Why a Labor College is a Necessity

Victorian unions, as elsewhere in Australia, have the duty, and the right, to discuss questions of policy, not only on industrial matters, but also on political issues. These issues relate to minor local points and to great universal questions, and involve the life and death of vast numbers of men and women throughout the world.

Consider, for a moment, how a resolution moved in a branch of a union can become the policy of the Australian Council of Trade Unions or of the Federal Labor Party, and how such a policy can lead to great and important results.

Does it not, then, behove us as unionists to think carefully, to look ahead and estimate the consequences of our decisions? And to do this thinking and estimating is not knowledge and wisdom necessary? And is not trade union education the means of obtaining that knowledge and wisdom?

The Labor College exists to place in the mind of unionists the necessary information. It is the only, and democratically organised body of union delegates, which, as a fighting force, provides facilities for organised discussion, in an atmosphere of complete tolerance, of all aspects of social science, industrial and political history, economics and international relations. This is a very wide area of knowledge, and not, as some critics think, a narrow field.

Former students have testified that the material discussed in College classes is drawn from an almost unrestricted field. Hence they have found the work not only enlightening but stimulating in a way not found elsewhere.

Out of such a broadly gathered knowledge and wisdom, we feel that, as unionists, we can obtain the mental tools with which to prepare and determine our policy, to act not only for a union or the Labor Party, but for the emancipation of the entire working class.

We make this call to our fellow unionists to support the College in all ways, to become members of our classes and to assist towards the common goal of unionism.

Workers found it necessary to co-operate in trade unions to protect their interests and those of their families in industry.

Workers also found it necessary to organise their own political parties because political and legal limitations existed which prevented the trade union from obtaining justice from Governments politically opposed to the union.

The workers have also found it necessary to establish and support their own educational institutions because the training and methods of the existing capitalist educational institutions seek to preserve the system of capitalism.

The trade union, the Labor Party and the Labor College are the three integral factors necessary for your industrial, political and educational progress and welfare.

By supporting these institutions and partaking of their benefits you are taking an active part in the establishment of a better social order.

Further information can be obtained from Mrs. Brodney, Secretary, Box 39, Trades Hall, Melbourne. Phone: WX 1686.

VICTORIAN LABOR COLLEGE

Founded 1917
Controlled by affiliated Unions and the trades Hall Council for the purpose of Independent Working Class Education

Classes For 1955


THIS COLLEGE IS THE ONLY one which can assist you, a member of the working class, to protect and improve your living standards.

No other College, neither the University, nor any technical school, has that object.

FOR:

- EFFECTIVE TRAINING IN LABOR IDEALS
- RAISING YOUR STANDARD OF LIVING
- REDUCING WORKING HOURS

YOU can go nowhere else but the Labor College, because it is the Union's own College.

Join Now-No Fees

The Industrial Printing and Publicity Co. Ltd., 14 Victoria Street, Carlton, N.3.
Labor History and Politics
Every Tuesday at 8 p.m., from March 22
Students in this class not only study Socialist theory, they develop a theoretical understanding of the Labor Movement. They are helped to appreciate the need and importance of the Labor Movement, and to apply their economic, political and sociological knowledge to its development.

The content includes:
(1) Important events of the past and their bearing on modern political history:
   (a) Industrial revolution, (b) the great French revolution, (c) the American revolution and struggles of 1848, (d) Paris Commune.
(2) Development of Socialism theory:
   (a) Development of Socialism as a science, (b) Socialism of Marx and Engels, (c) Socialist of Engels and Thiers, (d) Socialism of Marx and Engels.
(3) History of theoretical controversy of Russian revolution:
   (a) History of Bolchevism, (b) The 27th revolution, (c) formation of the International Labor Movement, (d) membership of revolution and socialism in one country, (e) conflicting theories on Russia.
(4) Australian Labor Movement and its part in world events:
   (a) Origins of Australian socialism, (b) compulsory arbitration, (c) conflicting theories in the two world wars, (d) A.L.P and Communists.

Economics for Unionists
Every Wednesday at 8 p.m., from March 23
I. Introduction, Meaning and Methods, Some Terms Used
II. The Worker and His Wage
   1. Labor
   2. Wages
   3. Trade Unions
   4. Standards of Living and Methods of Fixing Wages
III. The Employer and His Income
   1. Capital
   2. Employees, Enterprises: Individual Firms, Companies, Trade Organisations, Amalgamations, Trusts, etc.
   3. Interest, Rent, Profits, etc.
IV. The Productive Process
   1. History of the Process
   2. The requirements and organisation of production today
   3. Incentives to production
V. The Impact of Industry
   1. The Community
   2. Its Value and Price
VI. Money and Money Reform
   1. Money
   2. Credit
   3. The Gold Standard
VII. Economics
   1. Inflation and Deflation
   2. Depression
VIII. Memorandum
IX. Banks, International Trade and Foreign Exchange
X. What Unions Can Do

Australian Industrial History
Every Thursday at 8 p.m., from March 24
The object of these classes is to help unionists to take an active and informed part in the work of their unions and the Labor Movement generally.

I. The Industrial Background
   (a) Before and after the Industrial Revolution
II. The Industrial Unionism
   (a) Conditions of the Workers
III. The Australian Unions
   (a) Union Beginning
IV. The Strikes
   (a) Strikes
V. The Resistance
   (a) The Industrial Workers
   (b) The Factory Workers
   (c) The Unions
   (d) The Employers
VI. The Industrial Workers
   (a) Wages
VII. The Unions
   (b) Accidents
IX. Union Administration and Problems

Public Speaking and English
Fortnightly, Mondays at 8 p.m., beginning June 6
Students must qualify for this class by attending one other class. In order to ensure that all students will be able to undertake practical work on the subject matter of the class, many are anxious to be effective speakers, but the first requirement is a knowledge of your subject matter. This can be obtained in other College classes.

Mr. Brennan is exceptionally gifted in the art of making all students feel that they are passing the class, and even if you have had previous difficulty in addressing meetings, you will find that the difficulty is soon overcome. He is well known for his lively and entertaining treatment of the subject, and for the tips he gives on platform speaking, debates, taking part in union and A.L.P meetings, as well as guidance in English and pronunciation.

All Classes are held at Trades Hall, Room 42, at 8 p.m.