

DINNER ISSUE:

THE NEW TIMES

"Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free"

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AGE AND YOUTH LINKED AT ANNUAL DINNER

There was a strong note of nostalgia and history at the 1984 Annual Dinner of *"The New Times"*. And there was a sense of continuity with two veterans of the Social Credit Movement moving the toast to *"The New Times"*, while the Loyal Toast was proposed by Miss Caroline Schilg, the youngest speaker yet at a *"New Times"* Dinner.

Both Mr. Harold Hotchkin and Mr. Arch Ferguson had heard C.H. Douglas speak during his historic 1934 visit to Australia, Mr. Hotchkin at the Melbourne Town Hall and Mr. Ferguson at the Rushcutter Bay Stadium in Sydney. At the Annual National Seminar of The League of Rights, held on the Saturday, Mr. Hotchkin autographed copies of Douglas's Melbourne Town Hall address, *"The Monopolistic Idea."*

Commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Douglas visit to Australia, the Dinner was also the venue for the launching of a new edition of Douglas's book, *The Alberta Experiment*, first published in 1937 and out of print for many years. The new edition contains an Introduction by Mr. Eric D. Butler and background notes left by the late L.D. Byrne, Douglas's personal representative and advisor to the Social Credit government of Alberta when it was making a genuine attempt to defeat the Money Power.

The new edition of *The Alberta Experiment* was launched by an outstanding member of the younger generation of Social Crediters, Mr. Peter Nixon from Western Australia, editor of the quarterly magazine *Heritage*, published by The Australian Heritage Society.

Guest of honour at the Dinner, Mrs. Jackie Butler from Queensland, one of the driving forces behind the publication *Wake Up*, made a marked impression on guests with both her charm and message. Mrs. Butler stressed the importance of both faith and hope in the crisis threatening Australia. Mrs. Jackie Butler presented a tremendous paper at the League of Rights Seminar the following day, outlining the dangers of the U.N. Convention on sex discrimination.

Once again the annual dinner atmosphere was permeated by that unique feeling of family and comradeship, which has to be experienced to be understood. Chairman Jeremy Lee congratulated two young families, Mr. and Mrs. Chas Pinwill and Mr. and Mrs. John Piercy, on bringing their first born, both baby girls along with them.

In proposing the Loyal Toast, Caroline Schilg said that she was fortunate to have grown up in a family where the Monarchy was respected. But regretfully many of her own generation had been robbed of an understanding of their heritage. She stressed the sense of stability and continuity, which the Monarchy gave.

As usual, one of the features of the Dinner was the reading of many messages from around Australia and from overseas. Jeremy Lee said before reading the messages that he had apologies from two veteran supporters and their wives, Mr. and Mrs. Keith Oldfield of Nhill, Victoria, and Mr. and Mrs. Fred Codner from Shepparton, Victoria. An inveterate letter writer and general actionist Fred Codner expressed his deep regret at missing his first *New Times* Dinner, but said that while the spirit was strong, the flesh was weak in the sense that he had been extremely ill. Ill health also prevented Keith

Oldfield from attending.

DOUGLAS'S BASIC CONCERN

If Fabian Socialist Mr. K.D. Gott or any of his representatives were observing the Dinner, they would have been struck by the light-hearted manner in which the national campaign against the League was being treated. Eric Butler stressed the great tonic value of humour. He said that on commemorating the Douglas visit to Australia, it was an opportune occasion on which to recall that Douglas's basic concern was the crushing of man's most Divine attribute, his creativeness, by the centralisation of power. Douglas had devoted considerable attention to money primarily because it had in modern times become the main mechanism through which power was being centralised.

The League of Rights' Annual National Seminar was another outstanding success, with many new faces present. In opening the Seminar, Eric Butler had some scathing and critical comments to make about the media. He said that when asked why he bothered to co-operate at all with the media he was reminded of Mr. Malcolm Muggeridge's reply to a similar question. Muggeridge said that he visualised himself as an organist in a brothel, gently playing *Abide With Me*, in the faint hope that a message might get through to some of the inmates.

Referring to the smear that the League was "neo Nazis", Eric Butler said that the nearest approach to the policies of National Socialism in Australia were those of the Hawke Government. He pointed out that Hitler had been voted into office in a quite legal manner. A desperate German people voted for a man with a programme of National Socialism. Hitler was invited to become the Chancellor by the President because he was the only man who could guarantee a majority in the Reichstag. This was strictly constitutional. But once he had reached that position, Hitler set about dismantling the German constitution. He destroyed the German States. Eventually he reached the stage where he was able to abolish the Reichstag. Mr. Hawke came to office legally and constitutionally, but he is now in the process of destroying the Constitution. Hitler was a revolutionary, not a conservative. As a Socialist, he set about centralising all power in the same way that Fabian Socialist Hawke is attempting to centralise all power.

TV Channel 7 interviewed Mr. Butler after he had opened

the Seminar and raised the question of why Mr. Butler compared Mr. Hawke with Hitler. ABC "Countrywide" also were present at the Seminar, obtaining what they described as further background material on the League as part of a special programme.

Approximately \$2000 of literature was sold at the National Seminar and the Action Seminar on the Sunday, when 120 "hard core" supporters, with all States represented, to hear reports and to learn of the strategy of the League to meet the developing situation. Tape librarian Tom Fielder, aided by his wife Peg and Mr. Terry Rogers, had their fast-copying equipment running full time in an attempt to meet the big demand for tapes.

The League had the Seminar video taped and tapes can be made available upon request to the League.

The 1984 National Weekend reflected the new high level of League enthusiasm and determination. In his report to the Action Conference, Eric Butler outlined the gravity of the present situation, stressed what was almost certain to happen next year, and said that although the League's growing expansion had made the Basic Fund of \$45,000 for last year adequate, it was essential that the Basic Fund be lifted to \$50,000. He also outlined the League's massive expansion programme.

The League of Rights' 1984 National Weekend, with its many activities, is now history. But in years to come it will be seen as one of the most critical in the long history of the League. Those who were at least one of the functions will be able to say in the future, "I was there."

MESSAGES OF ENCOURAGEMENT AND INSPIRATION

Before starting to read the many messages, Chairman Mr. Jeremy Lee said these were a special feature of the Dinner, providing evidence of the existence of a movement, which reached right around the world.

"THE COUNTER — REVOLUTION HAS BEGUN!"

From Mr. Christopher Steele, Adelaide, South Australia.

The counter-revolution has begun! And the revolutionaries know that the Australian League of Rights is the catalyst for it. That is why we are being increasingly smeared in this landmark year of 1984. Smeared because we are feared, and feared because of our revelations of the truth.

The battle lines have been drawn up on a number of fronts. How significant in this year of 'doublethink' we have as one of our adversaries the Australian Human Rights Commission! The stakes are high in this ideological struggle. It is a matter of Australia's future under either Christianity or Humanism. We dare not lose.

Fortify yourselves in body, mind and spirit with the activities of the weekend. I cannot be with you this year. However, my best wishes for a successful Dinner, Seminar and Action Conference.

"EVENTS . . . DEMONSTRATE THE ACCURACY OF HIS (DOUGLAS'S) WARNINGS."

Cable from Mr. Bill Day, National Director, The New Zealand League of Rights.

Warmest greetings to those gathered for this memorable occasion. It is 50 years since C.H. Douglas visited our countries. Events now demonstrate the accuracy of his warnings. It is heartening that increasing numbers are now taking note of these. Wish I could be with you.

THE IMPORTANCE OF "MOMENTS OF RELAXATION AND FELLOWSHIP."

From Mr. Robert Bell, Horsham, Victoria.

On the occasion of the 1984 Annual Dinner I offer my congratulations on the tremendous effort being given in the service of educating and informing our fellow citizens with regard to the attack being made on our heritage. As the heel of bureaucratic tyranny bears heavier upon all of us, I trust that *The New Times* Annual Dinner may afford those moments of relaxation and fellowship which are so necessary to rejuvenate our spiritual faith and give us the determination to carry on against all odds. I offer my sincere best wishes to all in attendance and offer my prayer that God's blessing with all or you. Yours in Christian Fellowship.

"OUR PROSPECTS ARE BRIGHT"

From Robert Nixon, W.A. State Director, League of Rights.

The totalitarian are worried. Lies, hate and fabrications of history are the means by which the will-to-power groups desperately try to destroy the League and its influence.

Our prospects are bright. We can love our enemies by insisting that virtues, not vice, sustain the soul of man.

"MOVE ON AND MAY GOD BE ON YOUR SIDE"

From Mr. and Mrs. Ken Grundy, Pathaway, South Australia

The flaming torch of truth carried by League personnel has over the years varied from a tame flicker to a brilliant light depending on the political climate at the time. At no time has the success of the campaign gone to your heads, nor has despondency lasted long in the troubled times.

Under wise direction, grass roots education has always been prominent in League programmes. Ultimately this policy will bear fruit, which will either save the day or help rebuild society.

Locally as we campaign against a 20% rise in local Government rates, we apply those "correct principles of association learned from the League." Multiply this small piece of action across the nation on a number of issues in a team effort and the enemy will be beaten.

As obstacles are placed before you do not lose faith — move



Caroline Schlig shows her pleasure in expressing loyalty to the Monarchy.

"PLANTING SEEDS"

**From Mr. Phillip Butler, Deputy National Director,
The Canadian League of Rights**

Greetings from Canada, particularly British Columbia — on the occasion of your Annual Dinner, this year celebrating the 50th Anniversary of C.H. Douglas's tour of the British Empire. It is timely that you will be launching a new edition of Douglas's book, *The Alberta Experiment* with an Introduction by Mr. Eric D. Butler and the late Mr. L.D. Byrne.

For the younger generation celebrating this event, it should be evident that the Truths, which Douglas gave us, are just as valid today, based as they are on the Eternal Truths of Christianity. These Truths are not passing fads. When individuals and nations deny these Truths, they have to pay a price, as we do today when what is left of Western Civilisation is quickly becoming a ruin.

However, never before has the Social Credit Movement made such a contribution to that regeneration which comes after every disaster. Like a wild animal lashing out in its death throes, we see the enemy of our Civilisation attacking the custodian of Social Credit truths, the League of Rights, right around the world. The dying beast knows that it is dying and wants to take all that is good and wholesome down with it. We must make certain we are not caught in these frenzied death throes and retain the health to rebuild a new tomorrow.

50 years is not long in human history and I know that many of you hope that you will live to see that new tomorrow. It is human nature that we all hope to see the fruits of our labour. However, like the grass seed, which remains dormant through a drought, it takes just the right amount of moisture to make it germinate and eventually to bloom. Social Crediters are planting seeds, as Douglas did, and we are beginning to see those seeds grow in what appeared to be barren land.

Let us keep on planting those seeds, always hoping we will see them bloom, but believing that sooner or later they will receive the necessary moisture and burst forth to the benefit of coming generations.

We here in Canada have been involved in planting seeds. At this time we lift our glasses to all Australian friends gathered in Melbourne, and join in drinking a toast to the new Civilisation we are all working to develop.

"CONFOUND THEIR POLITICS"

From Dr. Geoffrey and Elizabeth Dobbs, Wales, U.K.

Elizabeth and I are very sorry we cannot be with you on this, always stimulating occasion, but we hope to see at least some of you later, in December.

Meanwhile we sent our good wishes to you all, and hope that you will have a thoroughly enjoyable dinner and seminar — which will renew your strength for the year ahead, which — by all accounts — you are going to need! You can judge the impact you are having by the reaction.

We cannot think of a better message to send to you than the prayer contained in the Second Verse of the National Anthem. We mean, of course the *real* one — yours and ours — the verse which starts "*Oh Lord our God, arise*" and ends "*God Save us all*". As for how to "Confound their politics" — Douglas told us that the way to do that is to fragment them.

"GOD'S GIFT"

From Sister Bride Baldwin, N.S.W.

Please convey my warmest greetings to all present. Thanks to the League for wonderful work it is doing. I have no hesitation in saying that Mr. Eric Butler and his team are "God's gift to the 20th century".

"GOD'S ULTIMATE UNIT OF HUMAN STEWARDSHIP IN HISTORY"

From Cliff and Jean Wallis, Kaniva, Victoria

Our message is related to the United Nations, the very concept of which is the antithesis of Scriptural teaching, and
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one reason why genuine Christianity is under attack. Rev William Kellogg in *Chalcedon Position Paper* No 182, October 1980 states:

"Nations not only promise the largest workable units of responsible stewardship, but they serve as a gracious check against the power of evil in a fallen world. If one member or a number of nations are taken over by evil, there is still hope. But if an international community is taken over by evil, then catastrophic judgment must follow . . . Nations are God's ultimate unit of human stewardship in history."

"THE GREAT, AND . . . ALMOST ONLY HOPE, FOR THE SAFETY . . . OF OUR NATION"

From Monsignor W. Batchelor, Moyhu, Victoria.

As a follower of the League of Rights, practically from its beginning, I have always maintained that in the League is to be found the great, and almost only, hope for the safety and survival of our Nation as we know it. And that includes Religion.

The campaign of ridicule and vituperation currently aimed at the League of Rights, should give new strength and courage to the League, and should make us realise how vital is the work of the League in these times.

Great men have so often appeared at times of great crisis in the course of world history. I believe that for the present time of great crisis to Australia and beyond, yet another great man has appeared to lead us — Eric Butler.

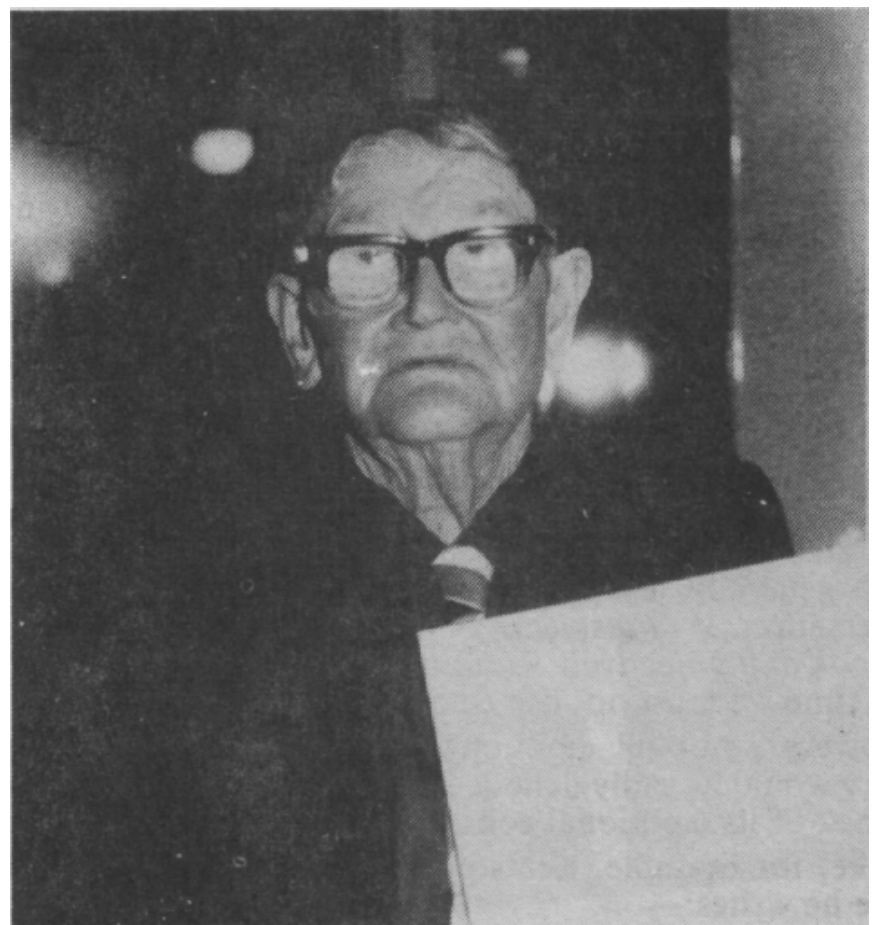
"A PRIVILEGE TO BE PART OF THIS UNIQUE FELLOWSHIP"

**From Mrs Dulcie Willacy, of "Ladies Line",
Brigalow, Queensland**

Greetings to fellow supporters gathered at the 1984 *New Times* National Dinner. We count it a privilege to be part of this unique fellowship.

It is understandable that attempts made by incompetent researchers to comprehend and to report accurately on the activities of the Australian League of Rights all fail dismally.

The simple truths taught by the League have their roots in



Veteran "*New Times*" supporter, Mr. Harold Hotchkin, displays Diploma from Social Credit Secretariat.

those eternal laws given to mankind by Almighty God. They have little appeal to trendy sophisticates and power hungry centralists. The thought of a higher authority than man is unacceptable to this type.

The objectives pursued by the League are synonymous with those beliefs held by people who instinctively recognise real worth. Our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, taught His followers to pray to God, the Father, for deliverance from evil.

The League of Rights exposes evil. For this it is under satanic attack, a sure sign that its efforts are effective. It is not an organisation that attracts the faint hearted or the superficial, shallow minded.

Truth will triumph. League supporters work towards that goal.

May the work of the League be pleasing to our Heavenly Father and therefore worthy of blessing.

OTHER MESSAGES

Mr. Alan Kroker of Horsham, Victoria, wrote, "The spiritual truths enunciated by Christ and given practical implementation by patriotic organisations such as the League, can alone dispel the darkness."

Mr. and Mrs. Alan Provan of Colac, Victoria sent best wishes, stating, "We are certainly proud of you all."

Veteran supporter Norm F. Rolls wrote, "We may have our backs to the wall, but let us all remember that Almighty God is on our side and will not fail us." (Although only a pensioner, Mr. Rolls demonstrated his faith and dedication by forwarding \$100 for the League of Rights' 1984-85 Basic Fund.)

Mr. Peter Davis of Port Lincoln, South Australia, wrote that

he hoped that "this year's National Weekend is another milestone for the League. I regret I cannot be present, but increasingly the League and its leaders are in my mind."

Mr. and Mrs. George Wilson of Warra, Queensland, associated themselves with the message sent by Mrs. Dulcie Willacy of *Ladies Line*.

Mrs. W.C. Blackman of Coonabarabran, N.S.W. sent her best wishes.

Mr. Alan Ellis of Warra, Queensland, rang message through promising "full support".

Mr. and Mrs. Geoff Wallace of Wodonga, Victoria, said they regretted not being able to attend as they would be in the United Kingdom at the time of the Dinner. They said, "Our thoughts and hearts will be with you. This year has brought the League right to the front and we are becoming stronger each day."

Mr. Jim Cronin of the West Coast of South Australia phoned a message, expressing regret that he could not be present because of shearing.

Mr. John Johnstone, chairman of the Melbourne Conservative Speakers' Club, apologised for not being able to attend, but said he was there "in spirit".

A telegram from Gayndah, Queensland, extending best wishes, was signed "Big Feller Jika", which caused some amusement.

Mr. Neil McDonald of Geelong, Victoria, wrote: "Charge your glasses — batteries too; Gather energy and strength anew; Write a letter — knock on doors; Pressure MPs — for our cause; Be on target whenever relevant; Tiny thorns can hurt an elephant; Constant effort counters failure; Help *New Times* advance Australia."

A GLIMPSE OF SOCIAL CREDIT HISTORY IN N.S.W.

In seconding the toast to "*The New Times*", Mr. Arch Ferguson provided a fascinating glimpse of the early history of Social Credit in N.S.W. Now a retired lawyer, Arch Ferguson still takes a keen interest in public affairs and, as his address indicates, is interested in preserving the history of the Social Credit Movement.

The following is Mr. Arch Ferguson's address:

May I say how honoured I feel in being asked to support this very important toast to *The New Times* so ably proposed by Mr. Hotchkin.

Early in the 1930's, shortly after I became interested in Social Credit, I came across a little book called *Straight and Crooked Thinking* by a man named Thouless. Robert Thouless was Professor of Psychology at Glasgow University, and, like Douglas, a Scot. In his book, Thouless examined what he called "Crooked Thinking" which he defined in several ways. Let us take two of his examples. One was the use of what he called argument by prestige suggestion as in the case of a prominent person, perhaps highly qualified in his particular sphere, who, if speaking outside his sphere of specialty, even with the best of intentions, must be immediately suspect on the ground of prestige suggestion. If he is using his position deliberately with this intention, then it becomes more dangerous.

But there is another form of "crooked thinking" which is probably more potent and that is what Thouless described as "Emotional thinking" or argument tinged with emotionally orientated words. This is used constantly by the press, the media generally, by politicians and others and in everyday conversation. *We must learn to recognise this type of thinking and look at it objectively without its emotional flavour.* At the same time we must not use emotional thinking ourselves.

However, not all emotionally coloured words are bad. Poetry would be sadly denuded of its magical beauty if it were stripped of its emotional content.

Take, for example, Keats poem, "*The Eve of St. Agnes*" where he writes: —

"Full on this casement shone the wintry moon
And threw warm gules on Madeline's fair breast."

Imagine how completely the beauty of these lines would be lost if you said instead:

"Full on this window shone the wintry moon
Making red marks on Jane's uncoloured chest."

The effect is obvious.

But if we turn now to the realm of politics, the press or television, the colouring of words intentionally emotional to give emphasis to an incorrect proposition or argument is not only wrongful but dangerous in the extreme. It is imperative that we should be able to examine the material thus put before us and to strip from it its emotional content and see it for its true worth.

One of the most misused words today is that of "racist" or "racism". Stripped of the conventional emotional interpretation given to it by those with ulterior motives, all that racist means is belonging to or pertaining to a particular race. Now we all belong to a particular race by accident of birth. We are therefore, all racists, and the accusers of racism therefore become as guilty as the accused, if guilt there is. There is an old French saying "*Qui accuse s'accuse*" which means, of course, that he who accuses, accuses himself.

Again, to take the instance of Professor Blainey who, as we are all aware, has made a number of notable pronouncements on this subject. Certainly, he is a Professor and therefore some might say that the accusation of argument by prestige might apply. But the good professor is speaking and writing on a subject of which he is an acknowledge expert and secondly, he speaks in a moderate, logical rational manner, devoid of emotional content. He could not possibly be guilty of the accusations levelled against him, but his accusers stand condemned.

I have dwelt at some length on this subject because I believe that unless we adopt the methods suggested by Thouless in

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analysing controversial matters we are lost.

FIRST CONTACT

My first contact with Douglas Social Credit came about 1931 although it was restricted to cursory references, which appeared from time to time in conversation with individuals or in one or two journals, which happened to come into my hands. At that time I was an Articled Clerk in a Solicitor's office, and, by great good fortune, a senior lady clerk in the office started talking to me in great detail about this thing called "Social Credit."

From that time on, I could not obtain enough information about it to wet my appetite and I started to ferret out the comparatively few lectures, which at that time were being held in school classrooms, Schools of Art and similar places.

The great move forward came in June 1932, when *The New Era*, edited by that very capable journalist, Colin Barclay-Smith, first saw the light of day. This little paper was to continue until 1959. By this time, I had become the Hon. Secretary of the Hurstville Branch of the Association and this Branch became one of the strongest in N.S.W.

When the first Annual Meeting of the Association was held, the average weekly attendance at lectures had risen to 6000, much of this due to the tremendous organising ability of Fred Taylor, the State Honorary Secretary. By August 1932 the number of Branches had risen to 73, each holding weekly public meetings and Speakers' Classes to augment the growing demand for capable speakers. At the 2nd Annual Meeting of the Association held on 27th August of that year at the State Conservatorium of Music, Sydney, 1000 Members and delegates attended. At this great gathering, John Macara, the first President stood down and Mr. W.G. McReaddie replaced him as State President. McReaddie was also a Scot. A cost accountant, he had an amazing technical knowledge of Social Credit principles in addition to an extraordinary grasp of Marxian doctrines. A skilful debater, he liked nothing better than to debate with well know communists, confound them with his knowledge of *Das Kapital* from which he could quote extensively.

EARLY SOCIAL CREDIT LEADERS

There were many other outstanding personalities in the State Council of that time and later I was to be privileged to enjoy the friendship of many of them. Robert Pollock, another Scot, was recognised as the Father of the Movement in N.S.W. He was a learned man. At one time he had been one of the early Fabians. He had known such people as Shaw, Wells and Keir Hardy and many others of that vintage. A quiet almost shy man, I was fortunate in enjoying a friendship with him in later years when I used to meet him about once a week for a cup of tea in the city when I would endeavour to imbibe some of the vast store of knowledge he possessed.

John Macara was another I admired greatly and here again, I was privileged to enjoy a great friendship with him until his death in 1958. I was privileged to write a tribute to him in *The New Era*. He was another who did great deeds for the cause of Social Credit.

There were many others of great ability and stature, men and women, but time does not suffice.

In 1934, with the visit of Douglas to Australia, the Movement reached almost fever heat. A Monster Meeting had been held in November 1933 at Sydney Town Hall when 7000 attended. The hall was packed to capacity with 3000 while the overflow crowd outside was conservatively estimated at 4000.

Mr. Stanley Allen, a well-known Sydney Chartered Accountant who had assumed the reins of President presided and was accompanied on the platform by former Presidents, John Macara and W.G. McReaddie, Fred Taylor, the State Hon. Secretary, Mr. C. Barclay-Smith, and others. Later, Mr. Macara read the famous "*Declarations and Demands*".

During the evening, Mr. McReaddie announced, amidst

tremendous excitement, that he had received a cable from New Zealand stating that Major Douglas was arriving there on January 30th, 1934 and would be in Sydney en route on 25th January.

THE ARRIVAL OF DOUGLAS

As you can imagine, great excitement prevailed until the day of arrival dawned. At 8 a.m. that morning, the State President of the Association, Mr. Stanley Allen, accompanied by members of the State Council, welcomed Major and Mrs. Douglas on the "R.M.S. Maloja". Major Douglas had chosen to stay on the ship to ensure peace and quiet during his busy stay in Sydney. They were followed at 8.30 a.m. by three executive members of the N.S.W Douglas Younger Sets, namely Phyllis Grocott, the President, Arthur Chresby and myself. Unfortunately for us, Major Douglas had retired for a brief rest immediately after the reception with the senior members of the Association and we missed meeting him personally. However, we were compensated by having a delightful interview with Mrs. Douglas. Like Douglas, Mrs. Douglas was a skilled engineer in her own right as well as a designer of yachts. She was a brilliant conversationalist and chatted for some time with us about her famous husband and, as a result, I feel we gained more insight into the great man than had we met him.

Later at the Blaxland Galleries, nearly 1000 representative Sydney citizens, including many ardent Social Crediters, attended a memorable luncheon given in honour of Major Douglas. As always, he gave a notable and inspiring address.

That night, 12,000 enthusiastic people packed the Sydney Stadium, which at that time was the largest indoor hall in Sydney. It is estimated that some 5000 people were outside listening to amplifiers while many thousands of others listened to his great address on radio. Douglas possessed a magnetic quality in his voice and I was immensely gratified to have been present on those two great occasions.

The next stage in the Movement's progress was the Federal Election of 1934. The Movement became considerably divided with the announcement of the formation of the Douglas Credit Party of Australia despite the known wishes of Douglas himself and for a long time afterwards a bitter conflict



Mrs. Jackie Butler captivates her listeners at Seminar.

between the two factions occurred. However, as Barclay-Smith stated in *The New Era*, "The die was cast." Even those who were purely educationists decided to ensure that sincere candidates were chosen in as many electorates as possible, and not candidates who had come in as political opportunists.

THE FAILURE OF PARTY POLITICS

However, it was not to be. Despite heavy polling by the Douglas Credit Party candidates in a number of electorates throughout Australia not one candidate was elected showing the futility of party political action. Instead of revealing strength, we had revealed ourselves to the enemy.

There was a natural reaction to the election results. In some quarters disappointment, in others a stronger determination to renew the campaign, particularly in the light of Douglas' inspirational speech at Buxton on his return to England. In this he outlined The Electoral Campaign in the speech, which was called "The Nature of Democracy." The method to control Members of Parliament through the Electorate.

Douglas himself stated, in commenting upon the Australian Election results, "I believe that we are witnessing a demonstration of the unsuitability of Party Politics to modern conditions. Not only do I suspect that the Australian Social Credit Movement has been politically out-manoeuvred, but I believe that any party in a party system can be outmaneuvered if it raises so vital an issue as that of the control and distribution of National Credit."

Much more could be said of the local history of Social Credit and I have, at the request of Mr. Eric Butler, written an outline of the early history of the Movement in N.S.W. Unfortunately, it has been impossible in the time available to do justice to this History but, in due course this will be completed and, I hope, preserved for the future.

I have pleasure in supporting the toast to *The New Times*, which made its debut on Friday, 31st May 1935, edited by Mr. Tom Moore whose incisive writings had for two years been an outstanding feature of *The Tribune*, Melbourne's Catholic weekly.

"A CONFESSION OF FAITH, AND A TRIBUTE-----"

In proposing the toast to "*The New Times*", Mr. Harold Hotchkin took his listeners back down the corridors of Social Credit history, and revealed those qualities, which made him such an outstanding Social Credit actionist.

Mr. Hotchkin said:

I must first thank National Director Mr. Eric Butler for allowing me the privilege and honour of proposing the toast to *The New Times* on this historic occasion.

I first came in contact with the writings and ideas of C.H. Douglas in 1930. That these have had a profound influence on my thinking and actions over the past 54 years is beyond question, so what I have to say tonight is both a confession of faith, and a tribute to one whom history will eventually record as the greatest intellect of the 20th century.

I was born in the County of Lincolnshire, England, and I worked on farms in the Fen country. Around 1924, my brother and I surveyed the prospects of owning land of our own, and the prospects looked bleak. We decided to migrate to Australia and arrived here in 1926. After two years on a farm in East Gippsland we applied for, and obtained a closer-settlement block at a place called Childers in the Strezlecki Hills.

natural causes. Tom Moore was a brilliant writer and satirist. Editor of the Catholic *Tribune* during the depression. We flayed the politicians and bankers for the misery that was being forced upon the Australian people. And he was supported by that great Catholic Churchman, Archbishop Mannix. However, Dr. Mannix decided to pay a visit to Ireland and, as I understand it, those left in charge of the Melbourne Diocese were critical of Moore's actions and put pressure on him to desist.

Tom Moore resigned and with the financial help of Mr. David Robertson, a confectionary manufacturer, founded *The New Times*. The Social Credit group in Melbourne had an office in one of the Arcades off Collins Street. I could only make infrequent visits to Melbourne, but on one occasion I had the pleasure of meeting Dr. John Dale, the

CONTACTING SOCIAL CREDIT

In 1929 the financial crisis, recorded in history as the Great Depression, was upon us. Most people know what happened, but not too many knew who was responsible for the widespread misery that took place. From my own point of view, what impressed me was the slogan used by the mass media when introducing what was termed the "Premiers' Plan": "We must tighten our belts, produce more, consume less, and prosperity was just around the corner."

I had the idea I was being conned and decided to study economics. But all the standard works I obtained from the Melbourne Public Library left me more confused than ever. On the next block an ex Royal Navy Lieutenant and his family were struggling to make a go of it. His name was Ted Sharp and he had a friend in Blackburn named Jackson who sent him copies of *the New Era*, and *The Social Crediter* from England. He passed these on to me. My conversion to the Social Credit cause must therefore go to the credit of Colin Barclay-Smith, the Sydney journalist and editor of *The New Era*. I met Barclay-Smith on one occasion only. I travelled with him from Flinders railway station to Eltham where we were picked up to attend a conference at our National Director's home. I think that this must have been one of the first held there.

I come now to the founding editor of *The New Times*, Tom Moore, who tragically died at an early age. I never met him. There was an air of suspicion about Moore's sudden death, but I have no evidence to prove that it was other than from



Mr. Eric Butler opens Seminar with scathing criticism of the media.

Melbourne City Health Officer and Judge Foster of the Arbitration Commission.

THE DOUGLAS 1934 VISIT

Tonight we meet in memory of Douglas's visit to Melbourne in 1934. Ted Sharp and I travelled down for the occasion. The Melbourne Town Hall was packed and the subject of the address was "The Monopolistic Idea". One would not regard Douglas as a brilliant orator. He presented his ideas in a simple and logical manner, unlike the vote seeking rhetoric of the politicians. He laid great stress on man's greatest failing, the Will-To-Power, which is, of course, diametrically opposed to Christ's injunction — that he would be greatest let him be your servant. That statement is, I submit, the cornerstone of Social Credit philosophy.

Following the death of Tom Moore Mr. Hal Allsop who, if I remember correctly, was of part French extraction, became editor of *The New Times*. Hal Allsop arrived at my farm one day in an old Chevrolet Four. He sold me shares in *The New Times* and for a couple of days I travelled with him to show him around Gippsland. Two prominent subscribers were the medico at Yallourn, Dr. Andrews, and the Catholic priest at Trafalgar, Father Gavan, with whom I became very friendly. For some time we had an assorted group based at Trafalgar. We campaigned against, and defeated the National Insurance scheme put forward by Mr. Later Lord Casey.

By this time both my brother and I had succumbed to the charms of two Aussie girls and were married. We had dissolved our partnership and my wife Jess and I were busy clearing another block. We built a bit of a shack in which we were living while we battled with 105 acres of bracken fern. In 1937 we had a visit from a young fellow travelling per media of a pushbike. It was put first contact with Eric Butler, who eventually became editor of *The New Times*. I humbly suggest that if Eric Butler cannot be numbered among the greatest of living Australians, then I do not know where you would find one. Since that first meeting I have helped to organise many meetings for him and he has been our overnight guest on many occasions. He has reached the stage where the first thing he does upon arriving is to kiss my wife Jess. If he has developed this habit with the wives of other contacts he had better watch out! But were he to miss his aim and plant one on some male contact, Mr. K.D. Gott would then really have something to report to his masters!

One of the earliest regular contributors to *The New Times* was Mr. Bruce H. Brown. A senior public servant. Bruce Brown so annoyed the politicians with his writings that they passed a law prohibiting public servants from writing articles, paid or unpaid, criticising Government policies. But there was a loophole and from then on Bruce Brown's contributions were in the form of a letter to the Editor!

Others pioneers of the early days were Walter Carruthers, Arch Browne and his son John (who was present at the Dinner). I recollect Sir Raphael Cilento, Lady Phyllis Cilento and Jim, now Sir James Killen, and many others attending the Annual *New Times* Dinner. Time does not permit me to mention them all.

When the Social Credit Secretariat, under the Advisory Chairmanship of C.H. Douglas, was conducting a study course and examination, there were nine candidates from Australia. One of my proud possessions is a certificate presented to me as an Associate Member of the Secretariat. Five of the nine who sat were awarded certificates.

A LIMITED NATIONAL DIVIDEND

The two main proposals put forward by Douglas were the Compensated or Just Price and the National Dividend. I make no comment on the technical aspects of the Just Price, leaving this to those who are keen enough to study the works of Douglas for themselves. Regarding the payment of a National Dividend, as proposed by Douglas, to every citizen of

whatever country has the commonsense to adopt it, I suggest that we already have a limited version of it in the granting of the Age Pension. This is an entitlement, as of right, for our aged pensioners to draw, to the extent of the sum of money granted, on the retail goods and services available. It confers a certain degree of independence. As it is paid to both males and females this emphasises the fact that it confers that independence upon the individual. That it is limited, at the moment, is due to the fact that it is based upon the taxation system, and a corrupt system of accountancy. After several centuries of brainwashing by those who operate and profit from the system, it is very hard to convince the average individual of the true facts.

Our professional educators are of little help. The Socialists emphasise the virtues of the work ethic and pursue the mirage of full employment. If it were written into the Constitution that a monetary dividend, based upon the capacity of the country to produce goods and services, be granted to every natural-born citizen, and to migrants after a residential period of qualification, this would be the ultimate in economic and personal freedom. The vast bureaucracies of the present Welfare State would wither away. Dominating Trade Union bosses would lose their power, and the present system of debt and usury would become a thing of the past. I now doubt if I shall see this, but I hope that the younger members among us tonight will eventually benefit.

CREATING PUBLIC OPINION

Social Credit policies will be achieved by the pressure of public opinion, and it is our task and responsibility to create that opinion. I would like to mention here two men, editors of country newspapers, who have aided me in that task. I urge you who live in the country areas to use your local media. For 23 years I wrote a weekly column for the Central Gippsland paper, the *Gippsland News*, whose editor was Bill Rolls, a veteran of World War One and holder of the Military Cross and the Distinguished Service Order. Bill Rolls was a brave man. He had to be considering what I wrote in those early days! On one occasion the Anti-Defamation League descended upon us. Bill Rolls said to me, "tone it down, son"



Mr. Chas Pinwill explains the "heritage hoax"

SOCIAL CREDIT DISPLAY

There was great interest in the comprehensive display of Social Credit literature at the Dinner and Seminar, some of it going back to 1920. There were newspaper reports of Douglas's visit to Australia, copies of early issues of "*The New Era*" and "*The New Times*". There were also copies of the famous journals, "*The New Age*" and "*The New English Weekly*."

We thank all those who made material available. It is planned to bring all Social Credit history together, together with copies of all Social Credit literature, in order that this can be preserved for the future. We would appreciate hearing from any who have material they feel would be of interest and value.

— with a bit of wink in his eye. He died some years ago.

Since I moved to Paynesville, I have had ready access to the *Bairnsdale Advertiser*. I must pay tribute to Mr. Ron Yeates who has never made any critical editing of anything that I have written. I urge once again that younger supporters make use of the local press.

In conclusion I must pay some tribute to one who without complaint has been right beside me over my 54 years of association with the Social Credit Movement — my wife Jess. She spent many lonely nights when I was at meetings. She cooked for and fed the many adherents to our cause who have been guests in our home for a night or two over many years. Eric Butler has, of course, been a regular visitor. We have had the pleasure of hosting Mr. Denzil Bradley of Rhodesia, Mr. Pat Walsh of Canada, Mr. Ivor Benson of South Africa and last, but certainly not least, Ted Rock and his wife Nancy.

IN GOOD HANDS

During my ten years as a Shire Councillor I met many politicians, both State and Federal. A graph of their 1Q level would look more dismal than a winter weather chart. But looking around this room tonight and seeing all the younger faces present, I have a quiet feeling of satisfaction. A movement which draws to its banner the type of people we have, is, in my view, in good hands.

Douglas pointed out that if we were to reach that higher goal he so clearly defined, the responsibility for this would rest with that handful of people who know what to do at the right time. I feel we have the leadership, the loyalty and the dedication to support them.

I now formally propose the toast to *The New Times* and, in doing so, pay tribute to those pioneers who have gone before.



A section of the Seminar audience.

BEQUESTS

Social Credit is related in inheritance. Those privileged to have been fortunate enough to have been introduced to the Social Credit revelation, might consider making provision in their wills for a legacy, however small, to be made available for future activities. Legacies should be made payable to The Australian League of Rights, which is structured to ensure continuity.

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BASIC FUND OFF TO GREAT START

As we go to press, the League's 1984-85 Basic Fund of \$50,000 has leapt to over \$15,000 from the initial donations. The situation demands that League supporters give as never before. Will Queensland and Northern N.S.W. supporters please note that with the re-organisation of League administration and consolidation in Queensland, all Basic Fund donations should be sent to Mr. Chas Pinwill, Conservative Bookshop, 461 Ann Street, Brisbane. W.A. contributions should be sent to Mr. Robert Nixon, P.O. Box 16, Inglewood, 6052. All other donations to Box 1052J, G.P.O. Melbourne.



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