Manifesto to Trades Unionists.

Comrades.—The time for jubilation is not yet. The Referendum is over, but the struggle to defeat conscription is not yet; until every possibility of its imposition on the Australian people has disappeared. We have to hold on to the pledge given that conscription would be stopped. It was in the spirit of our ultimate triumph for the enemy that the Prime Minister said:—

"Prior to the Referendum I said that I would not consent to being made by the responsible leaders of public opinion to vote against the people. I believe that the majority of the people are against conscription and it will not be made. And I believe that the Prime Minister..." said Sir William Lyne, who has refused to accept a negative vote. On the other hand, the refusal to accept a positive vote by the Prime Minister is not, I think, debatable. The referendum was a means of the conspiracy of the world to defraud the people of their just and right to act as though the country had overwhelmingly rejected the Prime Minister's policy. It is very apparent we are not yet out of the wood.

Vigilance and steadfast determination to hold to what we have so nobly gained can alone save and serve us. In each State there must be maintained and strengthened the organisation which successfully acquiesced itself in the great gift. To define, shape a policy the National Executive has decided on the following arrangements:

1. Immediately summoning to Melbourne the interstate representatives on the Executive for consultation and negotiation.
2. The holding of Trades Union Conferences in each State on Saturday, 11th November, to receive from interstate delegates reports covering the situation and the suggested course of action.
3. Thereupon convening special meetings of all Unions, represented on the State Industrial Conference, of the rank and file may be held to discuss the need of the existing condition and determine to support or reject the proposed plan of a common policy.
4. Holding a second Industrial Conference of Unions in each State on Saturday, 18th November, to receive the result of the decision Unions have arrived at, and generally to declare a policy in keeping therewith for the State as a whole.

It is further proposed, that, in order to make the National Executive completely and equally representative of the State Industrial Conferences, the present personnel of the Executive be replaced by two delegates chosen by the State Conferences convened for Saturday, 11th November, thus ensuring equality of representation and establishing a national authority representative of and directly derived from the Unions of the Commonwealth.

The work in hand is of the utmost importance. Of supreme importance is that of terminating the operation of the Referendum.
Compulsory calling up for military training, not merely a question of a single event, but one which involves the whole future of the Commonwealth. The Government is determined to ensure that this principle is carried out.

Compulsion is enforced or it is not enforced. The situation on the home front and in the field demands a stringent and uncompromising attitude in this matter.

Therefore, we must make the best of a bad job and ensure the safety and security of Australia. The democratic verdict will be upheld.

Upon this transfer of the power of the people depends the effect of the most powerful measure of the War Precautions Act. The threat of dictatorship, whether by means of the War Precautions Act, a Hughes-Cook combination, or the filling of vacant Ministerial portfolios with conspirators and coloured Labour politicians, has to be fought to the last ditch. Prepared and organised as it will be, the military octopus spreads its tentacles and proceeds towards Australian liberty, never to let go.

Of vital importance is the maintenance of the spirit and purpose which inspired the magnificent battle of October. The threat of dictatorship, whatever the means of the War Precautions Act, a Hughes-Cook combination, or the filling of vacant Ministerial portfolios with conspirators and coloured Labour politicians, has to be fought to the last ditch. Prepared and organised as it will be, the military octopus spreads its tentacles and proceeds towards Australian liberty, never to let go.

In these circumstances, the National Congress should be held up to make a point of attending each National Congress. In consolidating the forces of Labour, defeat or the slightest significance will need to be arrived at, and it is essential that we exhaust every possible means of contributing to our ultimate success. These are the most wonderful days our country has ever seen, and it is to the greatest extent that of the National Congress that the Commonwealth will live and renew its life.