FIGHT NOW TO REPEAL THE FASCIST ACT

REV. F. J. HARTLEY'S MESSAGE

_Liberty Leads Australia's Fight For Freedom_

WITH each issue of Liberty, more people flock to subscribe.

With each issue of Liberty, more people see the necessity for our paper.

This issue comes to you in one of the really dark periods of Australian history. It is up to you, the people of Australia, to determine whether it is a temporary eclipse or whether the torch of liberty is to go out, as is now most often the case in our party councils.

The torch will never be completely extinguished because it will always burn in some hearts, but if we allow unbridled laws to remain on our statute book for long, it will take generations to recover.

Only united pressure from the people can save Australia from slipping back with a long uphill struggle to put right a retrograde step.

History illustrates the doom of tyrants. It is a fact that a thousand crowned in blood before the tyrant's inevitable doom if the people allow them to get away with their early acts of tyranny.

The Democratic Rights Council was born in struggle.

It will grow strong in struggle.

It will win the struggle.

The Democratic Rights Council has consistently opposed the Communist Party Dissolution Act in toto.

We would do this even if only the Communist Party were threatened.

We would do so because we think it is fundamentally wrong to ban minority opinion.

Many people can see—what we have always told them—that this repressive legislation cannot possibly stop the Communist Party.

The Melbourne Herald, sending victory, already named the Democratic Rights Council and the Union of Australian Women.

This impudent article in the Herald was published before the Committee was appointed whose business it is to give advice on individuals and organisations who are to be declared.

We can expect an extension of this underhanded reporting and publication.

For the information of the Herald and anybody who may be concerned, the Democratic Rights Council is not a Communist front.

We have always said the Communist Party is not a Communist front. But many people seem to be minority opinion.

The day will never dawn when any Government or individual will tell me who I will or will not see.

The day will never dawn when any Government or individual will tell me what I can think, and what I can say.

Traditionally, I come of the line of those who have made the right of private judgment a fundamental principle of their way of life.

Having won the battle in the theological sphere, we do not intend to surrender to political expediency.

It is always good to see that discipline to examine in the light of subsequent events any stand on principle that one has taken.

It is good, since the passage of time, if we have eyes to see and ears to hear, widen our experience and increase our knowledge.

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