

THE NEW TIMES

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SIXPENCE WEEKLY.

How To Stop Rising Prices Now The Answer to Inflation

In a statement reported in the Melbourne "Argus" of September 6, Victorian Liberal M.L.A., Mr. Lechte, touched upon one of the most fundamental issues confronting the non-Labour parties to-day: What constructive policy can and should be advocated to prevent prices from continuing to rise rapidly?

In his reported statement, Mr. Lechte very courageously pointed out that, although he and his colleagues had promised sincerely at the time of the Prices Referendum last year, that they would effectively control prices, they had not been able to honour that promise. Mr. Lechte went on to say that the non-Labour parties' political prospects at the coming Federal Elections would be largely determined by their attitude towards high prices.

UNORTHODOX FINANCIAL METHOD

Mr. Lechte made it clear that he had no doubt about the policy necessary to deal with the inflation menace; he was going to advocate a nation-wide subsidisation of prices in order that the rising cost of living can be reduced. Mr. Lechte concluded his statement by saying that, as orthodox financial policies had failed to prevent inflation, unorthodox policies would have to be adopted.

As far as we are aware, Mr. Lechte is the first Parliamentary Member of the Liberal Party in any part of Australia to support publicly the principle of price subsidies. As leader of the Federal Country Party, The Rt. Hon. Arthur Fadden said some months ago that he and the Country Party favoured the re-introduction of the prices subsidy system.

THE WAGE-PRICE SPIRAL

There is no doubt that the problem of ever-increasing prices, which in turn necessitate ever-increasing wage rises, is the one regarded most seriously by the overwhelming majority of the electors.

Mr. Chifley and the interests he serves must be delighted with the spectacle in Victoria of a non-Labour Government being compelled to sanction price increases, which are infuriating all sections of the community.

Increases in tram and train fares, the price of gas, electricity, firewood and beer, have already started to react unfavourably against the Hollway Government.

The big increase in country rail freights has resulted in much bitter comment by country manufacturers and businessmen, who contend that many country industries are facing ruin. They claim also that the increase in rail freights makes a mockery

of the Hollway Government's decentralisation policy. The same theme has been developed in many provincial and country newspapers. Rising prices inevitably result in a progressive centralisation of economic power and make genuine decentralisation impossible.

SOCIALISTS EXPLOITING POSITION

The Labour-Socialists are very skilfully exploiting the electors' resentment against rising prices, claiming that if the Chifley Government had been granted permanent power to control prices, the present inflation would never have occurred. The point which electors must grasp is that the Chifley Government is primarily responsible for the financial policies, which have made rising prices inevitable. A considerable amount of the present inflation is the result of the discontinuation of the price-subsidy system.

THE INFLATION MENACE

Price subsidies were introduced during the war years for the specific purpose of preventing "run-away inflation," as the result of the policy of tremendous credit creation necessary to finance the war. Under present financial rules, every expansion of financial credit, either to meet increased wages or to finance private and public capital production, is inflationary. In spite of temporary price slumps during depression periods, prices generally have steadily increased over the past fifty years. Free, competitive enterprise, based upon modern power production techniques, should obviously result in a progressive reduction in prices. If free enterprise is to survive, a financial technique must be devised for the purpose of ensuring that prices are reduced, thus increasing the buying power of wages, and removing the necessity for a never-ending agitation for increased wages, which in turn lead to increased prices.

STABILISING PRICES

The price-subsidy mechanism demonstrated how it is easily possible to stabilise or reduce the prices of commodities, thus helping to stabilise wages, while at the same time ensuring that the producer gets a profitable price for his production.

The only worthwhile argument advanced

against the subsidy system is that it subsidises inefficiency. This difficulty can be effectively overcome by a price-subsidy controlled by the consumer at the retail counter. The only production to be subsidised should be that which the consumer indicates he desires.

A nation-wide subsidisation policy as advocated by Mr. Lechte would be the salvation of genuine free, competitive enterprise. It would help ensure that the consumer at all times had adequate purchasing power to buy at a profitable price what free enter-

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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.

TO THE POINT

STOP RISING PRICES

(Continued from page 1)

prise could produce. More avenues for economic and other activities would be opened up, providing the individual with a wider and more varied choice of occupations.

COULD SWEEP THE POLLS

The non-Labour parties could sweep the polls at the Federal Elections on a policy of reduced prices to consumers, increased purchasing power for all wage-earners, and profitable prices for all production required by consumers. Its constructive policy of price-subsidies must be free enterprise's major alternative to the inflation policies of the Socialists. Mr. Lechte is to be warmly congratulated on the splendid lead he has given.

The Gas Price Rise

AN INVITATION TO MR. HOLLWAY

The recent big increase in the price of gas has naturally enough brought forth many loud protests, but no intelligent appreciation of the steps necessary to stop the present disastrous inflation.

Mr. Cain, leader of the Labour party, as usual, bleats nationalisation, but can Mr. Cain point to any nationalised undertaking whose prices have not risen steeply and whose services to the public have not deteriorated? This gentleman and his 'comrades' have relentlessly pursued political and financial policies that have made the present disastrous situation inevitable.

The same criticism can be made against the Liberals. They make pious platitudes about free enterprise and individual liberty, but have consistently refused to consider any proposition that would make their ostensible aims a living reality.

We want to make this matter quite clear to the Liberals in particular, that if the present financial-costing rules are not challenged the Servile State is inevitable.

It is a fact, that since the Industrial Revolution, the purchasing power of money has progressively depreciated, in the face of increased production capacity, to meet the requirements of the individual consumer. Under the facade of a Parliament made irresponsible by the secret ballot, the implications of this fact have been deliberately ignored and distorted in the interests of power-lusting financiers.

In conclusion, we assert that we can provide, to any group with the sanctions to implement it, the technical and political information necessary to resolve this problem. Mr. Hollway, what about it? If you are genuinely concerned, as we believe you are, use us.

"A Glorious Ideal"

"I have never apologised for my belief in the principle of Socialism. It is a glorious ideal, and is not far from the Communist ideal."

—Labour-Socialist Senator Large at Canberra on October 6, 1948.

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Liberals, Take Note!

If Mr. R. G. Casey and his fellow Liberals desire to make certain of winning the Federal Elections, they should carefully note the points made in the following letter from a "middle class elector" — published in the *Melbourne Age* on August 30: —

"My Federal election vote will go to that party which puts forward a constructive policy to reduce the prices of necessities without reducing salaries, to ease the housing shortage so that I may buy a new five-room house for £2,000 or less, and which will reduce the frequency of these deplorable strikes by bettering industrial conditions so that the need for them does not arise."

It is impossible to reduce drastically and permanently the present price level, which continues to mount higher every day, within the framework of existing financial rules. During the war these rules had to be modified to prevent uncontrolled inflation. The price-subsidy mechanism demonstrated that prices can be reduced to the consumer and wages held comparatively stable, while at the same time ensuring a profitable price for the producer. Mr. Chifley's London School of Economics "advisers" took the first opportunity they had of abolishing the subsidy system.

If Mr. Casey had any political acumen whatever, he would make the reduction of the price level by the re-introduction of an improved subsidy system, a major election issue. This would mean, of course, openly challenging the local London School of Economics products and the interests they serve. It is, unfortunately, all too obvious that Mr. Casey hasn't the courage to do this.

* * *

Decentralisation and Food Supply

There has recently been a persistent press campaign in favour of the compulsory pasteurisation of all milk for sale in Victoria. The Murdoch press has led the campaign and claims that not only must all milk be pasteurised, but that the State Government should actually do the pasteurising.

In spite of many articles by "scientific experts," one of whom claims that powdered milk "is as good in every way as fresh milk," the following interesting admission appeared in a featured article in the *Melbourne Herald* of August 29: "Raw milk — that is, unpasteurised milk — is comparatively safe in small communities and on farms. It is sometimes dangerous, however, in large towns and cities."

Here is further evidence proving that the over-centralisation of populations creates problems, which can only be "solved" by still more centralisation. If people are to be provided with fresh food and drink, uncontaminated by the processes of the "scientific experts" who do not recognise the intangible quality, because they cannot measure it in a laboratory, genuine decen-

tralisation is necessary. If, however, people are to be herded together in bigger and bigger cities, Socialist controls must be accepted as the price of "progress."

* * * *

"New Australians"

From a *Melbourne Argus* report of the arrival of the Italian passenger ship, *Ugolino Vivaldi*, which arrived in Melbourne with 814 "New Australians" on August 30: "Ship's officers said that almost all the 81 passengers who had travelled first class were Jewish." Comment unnecessary!

* * * *

Centralised Electricity

In his classic exposure of centralised planning, *Ordeal By Planning*, Professor Jewkes, who had first hand experience of Government planning in Great Britain during the war years, writes: "He (the planner) is over-much concerned with dramatic developments — such as electrification and wholesale schemes for rationalisation... There is a fascinating, and, I believe, largely unexplored, relation between economic revolution and electricity. At the centre of nearly every overall plan is to be found a vast scheme of electricity."

Lenin stressed the importance of a State electricity monopoly for the centralised planning of all industry.

The major argument used to support the centralised generation and distribution of electricity is an alleged increase in efficiency. But even accepting present financial rules as the only measure of efficiency, all the available evidence proves that small-scale electrical units compare favourably with large-scale units.

In the English *Electrical Times* of May 19, 1938, under the heading, "Efficiency of Small Stations," the following information was given: Out of a total number of undertakings (both local and companies) of 485, for lighting, heating and cooking only, there were 272 undertakings of over 10 million units size selling the unit at under 5d; while the undertakings of over 10 million units per annum size within the same price of 5d, only total 213.

In regard to power supplies, there were 168 smaller undertakings selling at 1/2d. to 1d. per unit; while there are only 48 of the larger undertakings at the same price.

There is, of course an important aspect of real efficiency, which the planners never mention; a small organisation of any description can provide a more direct and intimate service to customers than can a centralised undertaking.

* * * *

"Bigness"

"The English Fabians, and their offshoot, the Planners, are in the main the same type. What, then, is the characteristic of 'bigness', which makes it a common objective in every country in which we can discern revolutionary propaganda at work? To say that it is efficiency is clearly absurd even if efficiency were urgently necessary. It would be as sensible to acclaim the superior efficiency of the Atlantic Ocean over Lake Derwentwater.

"It is not difficult to find an answer. The attribute of size — so far as I am aware,

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Mr. Fadden on Petrol Rationing

State Premiers were being scared into acquiescence on petrol rationing by the Prime Minister's talk of "chaos" without it, the Federal Country Party Leader (Mr. Fadden) said in Brisbane this week.

Premiers should not be deceived into reintroducing rationing on the strength of what Mr. Chifley had told them, said Mr. Fadden.

"The Prime Minister cashes in on the consumption results disclosed from the protracted coal strike," said Mr. Fadden.

"We need only have petrol rationing if petrol is not available. And if petrol is not available, why isn't it? Mr. Chifley and his Government, after many excuses, finally rest on the plausible myth that the United Kingdom Government would be affected to the extent of any drain we might make on the British Commonwealth of Nations' limited petrol resources.

"Australians have been asked to believe that the Government has made every effort to increase imports to maintain petrol consumption at its rationing-time level in Australia.

"Why is Mr. Chifley unwilling to procure more stocks from the petrol sources overseas which have been consistently offered to him!"

Borneo Supply

"According to the superintendent of a petrol company in Sumatra, the oil companies there, if permitted by the Australian Government, could supply us with all the oil we need for payment in sterling. It is further reported that fast tankers are available for its transport.

"Mr. Chifley cannot 'get from under' on this reported offer. On May 27 this year he said in the House of Representatives that oil from Borneo was exported to Australia and other sterling areas, obviating the expenditure of dollars.

TO THE POINT

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the only attribute of size — which grows as size increases, is momentum. The larger the mass, the more difficult becomes a change of direction — the harder becomes the task of individual initiative. That is another objective of The Big Idea, because, as the Protocols of Zion remark: 'Nothing is so dangerous as individual initiative.'"
—C. H. Douglas in *The Big Idea*.

* * * *

Sound Criticism

Although many of his remarks on the "drink question" will be resented by freedom-loving people, Liberal State Member F. L. Edmunds must be given full marks for his recent criticisms of the Socialist policies of his own Government. Mr. Edmunds is reported in the *Melbourne Age* of September 2 as follows: "Describing Housing Commission activities as 'a story of bungling and bad faith,' Mr. Edmunds said there was an urgent need for a non-parliamentary committee to investigate its administration. It was a hoax being conducted under the cloak of a Liberal Government, which opposed Socialism. It also had a monopoly on the purchase of many supplies, and did not give the private builder a chance to compete. After undertaking not to build in the Dandenong area the Commission did so, but left many uncompleted dwellings to be finished by private builders."

"Sumatran oil is obviously in the same position as that from Borneo, as it is reported that all exports of the Sumatran field are paid for in the currencies of the countries to which they are sent.

"Leaving out the possibility of his tapping additional sterling sources, has Mr. Chifley negotiated to secure a more equitable reallocation of sterling petrol for Australia from within the British Commonwealth group?"

"According to the Australian Chamber of Automotive Industries, the petrol consumption a vehicle within the British circle is: Canada, 726 gallons a year; India, 664; South Africa, 612; New Zealand, 385; Australia, 300. Australians are right at the bottom of the list, and get little more than three-quarters the supply of New Zealanders.

"Canada abolished rationing a day after VJ Day. South Africa has no petrol rationing. And yet these countries use more than twice the amount of petrol a vehicle than Australians."

Mr. Fadden went on to ask what Mr. Chifley had done to convince the United Kingdom Government of the penalties they expected us to pay for our desire to assist them to the advantage of our greatest world competitor in the meat markets, the Argentine?

Britain had undertaken to supply 5,700,000 tons, or 1,700 million gallons, of petroleum products to the Argentine in return for meat, among other things, he said.

"Legs Pulled"

On the estimate of Mr. Chifley's own officers, Australia required one-third of a million tons (about 90 million gallons) to obviate petrol rationing in this country.

"So we are having our legs pulled when we are asked to believe that every possible encouragement is being given to build up the Australian meat industry for the supply of food to Britain," Mr. Fadden added.

The Prime Minister apparently had impressed Premiers with a claim that the petrol drain on the British Treasury was 400 million dollars a year, he said, but it had since been shown from British sources that only 160 million dollars represented the net cost of oil purchases, and the remainder was made up of capital and other non-recurring expenditure, such as on the equipment for refineries.

U.K. Profits

Moreover, an analysis of White Papers presented to Parliament by the Financial Secretary to the Treasury indicated now that Britain was actually making a large overall profit on re-exports of petrol. This profit included hard currency of many millions of dollars a year. She was spending so much on oil imports because she was making this colossal profit.

She was re-exporting the petrol to European countries, such as Belgium, Holland, Norway, Denmark, Sweden, and Italy, which long since had abolished petrol rationing.

Petrol for Australia's economy and de-

fence could be brought to this country by perfectly legal means, and without detriment to the United Kingdom Government.

As the Commonwealth had always controlled the importation of petrol, any present shortage of stocks for defence — as claimed by the Government — must be laid at the Government's own door, even if the distribution of petrol was to be transferred in buck-passing fashion to the States.

PETROL RATIONING IN TRUE PERSPECTIVE

The issue raised by the Prime Minister in the petrol rationing threat should be seen in its true perspective as socialisation versus private enterprise.

The question of whether or not petrol rationing should be re-imposed is overshadowed in importance by the principle involved. The case is one of a free economy or a planned economy; whether in respect to, not only petrol, but also other commodities, the Government should ration the import markets and control, limit or direct the destination of export products, or whether we are to return to conditions assured by the Australian Constitution, but temporarily denied by the Government — in other words, do we leave the high road of the Constitution for slippery paper pathways of socialisation.

The people at a referendum have already refused the Government the powers. After voting overwhelmingly against Commonwealth proposals to change the Constitution, the people expect "decontrol" to be more expeditious; they certainly do not want more regimentation — not in the fourth year of peace.

—*The Countryman*, Sept. 2.

Wheat

WASHINGTON, Thursday,

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee today approved the international wheat agreement.

It now goes to the Senate for ratification.

Charles Brannan, Secretary for Agriculture, said today it might be necessary to limit next year's wheat crop to 1,000,000,000 bushels to avoid costly surpluses.

It would be done by imposing production and marketing controls. —A.A.P.

—*The Sun*, Sydney, June 3, 1949.

True

Private enterprise cannot maintain full employment.

—*Labour Call*, Sept. 2.

Of course it cannot. The function of private enterprise is to provide goods and services wanted by the individual consumer with the least possible expenditure of energy, both human and mechanical. The policy of Governments should be to make financial arrangements to enable the individual, as a right, not as a concession, to gain access to these goods and services. Liberals, please take note.

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COPLAND & MANPOWER CONTROL

We have consistently stressed that the centrally planned State cannot be implemented without manpower control. The totalitarian technique is to create crises of various types, which can be used to implement policies, which restrict the freedom of the individual. War, the "dollar crisis," the "export drive" and "full employment" is all used to subordinate individual policies to those of the central planners. Instead of genuine scientific progress and power production resulting in the individual possessing greater opportunities for deciding his own policies, deliberate perversion by the totalitarians threatens the individual with less genuine liberty than he has had for hundreds of years.

In an address given to the Victorian Branch of the Economic Society of Australia and New Zealand on August 26, 1949, Professor D. B. Copland provided further evidence of the manner in which, if present "trends" are not challenged, manpower control is becoming a grim possibility in the near future. The major thesis of Professor Copland's address was that the "dollar crisis" should be overcome by Australia and other sterling countries borrowing dollars from the U.S.A. Although the learned Professor admitted, "the world still needs the goods U.S.A. has to offer much more than U.S.A. needs the goods, the world has to offer it" he did not explain how, under these circumstances, the countries borrowing dollars can possibly repay the dollar loans. In spite of his admission that the U.S.A. does not require many imports, Professor Copland says, "the borrowing country must improve output and export by making a more effective use of manpower." Professor Copland and his fellow totalitarian planners have made it clear in the past that "the effective use of manpower" means that labour should be directed to those industries which they term "vital." "Unessential" industries must be closed down. These are the inevitable results of the orthodox economic and financial policies, which Professor Copland and other economic planners have imposed upon all Federal Governments for far too long. Unless these policies are challenged, manpower control will be imposed sooner or later.

Mr. CHIFLEY'S BUDGET.

Melbourne's new Socialist daily, the "Argus," starts its editorial on Mr. Chifley's latest budget as follows: "Mr. Chifley, as Treasurer, has produced a Lower Cost of Living Budget." So far from this being the case, Mr. Chifley's Budget is an inflationary one. It provides striking evidence of the fact that the idea of modern Governments doing more of those things, which the individual should be encouraged to do for himself, inevitably leads to Governments budgeting for greater and greater Government expenditure.

Most Government expenditure is directly inflationary. Mr. Chifley's promise of a big public works programme simply means that the Government proposes to spend enormous sums of money — the people's money — on capital goods, which are not for sale. In other words, the issue of money is to bear no relationship whatever to the production of goods and services required by the individual. In a genuine economic democracy the individual should spend his own money instead of the Government spending it for him.

It is not progress for a Government to be spending more and more money. It is an indication that the Servile State is being implemented.

FEDERAL PRICE CONTROL URGED

"Price increases for goods and services have assumed such alarming proportions in the past few years that the need for a referendum to give the Federal Parliament power to control prices is greater than ever."

The president of the A.C.T.U. (Mr. P. J. Clarey) said this at the weekend.

The only effective remedy for high prices was to place the power of rigid price control in the hands of a centralised national authority, he continued.

It was to be regretted that the people had rejected the referendum, which sought to give the Federal Parliament permanent power to control prices.

—*The Age, Melb., Sept. 5.*

This totalitarian gentleman is very consistent in his advocacy of centralised control. We have the following comments to make on the above: (i) that under Federal control prices did rise rapidly; (ii) that the policies of full employment and ever-increasing wages pursued by this gentleman and his "comrades" under existing costing arrangements are the causes of our present inflation; and (iii) that his failure to protest against the removal of subsidies and positively to demand the extension of the system is proof that he is more concerned with centralising power than with relieving the distresses of the workers he is supposed to represent.

PRODUCTION AND COST OF GOODS

In the weekly broadcast from 3DB, "The Liberal Leader Speaks," the Federal Opposition Leader (Mr. Menzies) stresses the need for greater production as a means to reduce the high cost of goods. In theory his arguments sound convincing, but does it work out in practice?

There are many industries in Australia turning out a greater volume of goods than ever before, but prices go higher and higher.

America is often quoted as an example of very high manpower production, but apparently it has had the reverse effect to reducing prices. And there is certainly no Socialist Government hindering private enterprise in that country.

I would like Mr. Menzies to quote any country producing cheaper basic goods than we do in Australia.

—"VX60711," Camberwell. —

The Herald, Melbourne, Sept. 7.

Until Mr. Menzies gets an answer to the above, his appeal for increased production will fall on a lot of deaf ears. Constructively, we suggest that he follow Mr. Lechte's advice and examine the merits of subsidising prices through the retailer. We are prepared to supply literature on the subject.

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GOVERNMENT TRADING

If the secret information Mr. Chifley received from Sir Stafford Cripps regarding the alleged necessity for the Government at Canberra controlling other people's credit and business has any relation to the Prime Minister's petrol figures, the information as disclosed at Canberra has been condemned as misleading by the Australian Country Party leader, Mr. Fadden. Mr. Fadden has shown that the figures are based on a discrepancy of some 240,000,000 dollars set against petrol importations instead of other general items. Mr. Fadden has earned much credit by his consistent defence of private enterprise and the exposure of the methods of the Socialists.

The underlying principle arising from any discussions of petrol importations under Government control must resolve to a question of whether, since we have now entered the fifth year of peace, the functions of Government should not be clearly defined, and the field of private enterprise be freed of Government interference, the business of trade restored to traders, and that those better qualified in the business of importing and marketing petrol be encouraged by maximum facilities to ensure ample supplies of petrol in Australia.

It is not the business of Government to engage in trade, and it is little wonder, in view of the peculiar financial theories of the present Government, that its credit as

a trader is in the doldrums. The advice of Sir Stafford Cripps is not likely to be advantageous even to Socialists in this country since the so-called dollar crisis is in reality seen as a sterling crisis.

After four full years of planners' "reconstruction" and fantastic experiments in finance and trade it is fair to say the results speak for themselves. We were told on the "best authority" four years ago that booms are followed by depressions; that we must be organised out of every possibility of a boom. Firm action was taken to cut out the boom. Now we are faced with what some would interpret as a "boomless depression." We are confronted with proposals for austerity, shortages, and discomfort. The Government at Canberra has plans for further "assistance" to Australia. The people, however, are well aware that the best way to recovery starts with the next election and the rejection of the Government and its advisers.

Any attempt to defeat the Constitution by the States handing over powers — which may be doubtful — to the Commonwealth, would be a denial of the verdict of the people at a referendum; would amount to back-door methods of getting round the Constitution, and deprive the people of the valued benefit of the recent High Court decision on rationing.

—*The Countryman*, Aug. 19.

by **FRANK NICKLIN**

Leader of the Queensland Country Party

What is this Communism? As the Communists have, in the coal strike, achieved their greatest victory to date, I think for that and other reasons, this is a question that should receive a great deal more public attention than in the past.

Mr. Chifley has habitually referred to it as just "another political philosophy." Mr. Holloway has said that it is "Christ-like" in its ideals. Mr. Calwell has said that those who oppose it are suffering from a "phobia."

Our marathon talker, Dr. Evatt, who is always wrong, has said it is perfectly lawful and should not be driven underground.

Anyone who has studied the history and the literature of Communism will, however, disagree totally and violently with the views of these socialistic apologists for the greatest menace with which civilisation has ever been faced.

Origins of Communism

The most competent and authoritative investigators agree that Communism did not start with the Marx and Engels' manifesto of 1848. They have traced it back to a secret society founded in Germany in 1771 by a sadistic fiend named Adam Weishaupt.

He has had many successors in office like himself and most of them have used Socialism as the Trojan Horse for the capture of the democratic citadel.

The objects of the society are to devour human freedom and to bring about the total enslavement of the majority of mankind. It was and is satanic in its conception, its methods, and its intentions.

Its objects have already been achieved in

Russia, and the countries behind the Iron Curtain, and it is still progressing — mainly in a southerly direction.

The methods used by the society to achieve its objects are the promotion of wars between countries, and industrial disruption, particularly in key industries and services, leading to chaos and misery and, if possible, to revolution.

Journalistic Fools

Communism is not, therefore, a "political philosophy," as Mr. Chifley professes to believe. It is a worldwide campaign of hatred and force.

Marx and Engels were merely the journalistic tools employed to produce the kind of propaganda needed to "put it over" the masses, and to hide the reality of its evil designs.

If it should succeed in adding Australia to the countries behind the Iron Curtain, the archfiends from the north would then appear to take charge, most of the lesser fiends within Australia would disappear, and the dupes of Communism would take their places, with only the rights of working bullocks, in the ranks of the slaves. —*The Telegraph*, Brisbane, Sept. 2.

Mr. Nicklin has obviously been reading the right books. This statement clearly demonstrates that he is not unaware of the "hidden hand" (International Jewry), which is progressively throttling Western civilisation.

ERIC BUTLER'S BOOKS

The Enemy Within the Empire, 10d
Over 30,000 copies of this book have been sold in all parts of the English-speaking world. Carefully documented, it is essential for those who desire to understand the background of the present world situation. The policy of the International Financiers in using the Bank of "England" to cripple the British Empire while helping Hitler is dealt with in detail. The origin of what is now known as the "Financier-Socialist" plot is revealed. This book is generally regarded as one of the author's finest works.

The Money Power Versus

Democracy..... 10d.

Well worth having if only for the comprehensive selection of statements by various authorities concerning the "Money Power." The main thesis of this book is to show how the "Money Power" has prevented the introduction of genuine political and economic democracy. The author shows how the electors must unite to bring their political institutions under control for the purpose of obtaining the results they desire.

The Truth About Social Credit, 1/1

An excellent introduction to the subject of Social Credit for the beginner. It shows how Social Credit is far more than a "funny money" scheme. The author makes it clear that bank nationalisation and "State control of the issue of credit" have got nothing to do with Social Credit. Social Credit financial proposals are outlined clearly and simply. The 1945 Banking Legislation is revealed as a major part of the policy of totalitarianism being imposed upon Australians. This valuable book must be in the armoury of every Social Credit warrior.

Democracy Flouted.. . . . 7d.

The full text of a radio script prepared by the author while a member of the Armed Forces. Although the A.B.C. considered the script one of the finest submitted by a member of the Army, a Communist in a key position in Army Education had the talk banned after all arrangements had been made for its broadcast.

A Defence of Free Enterprise and The Profit Motive 7d.

A brilliant exposition of the control of the production system by the money "vote."

Constitutional Barriers To Serfdom 7d.

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



Fertility Is Fundamental

The Significance of the Organic Movement.

By Jorian Jenks, Editor, "Rural Economy" (Eng.).

As any student of world food and population problems will affirm, soil fertility is now the deciding factor in the survival of our civilisation. For while human populations are increasing at the rate of nearly 20,000,000 a year, the capacity of cultivated soils to produce food is tending to decline. Much once-fertile land has already passed out of use — eroded away.

Yet not only is there no generally accepted means of measuring soil fertility — there is no generally-agreed definition of soil fertility itself, and hence of the steps which must be taken to re-generate it.

The reason for this lamentable gap in our scientific knowledge is not far to seek. During the Industrial Age, Western civilisation became possessed of mechanical means of exploiting vast reserves of virgin natural resources. So inexhaustible did these reserves seem, so pre-occupied did civilisation become with the conversion of resources into commodities and the transportation, exchange and distribution of those commodities, that the continuity of resourcefulness — capacity to produce — was taken for granted. If old lands failed, there were always new lands to be brought into use; so why worry?

That carefree situation has now ended — at the very moment when the human demand for more and better food is greater and more insistent than ever before.

Confused by Chemistry

Unfortunately, our understanding of this vital subject has been confused by reason of our excessive reliance on chemistry. As a recent *Farmer and Stockbreeder* editorial (29/3/49) pointed out: —

We know so much more about the chemistry of the soil than about its biology. How is a plant fed? Is it merely by taking in certain elements that can be chemically analysed and assessed? How big a part do the soil bacteria play in making these elements available? Do artificials encourage or discourage them? Does a plant obtain elements other than nitrogen from the atmosphere?

Now, chemistry is an important science. But because it works in terms of fragments (elements), it cannot give a true picture of the functioning of organic wholes—and the achievement of functional wholeness (or health) is after all the supreme objective of all nutrition, whether of plant, animal or human being. Misapplied chemistry, backed by a false industrial analogy, has, in fact, given rise to an impression

that plant growth is simply a matter of assembling chemical constituents (as a motor-car is assembled from components); and because certain elements (nitrogen, phosphorus and potash), often stimulate plant growth when applied in concentrated, water-soluble form, there has developed an even more misleading idea that soil fertility can be restored simply by increased use of such "fertilisers."

Agriculture Is Biological

But agriculture, in that it is concerned with the cultivation and sustenance of life, is primarily biological. Indeed, the true biological meaning of fertility is *fecundity* — capacity to reproduce and renew life. And it is the essence of the new "organic" approach to agriculture that it does not attempt to "feed" plants directly with doses of selected chemicals. Instead, it endeavours to foster and increase those innumerable inhabitants of the soil whose activities provide nourishment for plants in a natural form — bacteria, fungi, algae, earthworms and so on.

"Good Heart"

Thus, the organic movement, which can be said to have begun with the painstaking fieldwork of Sir Albert Howard, in India, confirms scientifically the traditional belief of the countryman that "muck is the mother of all things" and that "the land must be kept in good heart." For the first essential of vigorous life in the soil is the return to it of vegetable and animal wastes for the formation of *humus*, the dark-coloured, highly complex and variable substance which not only supports biological activity but gives fertile soils their characteristic mellow texture and enables air and water to circulate freely within them.

Exponents of organic methods maintain that where the humus content of the soil has been built up and a sound biological balance maintained, a condition of positive health is achieved in plants and animals, which in turn confers natural resistance to pests and diseases. They believe, furthermore, that this positive health can be passed on to human beings who consume the plants and animals.

Largely because it does not lend itself

to statistical "proof," many scientists remain sceptical of this new development. But there have been some notable exceptions, such as the late Dr. M. C. Rayner, whose work on soil fungi is widely acknowledged, and Sir Stanton Hicks, the noted Australian physiologist. In the meantime, a number of independent bodies are engaged upon the enormous amount of research and educational work, which must be done before the new interpretation of fertility and health, can be firmly established. Outstanding in this country are the Soil Association, the Albert Howard Foundation, the Bio-Dynamic Association, the Institute of Organic Husbandry and the (Scottish) Soil and Health Movement. * In this field, private enterprise is certainly giving a lead. From the social and economic standpoints, this organic movement is of the utmost significance.

(i) There already exists, in the air we breathe and in the soil and subsoil under our feet, an abundance of all the elements that constitute our food. If, therefore, we can so organise and nurture other species in and on the soil that they in their turn will organise or vitalise these elements for us at an increasing pace, we shall have found a positive solution of the world food problem.

(ii) If in this way a condition of health in soil, plants and animals, can be built up, there can be a progressive reduction in agriculture's present dependence on costly artificial supplements and antidotes.

(iii) Similarly, every increase in the humus content of the soil will reduce the need for tillage implements and fuel to operate them.

(iv) These three factors will, together, ultimately reduce the non-labour costs of agriculture, making it possible for more people to work on the land, fewer in chemical and engineering industries.

(v) If naturally acquired health in plants and animals can be transmitted to men, much human suffering and disability can be avoided, and with them our increasing dependence on medical treatment.

In short, the organic movement, if it fulfils the promise which it already shows, will restore to their rightful social status both husbandry and the husbandman, and in so doing restore to human society much of the health and harmony which it now so patently lacks.

—*Rural Economy*, June 1949.

* Organisations in Australia: — Victoria: Victorian Compost Society.

N.S.W.: Australian Organic Farming and Gardening Society.

Tasmania: The Living Soil Association of Tasmania.

—Ed., N.T.

From "Super" to Compost

By HAROLD E. L. RESEIGH,
Lower Plenty, Victoria.

On coming to the slopes of the Plenty River, ten years ago, to make a living per medium of the humble hen (after twenty years of wheat and sheep farming in the Wimmera and Mallee), our one idea of improving our scanty free-range pasture was to top-dress it liberally with super-phosphate.

After five or six years of annual "super" top-dressing, with chickens free ranging from October to January each year, what little pasture there was had completely disappeared. On another paddock where we had tried to grow oats or maize, the best crop we had was red sorrell.

At this juncture I read *Ploughman's Folly*, and this was the window that opened the world of Sir Albert Howard, Farmer Sykes, Eve Balfour, Elyne Mitchell and others of the Organic Outlook. Super-phosphate and plough were given their walking tickets. There began an era of mulch-green manure sheet composting. On the sorrell paddock I sowed and rotary-hoed in two crops of rape, heavily dressed with lime and poultry manure, then did the same with a maize crop and sowed rape again and let it grow. I had two complete cuts off it for green feed before letting it run to seed. It grew six to eight feet high, three feet higher than the back of my Jersey cow.

On another bit of land I fallowed half an acre, spread forty or fifty bags of poultry manure, sowed oats and lucerne, and when this was eighteen inches high, rotary-hoed it all in and sowed Hickory King Maize. This was one of the finest maize crops ever grown in the district. After using it as green feed for fowls, I fed some to four heifers and a cow for the rest of the summer, when some of it was ten feet high.

For the last two years we have been making compost heaps and applying them to the vegetable and fruit garden: the results have been amazing. Whereas before we had no success with carrots, cucumbers and pumpkins, now it was just too easy. Vegetable growing has become a pleasure instead of a disappointment. Even the flower garden can boast of its pansies and poppies. This year for the first time, the sweet peas are over the top of the fence.

The free range was rotary-hoed twice and limed (no super), harrowed down and sowed with N.Z. rye, subterranean, red

and white Dutch clovers. Now in the second season, it is a picture. I have had five sheep and a cow on its two acres all the year, but thirty cows will be needed to eat it down. The rainstorms, which used to run over and off it, *now run in*.

A visitor stops and says, "Good gracious, what have you done to that apple tree? It is literally dripping with blossoms and bees." I say, "Oh, merely dressed it with a couple barrow loads of compost."

The soil here was originally a sedimentary mudstone, which gradually breaks down into a gravelly rubble, but with plenty of humus, vegetable matter, poultry manure, and green manure, crops and cultivation can be made into a rich soil fit to grow anything.

In a disused fowl pen I am growing mushrooms in six inches of compost on a concrete floor.

—*Farm and Garden Digest*.

Dr. EVATT AND ISRAEL

A piece of plate in finely wrought copper and silver is being taken to Australia as a gift from Israel to Dr. H. V. Evatt for his part in helping to establish the new State.

It is being flown out by Israel's first Consul-General to Australia and N.Z. (Harry Lewin), a former South African journalist, who said: "Evatt is revered in Israel."

—*The Sun*, Sydney, July 22, 1949.

Dr. Evatt may be honoured, but we as a people should feel dishonoured. We have helped to underwrite the forceful seizure of a defenceless people's native land, and through our representatives condoned international blackmail of the most vicious kind. Further, we add to our dishonour by granting recognition to this "State," the government of which permits the unpunished murderers of Count Bernadotte to sit in its Parliament.

IS DIGGING NECESSARY?

This important booklet must be in the hands of every organic farmer and gardener. The author, one of England's most famous gardener's, has proved over a long period that better and healthier vegetables can be grown without digging. He outlines the methods he has used.

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Are You An Organic Farmer or Gardener?

If so, the Editor of *Rural Review* would be pleased to hear from you at any time. All over Australia increasing numbers of people are applying organic farming and gardening methods. Readers who have any interesting information concerning the results they are achieving are requested to write in so that other readers can obtain the benefit of their experiences.

Shareholders in Australia Unlimited

BY FOOTLE

People in the lump are very rummy — not a bit like the individuals composing the lump. They always seem to have to be told the simplest things — things, which as individuals they would be well aware of. For instance, I do not have to be told what I possess and what I do not. Somehow or another, in spite of a very defective education, I have always managed to form some idea of what I owned and what I didn't, and for a while believed that I possessed this faculty in common with my fellow man. I have read about people — millionaires and stock exchange speculators — who weren't always sure of the boundaries of their possessions at any given moment, but my actual experience has been confined to the sort of people who would miss a china dog if someone moved it, and who wouldn't have to look at their pass book to know whether they could afford a trip round the world.

A "Monstrous Many-headed Thing"

But multiply these apparently normal blokes by a million, and what have you? A "monstrous many-headed thing" as the late Mr. Pope has said! Multiplication does something to their heads; they become possessed of devils known as "isms" and are entirely deserted by any sense of property. They have to be told what belongs to them by some brains trust or other. This has distinct advantages to the brains trust. The brains trust might, for instance, favour a state of war, and all it has to do is to instruct the monstrous many-headed thing aforesaid concerning the nature of its possessions. It is then that the army of slum-dwellers and income-tax defaulters are made to realise that they own a boundless empire, a navy and a noble tradition, and are in fact so well off that it is really good business to go and get themselves churned into pulp in someone else's country. As an earnest of their unsuspected wealth they start to receive quite handy instalments of their heritage in the form of sums of money that somehow weren't there before. When the war is over, they forget about the boundless empire and the rest of it they don't even notice when it is dismembered, chunk-by-chunk, or if they do, they are quite indifferent.

Ownership

So the brains trust has to get busy again. Mr. Hanlon, Premier of Queensland, for instance, has found it necessary to remind the people that they own the coal. Hitherto the said people have been quite content to let anyone own it who wanted to, so long as they got the electricity, transport and all the other things coal is responsible for. Mr. Hanlon is quoted by my newspaper as saying, Aug. 25, 1949, "The coal of Blair Athol is the property of the people of Queensland, and the present companies working the field have done little about exploiting it."

Furthermore, he added, "The coal that had been coming out of the field until the recent price increase, had been costing the taxpayer 10/- per ton through losses on railways, yet the companies still could not make the field pay." Which leads quite naturally to the climax, "If we cannot get the Blair Athol coalfield developed by private enterprise it will be developed by the Government."

It is easy, of course, in view of the financial results of all government enterprises, to understand the unusual attraction a losing proposition must hold for the government, if only that it will be spared the reproach of having converted a profit into a loss. But speaking as an ordinary citizen, I don't feel I want to be burdened with too much wealth of this kind: I'm already a shareholder in so many national enterprises that I doubt whether my income will stand much more such ownership. I might feel differently if I were on the board of directors, but as things are I'm not in the least greedy for more.

A Churlish Attitude

I know all this sounds churlish: I know that everything possible is being done to protect me from my baser instinct for comfort and lack of worry. For instance, as a shareholder in the railway, I ought to appreciate the jealousy with which my property is being guarded and protected from the unfair competition of modern transport, to say nothing of the economy being observed in the non-provision of "sleepers" and so on. I ought also to feel grateful to our local government for taking our buses out of the ruthless hands of private exploiters, and I really ought not to object to the services being reduced and the fares being raised by fifty percent. But the sad fact is that I don't really care who owns these things as long as I can be spared the expense of being a shareholder and as long as the best service available can be enjoyed by me. I've never had occasion to find fault with the best, and funnily enough I've hitherto always obtained the best from some ruthless exploiter or other.

Oriental Abasement

What bothers me even more in this nationalisation business, is that finally we shall all be civil servants, and that, for me, would be the undoing of my life's work. I don't want to be a civil servant: I've already been one. I used to "have the honour to state": I "begged to inform" people: I have "regretted that the Hon. The Minister, after careful consideration, could not accede, etc., etc." And I bethought myself to exchange this oriental abasement for the ruder intercourse we call "freedom." It didn't occur to me to regard myself as a ruthless exploiter, and my finances did not encourage the notion. Nevertheless I have survived flood, fire and depression, and as long as there is official correspondence, I elect to be on the receiving end of it.

But what I fear most when my shares in the nation have been watered down to

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[Regd.]

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make me a shareholder of the world, is that the maintenance of my extended heritage may cost me all the meagre income that is still mine. In fact, the only hope I see of anything like prosperity in that event, is in an inter-planetary war.

"A Fanatic"

On one thing John Dedman, like his colleagues, is a fanatic.

He insists that full employment must be maintained, not only here in Australia, but in all other countries.

—Labour Call, Sept. 2.

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