COMMUNIST ELECTION MANIFESTO

Vote Communist!

WHY THE ELECTIONS?

The Federal Elections, rushed through in an endeavour to stampede the workers and small farmers into a panic vote for Capitalism, gives a very clear indication of the precarious position of Capitalism, and the necessity for still more vicious attacks upon the living standards of the toiling classes in the struggle to overcome the crisis of Capitalism.

Unable, like 1929, to continue the attacks that had been launched by them upon our conditions because of the growing hostility of the workers, the Bruce-Page Government deliberately raised the "Arbitration" issue to enable their Government to be defeated, and a "Labor" Government to be returned to carry on the attacks against our class, realising that the "Labor" Party, having a certain amount of prestige amongst the toiling masses, would be far more able to continue their attacks than the Bruce-Page alliance.

Now the position is altered: the Labor Government has held office for two years, and under cover of the Arbitration Court—the Court that was to be made an instrument of our class—under the cover of the Statistician's lying figures, and various other such deceptive measures, the living standards of the workers and small and middle farmers have been consistently worsened.

At the same time the prestige of the "Labor" Party has been sinking, the toiling masses are becoming disgusted with such a reactionary organisation, so once more the Bosses call for an Election so that the Bosses' Parties, Nationalists, B.A.P., etc., can carry out the attacks that are necessary to them, and the "Labor" Party, becoming the "opposition" can by sham attacks upon the Government, endeavour to regain their lost prestige and still keep the toiling masses from revolutionary struggle.

The Communist Party states definitely that all parties, with the exception of the Communist Party, that are contesting the Federal Elections, are parties of Capitalism, parties of wage-cuts, worsened conditions, parties of starvation and misery for the toiling millions. Then, what sections do these various parties represent? What is the meaning of the disagreement between them?

THE INTERESTS OF THE NATIONALIST PARTY.

The Nationalist Party, as a whole, represents the interests of those Bankers, Federal and State Bondholders, shipping corporations and others connected exclusively with the exploitation of the primary producers in Australia. They maintain strong ties with British Imperialism and strive to maintain the old system of furnishing raw materials to British industries and keeping Australia as a market for the finished product of British industry.
THE COMMUNIST MANIFESTO

THE INTERESTS OF THE AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY.

The Australian Labor Party as a whole is the Party of those capitalist elements who fight for the building up of a self-sufficient industrial machine in Australia. The high tariff policy of the Federal Labor Government is in the interests of that section of the Capitalist class, and is designed to shut out the overseas competition on the “home market,” thereby enabling it to charge monopolistic prices for its products and bettering that the solution of their difficulties lies in developing “home industries,” another time thinking that everything should be sacrificed for the “primary industries,” and strengthening of “Empire ties.”

During elections all these Parties attempt to convince the capitalist class that they alone can serve the interests of the entire capitalist class; in other words, serve the mythical entity, “the people.” In power, all these Parties represent capitalism, and the conflict between the various Parties fades into insignificance after the united efforts of the whole capitalist class to place the burden of the crisis upon the backs of the workers and small farmers.

THE “LABOR” PARTY IN OFFICE.

In all States of Australia for a number of years the “Labor” Party has held office and carried on the most vicious attacks upon all sections of our class; they have made full use of the armed forces of the State to impose wage-cuts, evictions, smashing workers’ demonstrations, evicting farmers and in all ways beating down our living standards.

The “Left Revolutionary” Lang and his henchmen, taking office from Berlin, by making use of all sorts of demagogic slogans and phrases, making all sorts of promises” to fool the workers and small farmers so as to ensure his being returned to power, has also since gaining office, been carrying on, endeavoring to place the burden of the crisis upon the backs of the toiling masses.

In the Federal House, the Scullin Government, also returned to power by the use of deceptive promises” to restore the workers wages and conditions, to assist the farming community by a “bounty,” “to tackle the unemployed problem,” etc., has proved beyond a doubt that “Labor” in office carries on as a better agent of capitalism than the open agents, the Nationalists, Country Party, etc., because it is able, by its hold upon the official machinery of the Trade Unions, etc., to tie the hands of the workers to the A.L.P.

By this method they have been able to carry on the attacks against our conditions for the past two years. Having forgotten their “commitment” to the “Nehmeyer” agreement, then the “Premiers’ Plan,” with the result that the wages of our class have been reduced by over thirty per cent. Old-age, invalid and soldiers’ pensions being reduced, maternity bonus being slashed, and the “unemployed army,” which stood at 100,000 during the 1929 elections, and was going to be reduced by the imposition of the tariff, now stands at nearly 600,000, and is constantly growing.

THE PRESENT ELECTIONS.

In spite of their glaring anti-working class actions, this capitalist Party comes to the working class with exactly the same promises as were made to us by these hypocrites in 1929. In his policy speech at Richmond Town Hall, Mr. Scullin said, in effect: “We will tackle the problem of unemployment first. We must not let our people suffer.” This is spite of the starvation that has been rampant amongst the toiling masses.

THE COMMUNIST PARTY.

Against all these Parties of capitalism the only workers’ Party—the Communist Party—is contesting the Elections with a concrete programme of demands around which we will organise the workers to struggle against the false lying promises” of the Nationalists, U.A.P., Labor Parties, etc. We call upon the workers, small and middle farmers, to unite their forces and demand with the Communist Party—

1. Restoration of all wage reductions and the abolition of all forms of rationing of employment.
2. Seven-hour day, and five-day week, without wage reductions.
3. Six-hour day, and five-day week in hazardous industries.
Senate Vote [1] PARTRIDGE, H. F. K.

1. Six-hour day and five-day week, with two fifteen-minute rest periods each day, for women and young workers. Equal pay for equal work.

4. Restoration of all scales of pensions and maternity bonus, and pensions to be paid at the age of 60 years at full wages.

5. National Unemployment Insurance, to be paid to ALL unemployed workers at full wages, the same to be raised by a tax on industry, and to be administered by Workers' Committees.

6. No evictions of Unemployed from their homes. Free lights and fuel, free travelling facilities for unemployed workers.

7. Free food at school for children of unemployed workers.

8. Abolition of taxes on workers' wages, and for such less taxation of Capital, big Estates, etc.

9. Abolition of the "inheritance" Law. Death duties to be complete confiscation of the inheritance of the rich.

10. Abolition of all expenditure on armaments and cancellation of all existing contracts in connection therewith.

THE PROBLEMS OF THE WOMEN.

The Communist Party is the only Party that takes the demand that women should enjoy equal rights with men. For the housewives, for those who have the burden and misery of attempting to feed their families on the miserable wages of their husbands, and those who face the starvation and degradation which comes with unemployment. In the family, for those workers, the Communist Party demands the right for a decent living standard by increased wages, increased unemployment insurance, and free medical attention for all unemployed workers, irrespective of race, sex or creed.

COMMUNIST PARTY LAUNCHES COUNTER OFFENSIVE.

In this Election Campaign the Communist Party, the vanguard of the working class, continues the policy it has followed in the everyday economic struggles—mobilization of the working class for the purpose of generating sufficient power to launch a counter-offensive against capitalism. We, in particular, on this Campaign in order to prove to the workers the fact that they can never attain their emancipation from wage slavery, Acts of Parliament, or through the parliamentary form of government, which is a special class institution that enables the capitalist class to impose its will by force and violence on the working class. We utilize this Campaign in order to win the masses of workers away from the treacherous Australian Labor Party, which is to-day the leader of the capitalist offensive, and enlist them in the ranks of the revolutionary Party of the working class.

During the campaign and after the campaign, just as before this Election campaign started, the Communist Party will continue to organize the workers in factories on the basis of factory committees, committees of action, and during strikes will set up rank and file strike committees as the machinery through which the economic struggles can be carried on and developed into political struggles against the capitalist class. As these mass struggles reach higher stages, our partial demands and slogans will be replaced by ever more revolutionary demands.
When elected to Parliament, the Communist legislators will be elected by the mass workers and farmers of the State of the Commonwealth, but will utilise such positions to expose and ridicule such laws. Instead of speaking to the servile lackeys of capitalism representing the Nationalist, the Country Party, or the Australian Labor Party inside Parliament, to sow doubt over their heads to the masses outside in order to discredit Parliament and all organs of the capitalist State, and mobilise the workers for their destruction.

COMMUNISTS RESPONSIBLE ONLY TO THE WORKING CLASS.

Communists in Parliament are the direct representatives of the working class, and responsible only to the working class. That responsibility is maintained through living, constant contact with the masses in industry. Workers in all big industries (metal, railway, mining, water transport, electrical power, public service, etc.), and in the Unemployed Workers' Movement, will be requested to elect delegates as advisers to Communist members of legislative bodies; delegates, who will present to the representatives of the working class in Parliament the everyday problems of the workers as they arise in the factories, the mines, on the railroads, and in every other industry, and who will report back to the masses of workers the activity of their parliamentary representatives.

The Communist members of Parliament will, in turn, become connected with workers' committees in the industries, and from their services in Parliament will actively aid in carrying on the everyday struggle in the industries against the bosses.

In the same way will contact be built up through the Communist legislators and the rank and file of the army, navy, and all branches of the so-called defense forces, so that these workers in uniform may be mobilised as part of the working-class struggle against capitalism.

In this campaign, as in all others, the Communist Party fights as the implacable foe of capitalism and all its agents. We hold aloft the banner of revolution. We demand the abolition of CLASS AGAINST CLASS.

The Communist Party calls upon the workers and farmers to rally to the one Party that serves the class interests of this campaign. Only by treading the revolutionary path of the Communist Party will the workers and poor farmers, in the growing economic and political struggles, be able to destroy the Big-Down of capitalism and establish in its place a workers' and farmers' Government, on the basis of the Dictatorship of the Proletariat.

Workers of BATMAN

Vote Communist thus:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

1 Hannan, J.

FOR THE SENATE

1 PARTRIDGE, H. F. K.

AND OTHERS IN THE ORDER OF YOUR PREFERENCE.