of finance and of Socialistic monopoly management are kept in vogue. There can be no peace while the satanic forces of the power-maniacs remain undefeated.

The present indications favour the view that we will be overwhelmed with a mighty flood of collectivism of one sort or another. But the Social Credit Movement constitutes an Ark ("as in the days of Noah"), and within the walls of this stout vessel is room for all who are determined to end the rule of Satan over the peoples of this fair earth of ours.

Submitted for publication by C. H. Allen, Ashleigh Grove, Millwood, South Australia, 29/12/1948.

## TO THE POINT

### Poverty Amidst Plenty

A selection of recent news-items reveals that the pre-war problem of poverty amidst plenty and bitter trade rivalry between countries seeking a "favourable balance of trade," is returning.

In spite of war production and the Marshall "Aid" programme for Europe, unemployment in the U.S.A. continues to increase, while prices are reduced. Already it is stated by the oil companies that there is "over-production" of oil, and that production will have to be reduced. High-pressure salesmanship is being applied in a desperate attempt to sell motorcars. This does not mean that every American family owns a motorcar. But it does prove that increased production does not automatically make available adequate purchasing power to buy all the production at a profitable price. Australian business "leaders," economists and others, who contend that harder work and greater production will solve our problems, please note what is happening in the U.S.A.; also in Belgium.

The Melbourne *Argus* weekend magazine of February 5 contained a special article entitled "Leaner Times Come to Belgium." Why the leaner times? Not, dear reader, because of any failure to remove

controls and produce adequately; but because the Belgian people have insufficient purchasing power to buy their own tremendous output. While 270,000 are unemployed and on the dole, out of a total population of 8,000,000, "In Brussels restaurants, where seven varieties of steak are on the menu, they speak about customers who are not there. The bars are empty, and the shops are full of merchandise which people cannot afford to buy."

Belgium's Socialist politicians explain the growing crisis by saying that Belgium recovered "too quickly" after the war! They point out that Belgium cannot find export markets for her high-class goods. Great Britain could, of course, make excellent use of Belgian iron and steel, but the British are also endeavouring to export as much as possible while drastically restricting imports. This insane policy is the direct result of financial rules, which, unless modified, can only lead to complete world totalitarianism.

International trade should be an exchange of genuine surpluses between the nations. But a nation with a "favourable trade balance" is merely giving away a portion of its production. This helps to maintain

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## WHOSE PROFITS?

I read with interest the report in which the Deputy Premier (Mr. Gair) said he considers the retailer is getting too big a margin.

I consider Mr. Gair is on very dangerous ground. If he is going to talk in this way, is he honest with himself or honest with his electors?

Let me quote examples.

The price of certain items in England (which are in very short supply and required by every homebuilder and mostly for workers' homes) is so low that, if they were allowed to be retailed without the Federal Government imposing such extra taxation on them, there would be no short supply.

I have been quoted a price, which would allow me to import, but the Government immediately imposes 25-1/2 percent, and more exchange on the goods. Then, on top of that it imposes a further 27-1/2 percent, duty. This makes a total of 53 percent, before the freight or insurance and handling charges are added.

These articles are in very short supply, and Mr. Gair should ask the Federal Labour Government to remove some of these extortions before he talks about the retailers' margin of say, 25 percent, on cost.

People who live in glass houses should paint them first before they are seen in their true colors. —AN IMPORTER.

—*The Telegraph*, Brisbane, Dec. 14, 1948.

## BIASED NEWS

Mystery surrounds the behaviour of the Australian Broadcasting Commission in relation to the Dutch-Indonesian conflict. Listeners observe that all arguments used by the Republican representatives are presented for Australian consumption while any statement or arguments used by the Dutch are suppressed.

We are aware that the Dutch have been co-partners in Java's social and industrial organisation for over three hundred years. This fact alone should at least merit their side of the case being presented to us.

The denial of an impartial news service by the commission on the rights or wrongs involved in world events, which intimately concern us, is raising the question in many minds as to whether we should continue to pay licensing fees. —John Leahy (Stanthorpe).

—*Courier-Mail*, Brisbane, Dec. 28, 1948.

## "Science, Liberty, and Peace"

By Aldous Huxley.

The central theme of this important book by a great writer and thinker is to show how every increase in technological development has been exploited to concentrate increased power into the hands of a small minority of power lusters. Huxley clearly postulates the basic problem confronting modern industrial civilisation.

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## AN EXPLANATION

Like all other business organisations, the "New Times" has been subjected to the ever-increasing pressure of greater production costs. The inflation menace particularly affects the stability of all small organisations.

In spite of the tremendous increase in post-war printing costs, bold action taken last year resulted in the "New Times" paying its way over the latter part of the year. This was the first time that the paper was paying its way for several years. However, early this year printing costs increased by approximately another £8 per week. And there is a probability that costs will increase still further later this year.

Although our number of direct subscribers increased by 10 percent, over the last three months of last year, and although we hope, with the assistance of our supporters, to maintain or better this rate of increase, immediate action is necessary to meet our increased costs. As the "New Times" paid staff now consists only of one office girl — all editorial work, wrapping, etc., being done by volunteers — it is obvious that printing costs are the only costs which we can reduce. This will necessitate for the time being an eight-page paper.

We trust that the publication of an eight-page paper will only be necessary for a short period. But this depends upon just how rapidly we can expand our circulation. We require another 500 direct subscribers to enable us to return to a twelve-page paper, providing, of course, that there are no further increased costs of production. Every supporter can help, physically or financially, to make a greater increase in circulation possible. For example, moneys subscribed to the Social Credit Action Group, at present making its annual appeal for fighting funds, will be used to help expand the circulation of the "New Times."

It is more important than ever that the "New Times" continue its work: work, which is to-day bearing fruit in many important circles. In spite of slightly less space, we shall continue to present a comprehensive survey and analysis of the major issues confronting our civilization. We trust that our readers will continue to support us loyally in order that we can meet our present difficulties and carry on the campaign to defeat the enemies of our way of life.

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### TAXATION

Senator RANKIN asked the Minister representing the Treasurer, *upon notice*—

1. What amount of entertainments tax was collected during the last financial year from admissions to theatres, picture shows and the like, on tickets sold for 3/- and less?

2. If the total amount is relatively small, will the Treasurer consider granting some remission of entertainments tax to picture shows up to 3/- a seat, so that a man and his family will be able to go to the only

entertainment that they can afford today, without having to pay heavy taxes?

Senator ASHLEY. —The Treasurer has supplied the following answers to the honorable senator's questions: —

1. The entertainments tax collected during the financial year 1947-48 on payments of 3/- and less for admission to theatres and picture shows was £3,111,350.

2. This is not a relatively small amount, as the total revenue from entertainments tax from all sources during that period was £5,198,337.

—*Federal Hansard*, Nov. 24, p. 2,130.

## Socialised Professions

Doctors and anyone else who object to the nationalisation of medicine have my entire and heartfelt sympathy.

For many years the profession of engineering in Australia was almost entirely nationalised. When I entered the profession, an incredible number of years ago, there was no engineering employer except the Government. Railways, waterworks, bridges, roads were designed and built by departmental or semi-departmental officers.

In Australia has grown up the vicious system of subjecting technical offices to untrained clerky control.

This system has developed to an absurd extent, and has led to ridiculous decisions, exasperating delays, and to an organised policy of pin-pricking of senior, highly-qualified technical officers by callow youths who have not the least shadowy notion of the recommendations that come before them.

One result has been, now that openings are to be found with the big manufacturing firms, the more ambitious and the better qualified among the young-engineers are leaving the public service.

An idiotic theory has been promulgated, asserting that engineers must be kept shut away from administrative detail, in order that they may devote themselves to technical detail.

The fact is that an engineer who is not an administrator is not even an engineer's pencil-sharpener.

Engineering is administration — as any engineer who has been entrusted with construction work knows.

The main difference between the engineer-administrator and the clerk-administrator is that the engineer administers his job so that the work is the paramount consideration. The clerk-administrator expects everything to take second place to the routines in which his heart delights. He would far sooner have an engineer who stays in his office and fills in wholly useless returns in quadruplicate than one who gets on the job and breaks construction records.

If the medical profession is ever nationalised, no doctors will remain in Australia except any who may be inefficient and incompetent enough to accept service under clerks for the sake of a salary. —AUSSIE.  
—*The Telegraph*, Brisbane, Dec. 29, 1948.

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### THE STATE OF THE WORLD

This brilliant analysis of international affairs should be given the widest possible circulation amongst responsible members of the community. It shows how the "Big Three" are all being used by the Fourth Great Power, International Jewry, for its own ends — World Domination. The role of the controllers of Soviet Russia in the present world drama is clearly revealed.

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## Decentralising Anti-Bureaucratic League

At a meeting held in the Adyar Hall, Sydney, on February 10, a non-party league to fight bureaucracy and economic and financial centralisation was formed.

The following three circular letters, which we understand have been given wide circulation, deal with the major issues, which the above League proposes to publicise before the next Federal Elections:

### THE DELIBERATE INFORMAL VOTE

Dear Friend,

You may be interested to learn of a method by which we may, if we choose, rid ourselves of CENTRALISED CONTROL, and the Bureaucracy which stems from it, and which we have all learned to loathe and detest. The following extracts from letter to Mr. D. M. Cleland, Director of the Federal Secretariat of the Liberal Party, may interest you.

(Signed) James N. Kidman.

Mr. L. M. Cleland.

Dear Sir,

I think you will agree that the supreme authority in our democracy is assumed to be the voice of the people as expressed through the ballot box; that the determination of policy is the supreme responsibility and privilege of the elector. Such is the general assumption, but, as an elector of mature years, I have come gravely to doubt whether, under the party-system, the elector at the ballot-box, has any adequate opportunity of indicating the policy which has his approval.

At the best he is offered a choice of policies adopted by one or other of the political parties. In theory, this practice is defended by averring that the elector, by joining one of the political parties, can take a hand in the framing of the policy of that party. But to anyone with any experience in these matters, this assertion carries no conviction, for he is well aware of the many subterfuges, which are operated to prevent a rank-and-file member from exercising any control over policy. In the formulation of all major items of policy, the rank-and-file member has practically no say.

I am bringing these matters under your notice in the hope that you may assist me in forming my decision as to how I shall cast my vote at the forthcoming Federal Election.

I strongly disapprove and detest the centralising socialist policy of the Chifley Government, administered as it is, and of necessity it must be, by an irresponsible bureaucracy who has no mandate from the people; placed beyond the control of the elector, and who never appears before the people to justify their stewardship - - a bureaucracy who consequently offer a granite-like face of insolent indifference to citizens who may be so unfortunate as to find themselves compelled to approach it.

I believe you will agree that our bureaucracy is a direct and inevitable product of the policy of centralisation of administration and power at Canberra.

I am confident there is a large section of electors of very much the same mind as myself. This section is looking earnestly for someone to give a positive and definite lead towards decentralisation of administrative power. This needs no change in the original constitution, for the alternative decentralised authority is

already provided for in our excellent constitution, i.e. THE STATES.

But the STATES have been denuded of their original independence by their loss of financial authority. By the exercise of its over-riding financial power, CANBERRA is able to stultify and nullify any policy arising in the STATES, of which CANBERRA does not approve.

Under these circumstances, any gesture made towards decentralisation, which does not place in supreme priority, the restoration of financial autonomy to the STATES, remains what it is—an empty gesture made with tongue-in-cheek.

If the Liberal Party is not prepared to make genuine and strenuous efforts along the lines suggested above; if it merely relies upon the obvious sins and failures of the Chifley Government to place it in office; then are we foredoomed to a further and intensified dose of Chifleyism.

In order that I may determine how to cast my vote, will you be so good as to give me a plain and simple answer to the following:—

Will you place in the forefront of your platform:—

- (1) Restoration to the STATES of local financial autonomy such as they enjoyed under the original un-amended Constitution;
- (2) The annulment of the Financial Agreement, the dissolution of the Loan Council, and discontinuance of Uniform Taxation.

I am most anxious to have the opportunity to cast my vote for such a policy, for I believe that decentralisation is the only effective method of coping with our power-lusting and rapidly extending bureaucracy; and that restoration of financial autonomy is the first essential step in "this direction."

Therefore, if I find no opportunity of casting an effective vote to forward this policy,

THEN I WILL DELIBERATELY  
CAST AN INFORMAL VOTE.

For I believe that compulsory voting serves only to provide a spurious mandate from electors, who are compelled to make a choice, which is no choice, i.e. whether they will have centralisation at the hands of this party, or centralisation at the hands of that party.

This belief is so widely held, that in the absence of compulsory voting, large numbers would refrain from the indignity of making a sham choice. The situation would then be disclosed for what it is, and it would clearly emerge that NO PARTY articulated a policy acceptable to the elector, and therefore, NO PARTY HAD A MANDATE TO GOVERN.

By deliberately casting an informal vote under these circumstances, I will thus make my best endeavour to disclose the existing unsatisfactory condition. And if sufficient deliberate informal votes are cast, public clamour can be relied upon eventually to rectify the matter.

Moreover, I will do my utmost to

promulgate these views with the hope that many electors will avail themselves of the idea suggested, and will use the deliberate informal vote, to indicate that NO PARTY has presented to him a policy acceptable to him, and that therefore, HE GIVES A MANDATE TO NONE.

I am giving wide circulation to this letter, and I will be deeply interested to learn how your party stands in relation to decentralisation, as disclosed by its reaction to the two planks of the platform set out above.

One last point I would make. The last Referendum clearly indicated the popular antipathy to CENTRALISED CONTROL. There is a great support awaiting the political party, which has the courage to come out boldly and advocate a policy of genuine decentralisation.

Awaiting your reply,

Yours faithfully,

James N. Kidman.

Dear Friend,

I have had a reply dated 12/1/49 from Mr. Cleland, Director of the Federal Secretariat of the Liberal Party, to my previous letter of 1/1/49. The substance of his letter is to the effect that:—

- (a) There is provided machinery in the constitution of the Liberal Party, whereby rank-and-file members control policy;
- (b) I should, therefore, join the Liberal Party;
- (c) In relation to Uniform Taxation, steps are being taken to determine Liberal Party policy on this issue.

It is thought you might be interested in my further reply dated 15/1/49, which is given hereunder; "Dear Mr. Cleland,

Thank you for your prompt and courteous reply. I am confident you desire me to be quite frank in the matter, for frankness is the only method by which we can reach mutual understanding.

In your paragraph (1) you describe the machinery provided by which your Party endeavours to keep its policy in closest touch with rank-and-file direction, and amenable to that direction. To this my reply is simple—the machinery may be excellent—it has only ONE fault, i.e. it does not appear to work, nor to give the results desired.

The proof that it has in the past, failed to give results desired by the people, is to be found in the fact that it has TWICE in the last decade, been rejected at the Poll.

The Chifley-Evatt regime is now detested by all but the dyed-in-the-wool Labour supporters. If the Liberal Party, or any other Party, could be persuaded to bring down a policy really desired of the people, (and I am confident that the sacking of the Bureaucrats, and the genuine decentralisation of administration, are the essential keys to such a policy), then they would sweep the polls.

It was in the hope that YOU might be able to bring these matters forcibly before your Party, that I was prompted to write my first letter to you. Is such hope

(Continued on page 8)



## COMPOST FROM TOWN WASTE AND REFUSE

A method of town waste disposal that can greatly benefit the productive fertility of farms near towns and cities was shown recently to members of the Organic Soil Association at the plant on the border of the Alberton municipal area.

Instituted about five years ago by Mr. G. Giannopoulos, B.Sc., the scheme is based on the Indore process developed by the late Sir Albert Howard after a lifetime of experimental research work in India.

Primarily, the method solves the problem of night soil and its hygienic disposal, no easy matter in countries such as Rhodesia, where a town can cover a wide area. Alberton's solution — which has also been adopted by a number of other municipalities under the supervision of the Agricultural Department's municipal compost scheme with the approval of the Union Health Department— warrants the attention of all public bodies, which have not yet been converted to this method.

Pits have been made, lined with brick, about 30 feet by 9 feet, and from three to four feet deep. The pits slope slightly, which enables the liquid matter to be drained off into a sump. Provision is also made for aeration, essential in all composting.

The first stage in the process is to fill the pits to the full depth with straw, mealie stalks, grass clippings, and organic vegetation refuse generally, with a couple of layers of fresh manure sandwiched in between to act as activator. On this is poured nightly the contents of the sanitary carts, amounting at Alberton to about 2,000 gallons per night. Sawdust, which has been thoroughly impregnated with the surplus liquid from the sump, is added, after being allowed to break down. Finally, the material is sprinkled with a small quantity of agricultural lime, and is then left to ripen.

### Hygiene by Heat

A feature of the method at this stage is the great heat engendered, the temperature rising quickly to about 100 degrees. This also ensures the destruction of noxious weeds, seeds, and harmful bacterial and insect life. The heaps are turned on the fifth and fifteenth day. On the 30th day the contents are turned out on to the platform to mature further for another month. The turning is not only essential for aeration purposes, but also destroys any eggs laid in cool spots by flies before they have had time to hatch out.

Each pit makes about 15 cubic yards of compost, and as the site has 20 pits, an

amount" of 300 cubic yards (150 tons) is always being made.

The spectators, being keen gardeners and small farmers, were most interested in the finished product. When the wastes have been properly composted after about eight weeks, the now thoroughly matured black product is sieved through a coarse mesh. The result looks, feels and smells like finely granulated, friable forest humus, retaining its original dampness in spite of a hot, dry wind.

### Not What It Was

The striking thing throughout is the absence of any offensive smell. When Mr. Giannopoulos picked up a handful of the ripened compost and invited his audience to test this for themselves, there was a sweet, earthy odour of leaf mould. As he pointedly remarked: "This is not what it was."

It is understood that the plant is self-supporting, and may at times even show a small profit, notwithstanding the present high cost of labour. The compost, ready for immediate use, is on sale at 2/6 a bag of about 150 lb., and the difficulty is to keep pace with the demand. Several of the more enterprising visitors had brought bags with them to be filled.

In a world crying out for food production of high quality, it would appear that here, in a simple manner, involving no great outlay and employing a small labour force, is an answer to soil denudation and impoverishment. The Alberton Town Council — particularly its Health Department — is to be congratulated on its public-spirited enterprise.

—S.E.K. (*Rhodesian Herald*, Nov., 1948.)

## COMPOST For Garden Plot Or Thousand Acre Farm

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## TO THE POINT

(Continued from page 3)

"full employment" locally. However, it is obvious that every nation cannot export more than it imports, a fact, which has a direct bearing on a lengthy report on German production in the Melbourne *Herald* of February 11.

This report starts: "A new threat comes from Germany to trouble the victors — the threat of strong trade competition." If German production continues to expand at its present rate, by 1952-53 "German goods will be flowing plenteously throughout the world."

British industrialists and trade union leaders are warning the British Government about the German "threat." They fear unemployment resulting from trade competition "by vanquished countries."

It appears that a third world war may be necessary to solve the problem! There is nothing like a good war to abolish the threat of plenty and to provide "full employment."

\* \* \*

### The "Full-Employment" Mania

Not only are the Germans threatening us by wanting to send some of their production here; the Japanese want to forward us some of their cheap textiles. According to the Melbourne *Herald* of February 11, this has alarmed the Textile Workers' Union. It is pointed out that "before 1930 textile workers were fortunate to get two or three days' work a week because of the flood of goods from overseas." To suggest that a big local textile industry is necessary for the sole purpose of providing employment is madness. The purpose of any industry is to provide production required by consumers. While it may be desirable, with the world in its present state, to develop as many local industries as possible, the argument that the purpose of these industries is merely to ensure "full employment" should be exposed. The primary purpose of production is consumption.

\* \* \*

### Dr. Coombs

When our leading economic planner, Dr. H. C. Coombs, now Governor of the Commonwealth Bank, desires to place his wisdom at the disposal of the benighted electors, it is only fitting and proper that "our" nationalised broadcasting stations should be used for the purpose.

Speaking on February 7, this London School of Economics doctrinarian said that Australians are at present "trying to buy more goods and services than we are capable of producing." Dr. Coombs is paid a very high salary to utter this type of nonsense.

The productive capacity of Australia is at present being shackled by the "plans" of Dr. Coombs and his associates. The production of "plans" is the only type of production most of the planners know anything about.

\* \* \*

### The Liberals' Policy?

One of the myths propagated by the Liberal Party is that policy is decided "democratically" by the rank and file of the Party.

But speaking at the Liberal Party's recent rural conference in Mount Gambier (South Aust.), Mr. R. G. Casey, Federal President, said that the Liberal Party was at present withholding a detailed policy announcement because Labour would "pinch some points it liked and have nine months to discredit the rest." Not even the rank and file of the Liberal Party can be trusted with what Mr. Casey promises will "come out of the bag."

It is surely a depressing state of affairs when a leader of the Liberal Party states that the Federal Elections can only be won by surprise tactics. Just how a Labour-Socialist Party could "pinch" any points from a genuine anti-Socialist Party, Mr. Casey has not attempted to explain. Anyhow, if the points had any merit, what harm would there be if the Labour Party adopted them?

The trouble with Mr. Casey and other Liberal leaders "holding the bag," is that they want power at almost any price. Instead of standing firmly and courageously for clearly defined fundamental principles, which they should be loudly proclaiming throughout the land, they seek to gain office by competing with the Socialists in trying to bribe the electorate with pleasant "surprises." It is about time the rank and file of the Liberals challenged these Santa Claus antics and demanded the immediate promulgation of a real anti-Socialist policy.

### The Socialist "Herald"

A study of the Melbourne *Herald* editorial of February 12 reveals how sections of the "capitalist" press further Socialist doctrines.

After stating that there are two theories concerning taxation, one of which claims "that individual enterprise must be left as free as possible to enjoy its earnings if there is to be vitality and growth in the country," while "the other asserts that taxation must be used more and more to level up the security of those who, by choice or disposition, have a limited earning power," the *Herald* comments: "Few people to-day would wholly reject either of those ideas. There is truth in each of them." There is no truth whatever in the inference that those with a low standard of living can only improve their lot at the expense of those with a higher standard of living.

If all artificial restrictions were removed from free enterprise, there would soon be adequate production to supply all sections of the community with an ever-increasing standard of living.

Centralised planning produces shortages, which provide an excuse for the policies of the share-the-poverty advocates. The only effective answer to centralised planning is decentralised planning by individuals with adequate purchasing power to buy what free enterprise can produce.

This means, of course, a modification of our present financial rules. Isn't it strange how Socialists — and the "Capitalist" press — are violently opposed to such a modification?

\* \* \*

### The Threat of Plenty

The Melbourne *Sun's* special commentator on international affairs, Mr. Douglas Wilkie, has joined the growing number who have been recently warning that the threat of plenty is now starting to haunt parts of the world. At the conclusion of his article in the *Sun* of February 10, Mr. Wilkie writes: "By 1952, if Marshall Aid succeeds, all the great manufacturing nations of Western Europe, except Germany, will be turning out at least twice as many export goods as in 1938. Nobody has yet explained where this huge export surplus is to go."

Well, the Western Europeans could ensure that they had sufficient purchasing power to absorb locally as many of the goods as possible. If they could not exchange any genuine surplus for the surplus production of other countries, they should obviously reduce their production, and not work so hard.

## GENERAL BOOKS

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## Decentralising Anti-Bureaucratic League

(Continued from page 5)

as I still entertain in the Liberal Party now about to be extinguished?

You suggest that I should join the Liberal Party; but I am disinclined to sink my individuality in ANY political Party. I prefer to retain my entire political freedom till I reach the ballot box. There I will determine in what direction I will exercise the atom of political power, which resides in me, and is expressed in my vote.

If I see any hope of my policy, being implemented, then I will cast my vote, with great satisfaction, in that direction. If I see no hope of my policy being implemented, if I perceive only the anti-thesis available, then I will refuse to become a party to the giving of a mandate to carry out a policy of which I strongly disapprove.

If my atom of political power cannot be exercised towards a positive result, of which I can approve,

**THEN I WILL CANCEL IT BY A DELIBERATE INFORMAL VOTE.**

I believe that in this manner I may touch and quicken the vital spark of TRUE REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT. This has long been in a comatose condition, and I will do all in my power to re-awaken it.

I have not yet had an opportunity of placing these ideas before a large number of people; but, judging from the warm approval with which they have been consistently received, they will spread throughout Australia before the next election, and will become a considerable factor in determining the result of that election.

If you feel disposed to reply to me further, I will give most careful consideration to anything you put before me. Yours faithfully,

(James N. Kidman.)

In connection with the above matter, the following is submitted for your consideration.

I think you will agree that for a long time a large section of the community has been practically disfranchised by reason of the fact that we find no Party presenting a policy acceptable to us.

For the dyed-in-the-wool Party-man this position does not arise, for he finds satisfaction in some Party policy.

But the unattached voter is in a different position; he is unattached simply because he does not approve the policy being put forward by ANY Party. The unattached voter constitutes about one quarter of the electorate. He is compelled to make a choice of men representing a policy of which he does not approve. This is DISFRANCHISEMENT.

Is this the best he can do for himself; or is there a better method available to him under the circumstances. By thus acting he is giving a mandate for the implementing of a policy of which he does not approve. Are we right in thus giving a false mandate? It must be remembered that when we give a mandate for a policy, we become directly responsible for the action of those to whom we thus give a mandate.

PARTY POLITICS is a device designed to gather electors into great masses, so that all individuality is submerged.

A DELIBERATE INFORMAL VOTE provides an avenue by which the voter can exercise his right TO CONTRACT OUT of the machinery of Party Politics.

The people are "FED-UP" with government by Parties, and with the frustration, which inevitably results; they eagerly await the RESTORATION OF RESPONSIBLE REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT in which Members of Parliament become true REPRESENTATIVES, deriving their policy not from Parties, not from persons outside their electorate, but from their CONSTITUENTS, and from them only, and representing the policies thus derived to Parliament.

As this movement grows, as grow it will, it will sound the death-knell of Party-Politics which is a perversion of REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT. It will promote conditions in which the will of the people is really ascertained at the poll, and subsequently becomes the foundation of policy.

Yours faithfully,  
(James N. Kidman.)

The Hon A. W. Fadden, M.H.R.,  
Parliament House, CANBERRA.

Dear Mr. Fadden,

It is very gratifying to note your just criticism of the sincerity of Mr. Chifley's appeal to the public "to save", made in connection with "The National Savings Campaign."

Your remarks, as published in "The Sydney Morning Herald", of 1/2/49, must have struck a very responsive cord in a wide public. I cannot refrain from quoting:—

"The Federal Government should give the nation an economy lead by reducing its own extravagant expenditure," the Federal Leader of the Country Party, Mr. A. W. Fadden, commented in Brisbane today.

"It must be recognised that example is better than precept" he said. He declared that the Government should:—

"Abolish redundant departments, such as the Department of Information, and thoroughly overhaul the Department of Post-War Reconstruction.

SACK USELESS ECONOMISTS AND ADVISERS. (My emphasis). Get rid of assistant deputy directors who had nothing to direct, commissioners who had no commission to perform, trade commissioners with countries with whom we had no trade."

I cannot recall any other occasion on which any other Party Leader has uttered words, which so truly articulate public feeling on the matter under discussion, as your words do.

"SACK USELESS ECONOMISTS AND ADVISERS!!"

Why, Sir, these economists and advisers have held office perennially, through all the vicissitudes of Party-warfare! Whatever Party goes out they have remained. To all intents and purposes they ARE the Government.

Your words that they should be sacked, therefore inspires us with new hope. May it yet be that your Party will bring down a policy truly acceptable to the people?

DECENTRALISATION is the keynote of a policy, which will find the widest public support. And there can be no worthwhile decentralisation until we have restored financial autonomy to the States, as provided in the original unamended Constitution. To do this we must:—

- (1) Discontinue Uniform Taxation,
- (2) Annul the Financial Agreement of 1927.
- (3) Abolish the Loan Council.

I enclose copies of two letters, which I have previously addressed to the Liberal Party, in which I have set out in some detail the essentials of a policy acceptable to me, and acceptable, I believe, to the great majority of electors.

I would deem it a favour if you would accept the arguments set out therein as though they were originally addressed to you and your Party direct; and if you would be so good as to reply to me accordingly. I can assure you your reply will receive the widest publicity I can give it.

At the present moment it is as an individual that I address you; but it is intended shortly to constitute a body, which will be formed to promulgate throughout Australia, the principles set out herein.

My colleagues and I would be gratified, indeed, if you may see your way clear to give these principles high priority in the policy of your Party.

Again congratulating you on your initial statement quoted above,

Yours faithfully,  
(James N. Kidman.)

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