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SIXPENCE WEEKLY

Sham Fight at Victorian Elections?

Real Issues Obscured

Does it matter very much which Party, or coalition of Parties, governs Victoria after the State Elections on May 13? We ask this question in all seriousness, because all the evidence indicates that none of the three Victorian State Parties is prepared to challenge the Canberra centralisers' policy of progressively destroying the sovereignty of the States. This is the most important issue confronting the Australian people.

When the Hollway-McDonald Government was first elected in 1947, just after the announcement of Mr. Chifley's Bank Nationalisation proposals, there was much talk about making every endeavour to break the stranglehold being applied from Canberra. Uniform taxation was to be vigorously challenged, if necessary, by a legal challenge before the Privy Council. And, of course, Free Enterprise was to be supported in every possible way.

No Real Fight

But it wasn't long before it became apparent that no real fight was to be made against Canberra dictatorship. Mr. Hollway weakly pleaded that the only chance of Uniform Taxation being abolished was the election of a Federal Liberal Government at the 1949 Federal Elections. We trust that Victorian electors will draw Mr. Hollway's attention to the fact that Mr. Menzies has made it clear that he intends to continue Uniform Taxation, along with all other Socialist measures sponsored by the Labor-Socialists. What have Mr. Hollway and his colleagues to say to this? They will no doubt attempt to avoid facing up to basic issues by claiming that the Cain Labor Party must be kept out of office at all costs; that Free Enterprise in Victoria will be in danger if the Labor-Socialists are re-elected to govern Victoria.

Policies the Same

But, apart from the Labor-Socialists blunt proposal to try and nationalise Melbourne's gas supplies if successful on May 13, what fundamental difference is there between the policies of Mr. Cain and those of Mr. Hollway? Both are committed to a rapid extension of the Socialist State Electricity Commission Monopoly and the destruction of local electrical undertakings; both support the rigid-control of Free Enterprise road transport in order to protect the Socialist Railways Monopoly; and both agree on the policy of supporting Socialist Food Boards. The Country Party's basic policies are the same as the Labor and Liberal Parties'.

The Inflation Issue

The Labor Party is naturally attempting to make political capital out of rising prices, but instead of indicting the Menzies Government for failing to deal with the infla-

tion menace by a drastic reduction in taxation and the Canberra bureaucracy, and by a general policy of price-subsidisation, Mr. Cain and his associates insist on more rigid Socialist price control. The effects of centralised price control have surely been demonstrated to be disastrous to both production and efficiency.

Neither Mr. Hollway, Mr. Cain, Mr. McDonald nor any other State politician can do anything constructive about high prices unless a challenge is made against centralised control of credit policy. This means a challenge to the policy makers, and their political tools, at Canberra.

Individual Responsibility

In order to try and introduce a little reality into the State Elections, we suggest that Victorian electors ignore the sham fights between the three parties and confront the individual candidates with the fundamental question of what they propose to do about challenging the Canberra centralisers.

Written answers to questions on Uniform Taxation, etc., should be requested. Only candidates giving satisfactory written answers should be supported.

State Elections are clearly a farce so long as the electors merely vote for State Governments, which are increasingly shackled by policies imposed from Canberra. Until this farce is effectively dealt with, there is no hope of averting complete totalitarianism in this country.

Mr. Strachey and Communism

Since the later editions of the *Evening Standard* of March 2, in which the newspaper asserted that Mr. Strachey, "now, by virtue of his office, one of the principal Ministers called upon to carry out the purge of M.I.5, the military Intelligence service, following the Fuchs scandal," had never publicly retracted his belief in Communism, pages of the newspaper have been devoted to this attack which drew a statement from 10 Downing Street. Other newspapers, including *The Times* have published extracts from the material. Mr. Strachey himself replied late on the night

of March 3. A point-by-point answer appeared in the *Evening Standard* for the following day, the following being the conclusions:—

"The whole of Mr. Strachey's considered evidence, which he adduces in his support, amounts to this:—

"1—He was sincerely convinced of the need to win the war against Germany, and on this issue fell out with the Communist Party of Great Britain, of which, though not a member, he had until then been a known supporter and principal theoretician.

"2—He has become sincerely convinced that the totalitarian brand of Communism

(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.

TO THE POINT

P.M.G. Gestapo

A radio dealer claimed in the Summons Court yesterday that a section of the Broadcasting Act was turning him into the role of a Government informer.

The dealer, Edward Albert Barden, of Cooroy, stated this in a letter read by the magistrate, Mr. C. R. Noyes, S.M., in court.

Barden was fined £5 with 6/- costs, and ordered to pay £2/2/- professional costs for failure to supply the P.M.G. with the names and addresses of wireless purchasers.

In his letter, Barden said that the section of the Act under which the charge was laid was tenable only as a wartime measure. The P.M.G. had already been granted almost unbelievable powers to extort by means of threats of fines, imprisonment, confiscation, and power of entry into people's homes. Aim of the P.M.G. was to gain listeners' licence fees, only a percentage of which the department was justly entitled to, he said.

—Brisbane *Courier-Mail*, Feb. 11, 1950.

Progressive Centralisation

Between 1939 and 1949, the average increase in expenditure by the States was from £19/2/4 to £29/16/1 *per capita*. Over the same period the Commonwealth increased its expenditure from £13/12/5 to £71/1/8 *per capita*. These figures indicate the accelerating rate of centralisation in this country.

Pleasing Whom?

A curious result of the Fuchs trial was the instancy with which British newspapers sought to attack something, which the Lord Chief Justice said—or, rather, did not say—about the traditional British attitude towards refugees. Here was the comment of the *Daily Telegraph*:

In passing sentence the Lord Chief Justice touched on the larger issues, which the case must raise. He mentioned first the question how it should affect our policy of granting asylum to political refugees. With due respect to Lord Goddard, the answer should be "not at all."

The *Manchester Guardian* wrote:

It is perhaps a pity that at the Old Bailey yesterday so much was said about the perfidy of Dr. Fuchs, and the likelihood that by his actions he may have imperilled the right of asylum that this country traditionally affords to refugees. This is no time for an outburst of xenophobia . . .

Even stranger was the comment of the *Spectator*:

The Lord Chief Justice certainly went unduly far in suggesting that the admission of political refugees to this country should be suspended altogether.

Nobody would guess from these observations that what the Lord Chief Justice really said was:

"Dare we now give shelter to political refugees who may be followers of this pernicious creed and who well may disguise themselves to bite the hand that feeds them?"

All that can rightly be read into the sentence is that in future political suspects should not be given the benefit of the doubt.

No nation should give asylum—far less

Page 2 — "New Times," April 21, 1950

citizenship—to refugees in whose integrity it has not complete confidence. The Lord Chief Justice referred not to *all* refugees but to those who are refugees for political reasons. As their danger to the receiving country may be as great as it was to the country from which they fled, surely it is simple common sense that they should be carefully "screened," the more so in the case of Communists, whose loyalty is to Communism alone. Whom were these organs of the Press, by arguing against such elementary precautions, trying to please? —The *English Truth*.

"Anti-Socialists"

In its report on the recent Victorian Liberal Party Council, the *Melbourne Age* of April 3 contained the following interesting item: "An awkward situation confronted the State Council of the Liberal and Country Party on Saturday, when a motion supporting abolition of all food-marketing boards was submitted." Those supporting the motion said that the Liberal Party must cease supporting Socialist ideas. After heated discussion, it was decided to defer the motion until the next council meeting. This is a typical example of how the Liberals compromise on Socialism.

Contracting Out

The following excellent letter appeared in the *Melbourne Argus* of April 6:

Enlightened members of the Liberal Party are convinced that marketing boards are the antithesis of Liberal Policy, being in reality the socialisation of distribution, one of the roads to the Communist State.

No one can deny producers should have the right to set up a body to market their own commodity if they so desire. There is nothing socialistic about such a proceeding. It is when an Act of Parliament forces men into such a body that the socialist rot sets in. Liberals can compromise on this issue without loss of principle by the simple alteration of marketing acts so that those who want a board have it, while those who desire other and more direct methods of marketing are assured of freedom to make their own arrangements, thus protecting their own and the consumers' interests by good, healthy competition. —E. SERPELL, Assistant Secretary, Fruit growers' and Primary Producers' Defence League.

Laski

"On the evening of March 24 Harold Laski, the greatest theoretician of today's Labor Party died. He worked at such a pace it is remarkable that this delicate-looking man lived until he was 56 years. He died of intellectual fatigue.

"He has left his mark on every student in the Labor Movement. To the working class students at the London School of Economics it was 'the place where Laski teaches.'

"Laski, with his spellbinding logic, was a scientific socialist.

"In this generation no one in Britain has influenced and moulded thought in the manner of Laski.

"The greatest aid he was to the student was his ability to give them foundations for their reasoning, foundations for their thinking, and foundations for their actions."

STRACHEY AND COMMUNISM

(Continued from page 1)

pursued by the present leaders of the Russian regime is a spurious brand.

"3—The methods and reasoning by which he reached these conclusions are Marxist. He remains a Marxist, and has not yet produced evidence that at any time he retracted from his adherence to Communism as a creed, although he now violently disagrees with the particular interpretation put upon that creed in Russia and by the organised Communist Parties outside Russia.

"4—He has endeavoured to side-step the gist of the *Evening Standard's* report on him by drawing a veil of confusion over the difference between Communism as a theory of society and Communism as interpreted by current Russian practice.

"5—We are, therefore, left with two questions: (a) Does Mr. Strachey believe that Communism is the ultimate aim for Britain? (b) Does he believe that Socialism is only a stepping stone towards this ultimate aim?"

—*The Social Creditor*, March 11.

The following letter appeared in *The West Australian* of March 9: —

Sir, —Whether the Minister for War (Mr. John Strachey) in the new British Government is a Communist or not is a matter which concerns the people of Australia as well as those of Britain. Mr. Strachey is the author of a considerable number of books on Left-wing policy, and I happen to have a number of them in my library. Mr. Strachey also contributed to the *Left News*, which I understand is now defunct. The text of his articles in that paper was criticism of the Communist Party for the adoption of the policy of "revolutionary defeatism," which means the welcoming of defeat of one's own country at the hands of an aggressor.

Mr. Strachey's criticism was rather bitter, and knowing that the Communist Party does not welcome criticism of its declared policy, I am prepared to accept Mr. Strachey's statement that he is not, or was not a member of the Communist Party when he wrote the articles in 1940. However, I would not go so far as to declare that Mr. Strachey was opposed to Communism generally. A book entitled *The Betrayal of the* by Victor Gollancz, contains four articles from the *Left News* written by Mr. Strachey. In one, *The Struggle For Power*, Mr. Strachey places his position beyond doubt when he writes: "There is now conclusive evidence that Marx was not wrong when he placed the class struggle in the centre of his picture of human history as its great determining factor. It is equally clear that Marx was right when he foretold that every national capitalism would congeal into stagnation at home and would burst out into imperialist aggression abroad." (Page 219.)

The above quotation, in my opinion, is pure unadulterated Communism, and whether a Minister of War holding such views is likely to lead us to victory in a war against a Communist country provokes interesting speculative possibilities. —Yours, etc.. V. JAMES.

—The *Melbourne Labor Call*, April 6, 1950.

One of Laski's "star" pupils, Dr. Coombs, now "advises" a Liberal Government. As Shakespeare's Mark Antony said, the evil that men do lives after them.

"Indonesia"

The extracts published below are from a featured article by Osmar White in the Melbourne *Herald* of March 29. They disclose a serious, but to us, not unexpected situation. Serious because with the final removal of Dutch troops the way will be open for a Communist coup d'etat. This is a direct result of "American" policy actively assisted by Dr. Evatt and the Australian Communist Party. This is one further example of the insidious forces that are influencing "American" policy in the interests of the Communist conspiracy. What we want to know is why is the Menzies Government proposing to recognise this bunch of puppets?

... I recently made an "unescorted" tour of Java, the Celebes and the Moluccas—talking to politicians and people. I did not like what I was told, and even less did I like what I saw.

Every city and town I visited was all too evidently living under the shadow of crisis. In Java, curfews were enforced and trigger-happy patrols challenged and examined the papers of all late travellers—usually holding the documents upside down because they couldn't read.

In West Java open warfare was being waged between Darul Islam guerrillas and the Government forces. The Government forces were getting the worst of it.

Bitter local jealousies are exacerbated by the Federalists' efforts to enforce order with an inefficient and corrupt army.

Only a couple of months ago, the world was startled when the adventurer, Westering, captured the city of Bandoeng from Government "defenders" who outnumbered his forces by three to one. Only some breakdown in a plan to take parallel action at Jakarta saved the island from a civil war that would have cost tens of thousands of lives.

One of the many significant things about the Bandoeng affair was that the population widely applauded the entry of the outlaw army. They are Sundanese, and they hate and despise the Javanese of Jogjakarta.

For months they have been chafed by the arrogance and rapacity of Japanese-trained Government troops who have been billeted in Sundanese towns and villages ostensibly to protect them from bandits.

In East Java, the Tan Malacca Communists—and to a lesser extent the orthodox Communist Party—are gaining ground as economic distress grows and the Federal Army extorts "protection money" from foreign business houses and estates. Java's incredible political confusion is reflected, though less intensely, in East Indonesia. Here, too, the influence of the Jogjakarta politicians who won their fight against the Dutch by intrigue, opportunism and self-salesmanship, is being challenged. In the North Celebes and the Moluccas there are strong movements to secede from the Union and ask the Netherlands Government to admit an East Indonesian State to Dominion status. Timor and parts of West Borneo and Sumatra are also reported to be disaffected . . .

When the Japanese occupied Java and interned all the Dutch who could not escape, Jogja smoothly collaborated. They even persuaded their conquerors to train a rag-time army for them.

Then the Japanese were defeated. Jogja troops resisted the British and the Dutch and were soundly beaten. But at the same time they managed to persuade America—and Australia—that all they had been fighting for was sweet liberty and the chance to govern themselves!

Now, however, having won independence, they are discovering that there is a wide difference between diplomatic expertise and governmental efficiency. The Dutch are out and for the first time the plausible little brown men are taking the entire weight of the baby.

At the moment it seems they have neither the military strength, the administrative talent, nor the moral courage to hold it up for long.

Their Japanese-trained army has turned out to be a flop. It has neither discipline nor fighting spirit. It makes enemies wherever it goes by blackmailing food from the peasants, humiliating local dignitaries, and interfering with women . . .

The tragic part of this whole situation is that the common people of Indonesia are today more hopeless of an improvement in their lot than they have ever been. In the disturbed areas of West Java, the condition and spirit of the population is pitiable.

In Ambon, there are villages whose inhabitants are on the verge of starvation—yet Christians and Moslems are eyeing one another with tense hatred and suspicion, waiting for the signal to fight.

In every large town throughout the

Indies there are outbreaks of senseless political brawling, increasingly harsh police action—and an air of fearful expectancy.

The only people who will not admit that civil war is likely when the last of the Dutch Army is withdrawn are the suave youths of Jakarta's public relations service, who hand you photographs of palm trees and Balinese dancers and say ingenuously, "Please print it for good propaganda. Your nation and mine are neighbors and we must be friends—very good friends."

Japanese training of Javanese was not, it seems, entirely confined to the use of arms.

Are You a Direct Subscriber?

At present the *New Times* is reorganising as a preliminary to an expansion drive which it is hoped to get under way within the next few weeks. Every supporter of the *New Times* who is not at present a direct subscriber can help our expansion drive by becoming a direct subscriber—if his newsagent is making no attempt to display the *New Times* and thus encourage new readers.

Needless to say, we desire all those supporters who get their *New Times* through their local State Electoral Campaign or Social Credit organisation to continue doing so. We are mainly concerned with eliminating newsagents who will not cooperate with the *New Times*.

The direct subscriber is the most profitable financially to the *New Times*, and also requires the minimum of office organisation.

A.B.C. Speakers Must Be Watched

Sir,

Reading through the annual report of the League of Rights, one cannot but be amazed by the tremendous programme of work undertaken.

The excellent reception given to Mr. Butler and his group of speakers in the Victorian factories should be a lesson to all of us. There are many waiting to hear what we have to say provided we go to them and show them we know what we are talking about. This means a great deal of hard work in the collection of the relevant data.

Too many people do not yet know the tremendous fund of knowledge and experience which lies waiting to be used, and which, if used, would give the socialists a very thin time. The pamphlet issued by the League of Rights, *The Fountain Head of the Socialist Conspiracy*, opened the eyes of many people just at the time that they were wanting to know what the fight about socialism really meant. Many were staggered when they learned for the first time the nature of the plot against the British people.

Some effort will be required to expose and counter the illegitimate use being made of government instrumentalities—government offices, government departments, the A.B.C. and the universities are being relentlessly and blatantly used for leftist propaganda, and the United Nations associations have afforded an effective smokescreen for anti-British propaganda.

When you consider that the propaganda on Russia issued by university lecturers represented probably the greatest and most unscrupulous campaign of mass lying ever witnessed, one must realise one is up against forces which are completely ruthless and immoral.

Such a campaign of lying as conducted by the leftists could not last forever; events do not take notice of propaganda, leftist theories nor world plotters, and there are now a majority of adults who see the danger and the mockery and the deceit behind the socialist facade of catch words. The socialists evidently know that they have been found out and have withdrawn from circulation some of their cruder forms of propaganda, but their work goes on underground, especially among youth. Youth is more susceptible to the nice tidy plans of the socialists—plans that any youngster can see must work perfectly if human beings are left out of the picture.

I think A.B.C. speakers should be carefully watched by readers of the *New Times*, and their exploits reported, and if the right of reply is not permitted to contentious statements, a national issue will have to be made of this sordid business.

Yours,

JAS. GUTHRIE,
Hobart.

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Mr. Menzies Repudiates Pre-Election Promise

We have in recent weeks drawn attention to the defeatist manner in which the Menzies Government has failed to honour its pre-election promises "to put the shillings back into the pound." If he has been reported correctly, Mr. Menzies has now gone even further and openly repudiated his pre-election promises concerning inflation.

The Melbourne "Sun" of April 5 reports an address by Mr. Menzies to the Launceston Chamber of Commerce. Portion of this report reads: "Mr. Menzies said that putting value back into the pound was not the Government's responsibility. It was the people's." How different this is from the promises and statements made before the Federal Elections last year! Time and time again non-Labor speakers said that a Liberal-Country Party Government would take necessary action to reduce prices. A special appeal was made to the women. Does Mr. Menzies not remember the advertisement which appeared in "The Australian Women's Weekly"? We challenge any Member of the Federal Government to read this and similar advertisements, and then say that they did not promise that they would by legislative action "put the shillings back into the pounds."

It is all too obvious that Mr. Menzies and his associates have succumbed to the advice of the Socialist planners like Dr. Coombs, and, now realising that a continuation of present financial policies is leading to progressively greater price increases, are desperately trying to dodge their responsibilities. And so the people are told that they alone are responsible; that if only they will work harder and produce more, prices will be reduced.

Now, even assuming that increased production and harder work did reduce prices—a proposition we have consistently exploded—Government action is necessary to remove the repressive policies which hamper individuals at every turn. For example, is it not the Government's responsibility to reduce taxation of all descriptions? When in the Opposition, Mr. Menzies and Mr. Fadden persistently attacked the high taxation rates imposed by the Chifley Government. Every small reduction made by Mr. Chifley was always attacked by Mr. Fadden, who stressed the fact that the reductions were far too small and far too late. But the same Mr. Fadden, now Treasurer, and, of course, "advised" by Dr. Coombs, has as yet not even announced any coming taxation reductions. All that he has announced is the fact that he has a group of taxation experts attempting to "simplify" the taxation system. But the taxpayer does not want any simple explanations of how he is being robbed; he wants the robbery stopped.

A drastic reduction in taxation—the Sales Tax should be abolished completely—would at least be a start towards reducing prices. But perhaps the Government is now doubtful whether it can even honour its pre-election pledges to reduce taxation? If it persists with the policies it has announced already, it is more likely that taxation will eventually have to be increased again. It will be recalled that Mr. Menzies and Mr. Fadden were also going to deal drastically with the Canberra bureaucracy. But this army of oppressive non-producers, whose activities help to increase prices, continues to grow. Is this bureaucracy not the Government's responsibility either? It is high time that the rank and file of the Liberal and Country Parties started to ask some searching questions about that responsibility which Mr. Menzies now repudiates.

The Jewish Question

Dorothy Thompson warned American Jews in a speech here that, sooner or later, Jewish nationalists must choose between the United States and Israel. "There is no room in American nationality for two citizenships or two nationalities," Miss Thompson said.

She spoke at a dinner and fifth annual meeting of the Philadelphia Chapter of the American Council for Judaism, in the Warwick Hotel.

"The Jews outside Palestine cannot continue indefinitely to live a pluralistic existence," she said. "To touch a very touchy subject indeed, I do not see how they can continue indefinitely to mask as humanitarian relief, contributions to the economy of a foreign State."

Miss Thompson, author and columnist, said that the American of Jewish religion always has been accepted as a full and equal citizen, but that the Jewish nationalist — "which today means the Israeli-nationalist" — must sooner or later choose allegiances.

Miss Thompson continued: "There is even traceable in the United States a wish to separate Jewish cultural existence here from the main stream of American life, and apart from the religious community; to set up among American Jews a quasi-secular community, with, among other functions, judges to pass judgment upon the actions of Jews."

"There are already in many cities Jewish community councils, quasi-legislative bodies, who try to discipline Jews as though they were members of a separate minority group within the United States."

"In specifically Jewish publications, I have read over and over again of such ceremonies as American children — American Jewish children — taking oaths to the flag, the Star of David, which is not, as a flag, a religious symbol, but the banner of a State like any other secular State."

Miss Thompson said that Jewish religion was becoming increasingly tied up with, and subservient to, political Zionism. She deplored what she called a "systematic deepening of the anxiety neurosis" among Jews.

"American Jews are being indoctrinated with the idea that they exist in this country — as everywhere else outside of Israel — on dubious sufferance, and that what happened in Germany could happen here any minute, and this presented as an ever-present danger, is invoked as a Zionist argument."

An anxiety neurosis will bring on the very thing that is feared, she said, adding that she could find no analogy between Hitler's Germany and this country.

Miss Thompson assailed also what she termed the practice of calling anti-Semitic anyone who criticises any phase of Zionist or Israel policy. A "highly strained" condition results, she said.

(Editor's Note: A few years ago Dorothy Thompson—then a New Deal advocate—had a Communist for a private secretary. Today she positively knows Zionist-Communist intrigue and their detailed plans to take over the United States.)

—*The Ohio Pioneer*, January-February, 1950, using quotations from the *Philadelphia Evening Bulletin*.

Credit Policy May Serve or Enslave Individual

The following is a reprint of a circular recently issued by the Western Suburbs' (Sydney) Voters' Policy Association entitled: —
"CREDIT POLICY MAY BE MADE TO SERVE DECENTRALISATION OF POWER"

"Dear Colleague,

"Probably there is no more widely held fallacy than the falsehood that all those who are fundamentally opposed to the DEBT-STRUCTURE of finance, believe that the solution of all the problems of the world is to be found in a reckless expansion of credit or currency.

"The circular recently issued by this association and entitled 'Price Subsidy and How to Finance It,' was designed to emphasise that credit and assets were indissolubly linked; that credit was simply the financial shadow of assets; and that the owner of the asset was the rightful owner of the credit issued in relation thereto.

"We have had a letter from a friend in relation to our circular.

"It is thought you might be interested in the following reply.

"JOHN M. MACARA, Hon. Sec."

"Dear Friend,

"We find ourselves completely in agreement with your statement that 'Once the amount (of credit or money) at issue exceeds material assets, then the value of currency depreciates back to the level of those assets.'

"On re-reading the thesis issued by this association, we do not understand your apparent belief that the views expressed therein are in conflict with the above quotation.

"The thesis is simply an expansion of the principle set out in that quotation.

"Further, we fully concur in the point you make when you write: —

" 'The same principles apply right through nature' . . . and the penalty of disobedience (to natural law) is disaster.'

"Surely disaster we are having in full measure!

"Will you bear with us and kindly permit us to discuss further, the matter of credit and assets?

"We both agree that assets are the fundamental reality, and that they cannot be increased by any simple manipulation of credit.

"But the OWNERSHIP of assets is quite another matter. If one controls the issue and cancellation of currency, he can, by appropriate manipulation transfer OWNERSHIP of assets.

"Jewish policy has long aimed at the control of currency, and has been remarkably successful. It was Rothschild who said something to the effect, 'Let me control the currency of a people, and I care not who makes the laws.'

"Credit manipulation cannot increase

assets by one iota; but it can transfer and *has* transferred, the title, ownership, and control of enormous assets held by a vast multitude of small owners, to a handful of successful currency manipulators.

"Thus has been achieved the centralisation of power on its *grandest* scale.

"Ownership of assets has been centralised by credit manipulation. Ownership of assets can be decentralised by the same technique, applied in reverse.

"There is nothing evil in credit manipulation in itself, for it can be applied to promote either evil or good. It can centralise power or it can decentralise it. It can withhold food from the hungry, or it can distribute it. It can serve either God or Mammon.

"The opinion is far from unsound that holds that the subsidising of prices, financed from an issue of credit made specially in that behalf, could be applied as a valuable step towards the stabilising of the economic slippery-dip, on which we now find ourselves.

" JOHN MACARA."

D.S.C.M. WOMEN'S GROUP

(VIC.)

Now Meets on
THE THIRD THURSDAY
of Every Month.
All interested are invited.

Food Gluts

A warning to British farmers to prepare against the effect of mounting food surpluses was given by Sir Herbert Williams, M.P., honorary secretary of the Empire Economic Union, when he addressed the Guild of Agricultural Journalists in London recently.

"There is a glut of food in the world in many respects," he said. "The situation in the United States is quite fantastic. Maize is in vast supply. It should be ground up and going down the necks of our chickens and pigs. There is no fundamental reason why bacon should be rationed in this country or that eggs should be short at all.

"So far as mutton and lamb and cereals are concerned, we can get all we want from the British Empire. But we must get rid of this insane system of bulk buying. I hope that we shall have no more of these contracts, because they induce dissensions between Parliaments. The relations between Canada, for instance, and this country and between this country and the West Indian sugar colonies are deplorably bad because of the difficulties over bulk buying. Normal trading may involve differences between buyers and sellers, but it does not involve Parliaments."

All the political parties were for assured markets and guaranteed prices, but the time might come when we were going to be offered foodstuffs from abroad at half the guaranteed prices. He believed that agriculture in this country and in the world was sitting on a volcano and did not know it.

—*The Times*, March 11, 1950.

Menzies Runs Up the Socialist Flag

By H. A. HOTCHKIN.

It is quite apparent, at even this early stage, that non-socialist voters at the recent Federal election have been sold the proverbial "pup."

Casting our minds back we recall the "Forty percent, reduction in taxation," "the shillings that would be put back into the £," "the pruning of bureaucratic departments," and a "new deal for private enterprise."

Did you believe all that? I didn't. Nevertheless, if we are to get any honesty and responsibility back into Government policy there are one or two matters upon which Mr. Geoff. Brown, M.H.R., for McMillan, and those who sent him to Canberra, should have a clear understanding.

In the first case, and the major bone of contention so far as I am concerned, does our member concede that to re-name Dedman's Department of Post-War Reconstruction, Casey's Department of National Planning and Development a very noble effort

to replace Socialism by private enterprise?

It would appear from Press and radio reports that the ex-Governor of Bengal has grandiose ideas of "national" development—including the importation of pre-fabricated "dog-boxes" on a large scale. Let us look at this matter from a business point of view.

How are Mr. Casey's schemes to be financed? 1. Through monies taken from the pockets of Government supporters—and opponents alike—by compulsory taxation. 2. Loans, which the said supporters and opponents are held responsible for.

To cite the importation of pre-fabricated dog-boxes as an example, ignoring any other "schemes" of National development that Mr. Casey might have, there are several things I want to know.

1. Does Mr. Casey intend to issue a prospectus setting out the full monetary liability of shareholders in this venture?

2. Are the shareholders to be issued with script or share certificates as proof of their shareholding in this venture?

3. What dividends do the promoters of this venture expect to pay in hard cash to the shareholders?

4. Or is it to be the same old type of Governmental buccaneering stunt that would make Ned Kelly blush with shame?

—*The Gippsland News*, Trafalgar, Vic., March 23.

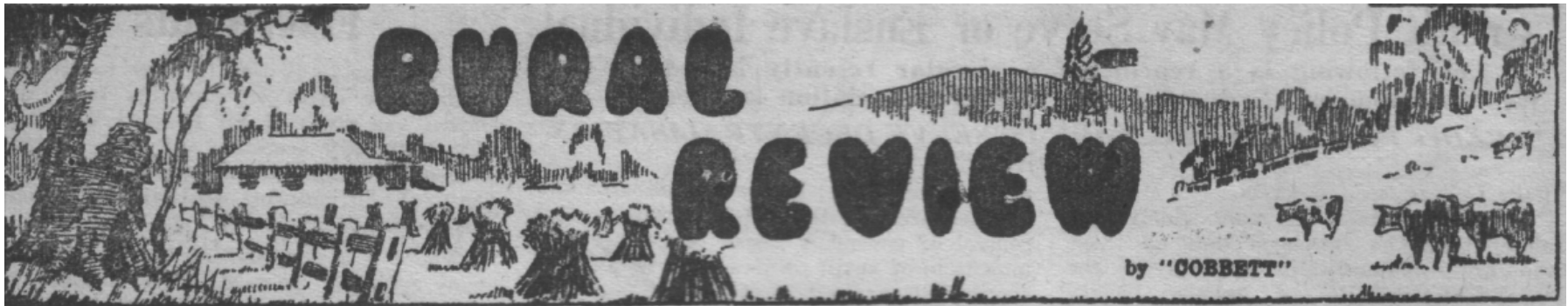
The Bureaucracy

The Army of Occupation Still Growing

The number of persons employed under the heading "Commonwealth Government" in January increased by 700. This is the smallest monthly increase in some years.

The total overall Governmental (Federal and State) figure was raised to 645,400 from 644,600, an increase of 800.

Total NON-GOVERNMENTAL employment decreased during the month of January by 2,200 persons.



Does World Over-Population Threaten?

It is unfortunate that many of the excellent books dealing with the soil question tend to suggest that Socialist control of one type or another is necessary to prevent the mining of the soil's fertility. Masses of figures have been used to try and stampede people into accepting the idea that great increases in the world's population have made it imperative for central planners to control all natural resources in order to prevent mass starvation and chaos.

In an article in the English *Social Creditor* of March 25, C. M. Mannock effectively exposes the "over-population" propaganda, which Bernard Baruch, D. Lilienthal and other international planners have supported.

C. M. Mannock writes: —

We have been ceaselessly "plugged" for several years with the news that the world is on the verge of, if it has not yet been completely overtaken by, food-shortage due to two factors; one an actual shortage through decreased fertility of the soil and erosion, with a consequent inability to grow enough food, and, two, to a tremendously rapid and continuous increase of the world's population.

Soil Erosion

The former threat is one that observant, and far-seeing people have foretold for many years, and, as in the last twenty years many of their predictions have, through wholesale exploitation, been fulfilled over large areas of the globe, it must be admitted that the threat from that side needs serious consideration. There has been so much written on this subject, so much evidence produced of an eminently substantial kind, such as the Dust-storms and Dust-bowl Refugees in the United States of America, the destruction of soil in South Africa and Australia through over-cropping and over-grazing, the rapidly spreading desert lands in various parts of the world and so on—that one must take the threat seriously, although there may be in this as there is in so many other matters relating to social conditions in the world, evidence of deliberate utilization by subversive powers of the situation for purposes directly opposed to the general benefit of mankind. It is also probable that the danger has been overstressed by honest observers in order to get the point home to corrupt governments and an apathetic public, and that the real situation is not so immediately threatening as we are led to believe. The second statement that we are in dire danger of starvation through over-population is in a different category. It is far from proved by the evidence available; and conditions

may be quite the reverse of what we are told.

Lack of Information

There is only one way in which the population of any country—and in summary—of the world—can be measured, and that is by means of a census. With us, and with most western countries, this is an easy matter owing to the populations being docile and sufficiently educated on the whole to read a little and to sign their names. Such conditions, however, are not found throughout the world and, indeed, whole continents present no evidence at all in their daily, or yearly, rounds, in regard to total population, much less of either increases or decreases. Most of the world is illiterate, and a great part is, with very sound, if only instinctive, reasons, desperately afraid of being numbered. Moreover, large areas are in ruins and their populations reverting to barbarism. It is possible to give, with reasonable accuracy the populations of the U.S.A., Canada, Gt. Britain, France, Belgium, Holland, Norway, Sweden, Italy, Denmark, Portugal, Luxemburg, Australia, New Zealand, and some other countries. These all keep and publish reliable Vital Statistics. But who can even guess less than wildly at the populations of—to name a few—China, India, Germany, Poland, Finland, Roumania, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, South America, Greece, and practically all of Africa? Of Russia we know nothing. That is to say we know next to nothing, and nothing accurately, of about three-quarters of the inhabited surface of the globe. Yet writer after writer, speaker after speaker, pours out the information that—to quote a recent one—"The world's population is 2,200,000,000" and; "Every day—today, yesterday, tomorrow—75,000 new babies see the light: 75,000 new mouths to feed." Why 75,000 and not 100,000 or 50,000 is purely a matter of choice and not of knowledge.

In the Nineteen-twenties one "authority,"

a Dr. Ross, was claiming that 150,000 (not 75,000) children are born into the world every day, and the question was asked by another "authority" of a more cautious and sceptical nature: "Why 150,000? Why not 130,000 or, rather, 200,000 as Prof. East assumes?" One can rely upon authorities for almost anything. For total population, 2,200,000,000 is a nice round figure that may, or may not, be as good a guess as any other. There is no means of knowing.

What, however, seems possible is that in China and Russia—that is to say in one-third of the world—the mortality for the last thirty years has been, and is still, so high through Civil-Wars, floods, pestilence, periodic purges, systematic mass liquidations, and so forth, that there has been no increase of population at all; indeed there may have been a decrease, though "authorities" swear to the contrary. But nobody knows.

Then, take the heart of Europe. We know very little about it; but the casualties of the last war, the terrible occupation of the Eastern half by Russia since the war ended, and the horrible general malnutrition in the parts controlled by the other Powers, must have produced results so awful that the increase of population which was still taking place before the war may have been completely reversed. We do not know.

Net Reproduction Rates Among Women

However, there is one fact relating to the major part of Europe, North-America and Australia—that is to say, to the White Races in general, except the Slavs and Italians—which is of vital importance in examining this question, and that is that the populations of these countries have not for a long time been reproducing themselves, and must, in the near future, start to decline in numbers. The evidence for this is very clear, even though populations before 1939 were, and possibly still are increasing. The key to this is the Net Reproduction Rate among women. As far back as 1926 an analysis of the Vital Statistics of Great Britain, Ireland, France, Belgium, Holland, Norway, Sweden, Germany and Switzerland, an area said to account for from 10 percent, to 12 percent, of the world's population, showed that, although the total population was increasing, each 100 Mothers were only producing about 93 daughters who reached marriageable age. By 1931 the figure had fallen in this country to 80. Other countries followed suit. With a Net Production Rate of 1.00 a population will remain steady—other facts being equal, of course. Below that figure it will not be reproducing itself and sooner or later must decline in numbers; and above it the numbers are increasing and are bound to go on increasing. The following countries were said to be increasing before the war:

(Continued on page 7)

DOES WORLD OVER-POPULATION THREATEN?

(Continued from page 6)

Bulgaria 1.19, Italy 1.13, Holland 1.12, U.S.S.R. 1.70, Ireland 1.16, Poland 1.10.

Naturally, since the war ended nations, which previously had an unfavourable rate, passed through a period of relief, and for a year or so the Net Reproduction Rate rose to above unity, but the passage of only a short time curbed the rise so that pre-war figures tend everywhere to be repeated.

In Western Europe falling reproduction rates were, and on the whole, still are, accompanied by increasing populations due to decrease in infant mortality and to increased expectation of life, both caused by medical development. These two items are on the face of it limited in effect. Old people cannot be kept alive forever; and the declining rate of infant mortality has its limit clearly set. The result is bound to be a population falling in numbers and increasing in average age.

These tendencies were found, also, in pre-war days in the U.S.A., and throughout the British Commonwealth (except Catholic Canada) where, no doubt, they still persist.

Chinese Figures

When the International Statistical Institute, the International Institute of Agriculture and the Economic and Financial Section of the League of Nations were saying in about 1926 that China had a population of 450,000,000, Professor Wilcox, after careful study, assigned her no more than 300,000,000. Since then China has been bled white by revolutions, civil-wars, the Sino-Japanese war, and Banditry, to say nothing of floods caused by erosion; and, yet, today, she is given a population of 500,000,000 by one of the latest "authorities," Mr. Walter Fletcher, M.P., who so numbers them in the *Sunday Times* of May 1, 1949. But, rivaling Mr. Fletcher comes a Professor P. Buck, who sets the number at 600,000,000. A gain of between two and three hundred millions in twenty years or so would surely indicate a record fecundity in the history of nations. But, as a set-off against Mr. Fletcher and Professor Buck, Miss M. Hubback in 1947, in her book, "The Population of Britain," gave China only "probably over 300,000,000 people." After all, one mustn't be too finicky in this business. What is a mere difference of two to three hundred millions?

India and the East

Of India we used to know something because we had census methods of a kind in operation, which, carried out by honest Civil Servants, gave fairly reasonable results. That state of affairs is ended, and the future is both uncertain and black. We know that in other days the population of India was growing rapidly. It may be so still, and it may continue to do so, but there is a greater probability that local customs will deal with any too great increase of mouths to feed. Already Suttee has been reintroduced. There is also the probability of war in all its varieties assisting custom. Miss Hubback states that the population of India is "about 400,000,000 or nearly one-sixth of the whole world." She says that the birth rate is only just lower than that of Russia, and that the danger lies in a rapidly increasing population and a diminishing agricultural yield. Maybe.

The rest of the Eastern world is no clearer than India and China. Burma, Malaya and Siam are in the throes of civil strife. Japan, the most disciplined nation in the world, will, no doubt, adjust herself to her new conditions, to which need war-deaths and death through post-war mass movements of populations will already have contributed some assistance. Birth control has for many years been seriously advocated and practised in Japan at all levels.

Palestine and the Arab countries are in a state of turmoil with refugee problems that will take care of increases, if any, in the number of births.

South America

In South America there is the same kind of uncertainty that is found in many other parts of the world. Hardly any of the nations in this sub-continent keep even reasonably accurate records of Births, Deaths and Marriages. There may be the form there, but few of the figures have any value at all. As R. R. Kuczynski says, in *The World's Future Population* (Harris Foundation Lectures, 1929, University of Chicago):—

"Take, as an example, South America, where conditions on the whole are much more satisfactory than in Asia or Africa. Bolivia has no birth registration at all. Brazil has practically no birth registration in the northern and central states. Colombia has birth registration throughout the country, but the results are wholly unacceptable, the birthrate, for instance, of the state of Magdalena fluctuating from 1915 to 1926 between 7 and 56 per thousand. Conditions are not much better in Ecuador and Venezuela. The Statistical Office of Paraguay assumes that 30 percent have to be added to the registered figures in order to get the actual figures. In Peru the number of registered births has increased from 59,000 in 1923 to 140,000 in 1926, but is still lower than the actual number of births, although the Director of Public Health complains that many births are registered twice. In the Argentine no births have been reported since 1917 from the national territories, and registration must be quite inadequate in at least those four provinces where the reported male births exceed the reported female births by over 25 percent. Birth records seem to have recently become fairly complete in Chili and have apparently been so for many years in Uruguay. The total number of births for South America may be 2,000,000 or 3,000,000 or 4,000,000."

This was written in about 1929, but there is no reason at all to suppose that things have changed since then. The Second World War may, indeed, have made them worse. The fact is that we know next to nothing about them, and the figures available can only be used, in this game of make-believe, as bluff.

Russia

As for Russia the Report of the League of Nations, 1947, "The Future Populations of Europe and the Soviet Union, 1944," as quoted by Miss M. Hubback, says:

The wounds of the First World War struck a resilient and rapidly growing population; through high natural increase this population could quickly close over its losses. The present struggle strikes at populations already growing much more slowly than a generation ago, and on the

basis of past trends destined to decline. The wounds of the present war will, in a sense, never be healed. In some countries of Western Europe the total population may never again reach its pre-war size. Even in Eastern and Southern Europe war losses comparable to those of World War I will be made up much less rapidly than before, unless there is a marked change in fertility trends. Only in Soviet Russia are vital trends such that the tremendous losses can be absorbed without a serious check on population development.

Whether this is right or not cannot be said. Russia's Vital Statistics are subject all the time to adjustments to suit policy even to the point, as in 1932, of suppression. They are not to be relied on. It should be noted, however, that Russia's losses in the war are said to have been 5,000,000 soldiers and 9,000,000 civilians, and the deficit in unborn children 6,000,000. It should also be remembered that there are in Russia, according to other authorities, some 20,000,000 people in concentration camps whose job is not that of builders of healthy families; and it should be remembered that liquidations in the twenty years between wars are estimated to have accounted for another 20,000,000 in such events as the elimination of Kulaks when 5,000,000 people in the villages were deliberately starved to death. When, therefore, Russian figures give a Net Reproduction Rate before the last war of 1.7 and show a population rate of increase of 30 percent, per generation, there appears to be something wrong, and one reaches for the salt.

Northern European Stock Declining

In the Report of the Royal Commission issued last year there appears a table headed: "Population of the World, by Continents, 1750 and 1900," with a footnote "estimated by Sir Alexander Carr-Saunders (World Population, 1936, p. 42.)"

Now what value can be attached to this table is difficult to see. The Committee, of itself, it seems, took no steps to even check these figures but took them as presented. One must record therefore that Sir A. Carr-Saunders has achieved almost a vested interest in the over-population theory, having been one of its chief protagonists for many years. One can only raise an eyebrow on seeing the figure of 728 millions given as the population of the world for the year 1750. How does he know? With great respect for his authority this, however, seems to be a guess, and, judging from Kuczynski's analysis, a wild one.

To sum-up; ruling out the Slavs and the Italians, the danger of over-population in Europe, North America, Australia and New Zealand is just poppycock. The real danger for these nations is *shrinking* and *rapidly ageing* populations unable to defend themselves against the attacks of other less civilised nations, unable, for one reason or another, to work to feed themselves, and unable or unwilling to reproduce themselves.

At this point it may be noted, profitably perhaps, that, as far as this country is concerned, it is these potential enemies of ours whose well-being has been for years tenderly protected by our rulers.

Those Secrets

By FOOTLE.

I have decided not to stand for Parliament. I feel I haven't the temperament. For one thing, my memory is rather bad and I can't be bothered with secrets; it is too great a hardship to have to remember the things I mustn't say.

It isn't at all likely, of course, that I should ever reach such a pinnacle as to be entrusted with a secret. As a member of parliament I should naturally be kept in a state of outer darkness and invited to say "aye" or "no" at appropriate intervals. And that wouldn't suit me either, for I am cursed with an inquiring mind. This springs from ignorance, of course; if I knew, I shouldn't have to ask, but, as everyone knows, parliament isn't the place to ask questions. You never get an answer unless it is about something that doesn't matter anyhow. If the question is about anything else, the inquirer is told that a reply wouldn't be in the public interest, and only the higher-ups seem to know what that is — the public themselves being much too dumb. Most people don't know anything about national policies. Left to themselves they would be content to wallow in comfort and plenty; they would miss all the ennobling influences of war, sacrifice and extermination; they wouldn't even know whom to go to war with if they ever felt like it.

So the hierarchy of secrecy flourishes. As a matter of fact people like secrecy provided they are in on it; they like to feel they are not as other men are. It's all very well to talk about people who are being as honest as the sun; they're not interesting. What is interesting is Aladdin's cave. It's no use being sensible about it either — telling yourself that rationality's the thing. In the mass we don't want to

be rational; we want to believe that rabbits come from top hats. What we don't want is some learned ass to tell us how it's done. Thought is so difficult and learning so disillusioning. As the Bard of the Soldier sings: —

"Who shall doubt the 'secret hid'
Under Cheops' pyramid
Was that the contractor did
Cheops out of several millions?
Or that Joseph's sudden rise
To Controller of Supplies
Was a fraud of monstrous size
On King Pharaoh's swart civilians?"

But we prefer to retain our illusions and to imagine ourselves some day a Contractor or Controller of Supplies. In fact, the urge for a secret life is so great that some of us go after secrecy for its own sake, usually in a lodge of some kind.

What we do seem to have grasped is that it is secrecy and not enlightened unity, which is power. In the city of the blind, the one-eyed man is king. Power itself is not of darkness, but it derives from keeping all else in the dark. At any rate this is particularly true of political power. There are things no ordinary fellow like you or me must on any account be told; there are other things which must at all costs be hidden from our "representatives" as I have suggested; and some things at least which may not even be imparted by one minister to another.

At this moment of writing, Canberra is thrilling to the story of how Mr. Chambers, when Minister for the Army, made an annotation on a secret document, "Not to be shown to the Minister for Defence (Mr. Dedman)." So you can see how foolish it would be to let us in on a thing like that — whatever it was. You and I are prone to think of the Army and Defence as being almost one and indivisible.

At this point, Mr. Chifley asked Mr. Menzies "whether he thought Ministers should divulge confidential minutes in the House. He charged Mr. Francis . . . with disclosing other facts known only to the Cabinet." Just fancy letting our representatives know what is happening to the nation! I mean to say; we've seen some of 'em.

It isn't of course, only in Canberra where this jealousy over secrets is to be found, for I read in my newspaper: "Wellington, March 21. —Top secret documents were missing from the New Zealand Government files when the new government took office in December, according to an allegation made by the Prime Minister."

It is a pity people's minds are so delicate — apart from statesmen and politicians, I mean. It puts our leaders to a lot of bother keeping unpleasant facts away from popular sensibilities. It also puts a great strain on them in the matter of educating the people who couldn't otherwise be expected, to understand why producing lots of things always results in poverty; why it is good business to make things and export them, and bad business to get anything back for them; why war is the greatest single agent for prosperity and well-being; how freedom comes from restrictions and Oh! a host of other things which stem from the secrets so jealously guarded.

So you can see now why I shouldn't be the

TEXTIT

[Regd]

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slightest use in parliament. My education does not enable me to grasp the theorems I have just mentioned, and I should be disgracing my constituents in and out of season by requesting enlightenment. No! Political secrets are not for me. Secrecy and truth somehow will not lie together. Secrecy is willing to lie, but Truth can be so very awkward.

D.S.C.M.

Annual Meeting

Thursday, April 27th, 8 p.m.

Room 8, 1st Floor, The Block

Take Elizabeth St. Lift.

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