Election Issue

SOCIALIST

SOCIALIST
PARTIES
OF
AUSTRALIA and
NEW ZEALAND

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ONE PENNY

The Referendum

Since the last referendum was defeated in 1944, the Labor Party has exclued its failure to introduce the 40-hour week and increase the open week and increase the house the Constitution of the second of the second the power to do so in 1936 Curtin accused the Lyons UAP. Government of being both unfair and dishonest because of their failure to introduce the 40-hour week. THEN Dr. Evatt maintained that the Federal Government had power to introduce this legiblation. NOW when the Labor Party finds Reself with a majority in both Houses, it suddenly discovers 'legal difficulties' which prevent it from honoring its promises.

Briefly, the position is this: Pier to Federation in 1901 there were only State Governments, each pursating its own way without conaderation of the other States, and often with quite contradictory laws. When Federation was brought about, a Constitution was drawn up handing certain spheres of legislation over to the Federal Covernment, while the States retained the rest.

The present referendum is for the purpose of granting wider powers to the Federal Government in respect to (1) Social Services, (2) Marketing of Primary Produce (3) Industrial Employment.

In regard to Social Services, the Labor Party claims that there is some doubt as to the legality of their Social Service Legalitative Laboratory and the Social Service Services and the Laboratory Services and Laboratory Services and Laboratory Laboratory Services and Laboratory Laborat

or a worker in constant employment, money is taken by means of texation which is distributed amongst those with several children, or who are unemployed or it. Many workers believe that they receive something for nothing from the Government when they get these benefits—extually their pread more evenly over the class as a whole. Liberal Country and Labor Parties all support these services, and, whether you vote

so, they have not seen fit to grant the 40-hour week TO THEIR OWN. EMPLOYEES Furthermore, after sending the Unions to the Court to seek the shorter week, the Government Counsel defined the attitude of the Government as follows:

"The Commonwealth Government was neither supporting nor opposing the application for a 40-hour week," Mr. Stanley Lewis, representing the Commonwealth

"THE SYSTEM OF WAGE-LABOR IS A SYSTEM OF SLAVERY, AND INDEED SLAVERY, WHICH MORE-OVER, GROWS HARDER IN PROPORTION AS THE PRODUCTIVE POWERS OF LABOR ARE DEVELOPED IN SOCIETY, NO MATTER WHETHER THE LABORERS PAY IS BETTER OR WORSE."

KARL MARX,

The Gotha Programme,

"Yes" or "No" will make no difference at all. They are indispensable to modern Capitalism and here to stay.

The Marketing question was voted on in 1937 and defeated. In spite of the dire results forecast if it were not carried. Capitalism continued as before, with little or no changes. Whether it is carried this time or rejected, again, you as worker, will still have to market he only commodity you possess—our ability to work, under the ame conditions. It won't make the slightest difference whether you you "Yee" or "No."

The Industrial Employment proposal is the one which the Labor Covernment maintains it needs if it is to interfere with wages and hours, and working conditions seemently. They infer that if this is granted wages will be increased and hours lessened. "A 'Yea' votemens full employment and a fair data for every worker," any the "Labor Cail" (1/8.448). The sincrity of the Labor Government can be seen when we realise that, although there is no question of them not having the power to do

Government, told the Full Asbitration Court yesterday, Judge-Kelly asked Mr. Lewis: "Then I take it you are neutral?" "No." your Honor, we are not neutral." Mr. Lewis replied. "It would be abund to suggest that a Labor Government would be anything but friendly to labor reform, but to say that the Commonwealth is supporting the claim is absolutely wrong." ("Sun." 20/5/46.)

[Continued Overleat.

S. O. S. !

We are printing more and the times the usual number of copies for this special election issue! Our funds are low. We depend on working-class support. If you're in sympathy with our work, send us a donation.

Treasurer,
"Socialist Comment."
P.O., Box 1440-M., Melb.

THE REFERENDUM

One month later, Mr. S. Lewis

"The present attitude of the Labor Government and the throughout the control of the window of the labor Government has nothing to do with the whether this court should or should not grant a 40-hour awek. There is an extremely delicate industrial situation. The Federal Government is employing a great many people at 44 clahours a week. "Great", 3/6/46.

The hypocrisy of the Labor vary is thus exposed by its own spokeman: Returned to power stedged to shorten the hours of abor, they hide behind the Constitution, although they have preducity attacked other Governious under the very same Constitution. When pressed by the Dulinos, they foot them off by urging them to go to Court, and as it is ame time refuse to grant the 40 hours to their own employes or you tell the Court that they have a good they have been to go to tell the Court that they have you have y

In the years that are past, the Labor Party always told us, when ever there was a Labor Government, that the Senate was the trouble. "We have not got a majority in the Senate," was the ery; "we are in office but not in sower." Now, when they can no longer hide behind the Senate, they use the Constitution instead And, if the referendum is carried, they will easily find some other

"Full employment and a fair deal for every worker," is now their promise. That promise cannot be fulfilled under capitalism. Preparation for war, war itself, and the atternath of war have provided the proposed of the propo

comer social Services on the crounds of economy.

A fair deal the this system of a composition and parasition. The means of production are owned by a small section—the capitalist class. The workers must sell their isbor-power to this class in order to live. They receive in wages to live. They receive in wages only a portion of the wealth they can be composed to the composition of the wealth they workers get a "fair deal" when they are robbed of the product of fair deal" when they are robbed of the product of setting the control of the product of the product

The Labor Party is a reformist organisation. It is not concerned with the abolition of Capitalism and the establishing of Socialism. It seeks to convince the workers that if only they vote "Yes" and return another Labor Government.

Australia would enter "s golden age" ("Labor Call," 1.8/46). THAT IA ALHE There can be no colored as for the workers to be compared to the colored as for the workers to be colored as the colored as carried or not, whether the Labor Party is returned or not —the class struggle will still go on. Exploited workers and parasite Capitalists will still face one another. As usual, the Labor Party, if returned again, will pose as champion of the working class while administering the capitalist system in the only way it can be administered—in the interests of the capitalist class. THE SOCIALIST PARTY OF

THE SOCIALISM FARTH OF AUSTRALIA maintains that no working class issues are involved in the referencium proposals. We claim that whater the proposals will be called the control of the called th

THEREFORE, the Socialist Party of Australia maintains that it is not in the interests of the working class to vote either "YES" or "NO." One issue, and one issue alone, is worthy of working class support: Socialism. You can use this referendum to reject the two evils offered to you, and at least profest against this rotten system by writing "SOCIALISM" across the ballot paper. Then, when you understand the choice before you, come and Join us in more positive

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SOCIALIST PARTY OF AUSTRALIA. Melbourne, September 1st, 1946.

HOW WILL YOU VOTE?

Fellow Worker,

In the coming elections you and I will have the opportunity of telling our masters just what we think of the marvellous Post-war world we used to hear so much about. That is our right, as clitzens of a Democracy. What we could do with that right, if only enough of us thought about it!

Unfortunately for the working class, the people who own Australia are very well aware of the power of the Ballot Box, and go to great pains and expense to ensure that, whatever else we do with our vote, we leave Capitalism

intact.

On Election Day most of the workers who flock to the local school or church hall and take their "How to Vote" oards from the men at the door, will only glance at them to make sure of the preference numbers. The Press

and the Radio, the screaming hoardings and the little handbills will have done their work, and No. I will already be decided upon.

others will look helplessly from one card to another, and think.

"Well, I don't know, I wonder if anyone would notice if I tossed a nearby."

What are you going to do? Whom do you want to govern you? Not represent you! Don't fall for that one! Govern is the word!

one! Govern is the word!

Do you want a Labor or a Librari Government? A Country Party or a "Communist" Government? You simply mark your ballot paper as the appropriate card prescribes, and what the majority of you want, you will get.

The excitement and the shouting will die down, and the victorious party will take office. They might even set to work to honor some of the promises they made an unlikely contingency, but we will suppose they do. What difference will it make to us, the work-

All that any of these parties have promised to do is to administer Capitalism. You have been asked to vote for one question and one question only: HOW shall Capitalism be administered? BY WHOM shall it be administered?

You will give your answer, and the victorious party will have the mandate to continue the present system, in the interests of the particular section of Capitalists it represents.

Capitalism can be recognised anywhere by the two sides of the medal: Capital and Wage-Labor. Capital can take the form of private, direct ownership of factories, mines, railways, all those thinge that go to make the "means of production." or it can be indirect, by means of Government Bonds, and State ownership, as in Russia. The two forms can exist side by side—private firms and State rail-ways and coalmines,—as they do in Australia.

That's one aspect. The other factor, which exists whatever the superficial form may be, is that the vast majority of the people can only live by working for wages. These are the Working Class. You and I and the next chap. We are the class that makes all the wealth that is produced, the shoddy for ourselves, and the best for our masters. It is members of the Working Class who administer production, who stack the wealth production, who stack the wealth produced in warehouses, earry 11 from place to place in trains and ships and planes, who cell it over the counters all over the world, and tamely hand the profits over to the class that owns the factories, and the stores, and the

We are the class that goes on revershily producing until producing the control of the control of

To Record Your Opposition to Capitalism, Write Socialism Across Your Ballot Paper

tories and warehouses, and give the keys to the owners. A "Trade Depression" is upon us. Wages of employed workers are reduced by taxation. This is done to relieve the Capitalists of taxation and help to provide the dole for the unemployed. Charity organisations that the control of the cont

This crazy state of affairs can last for years before the balance begins to swing the other way, and "trade beings to pick up."

The only time that anything approaching a balance can be maintained is during a war. The Capitalism expands, and unemployment practically disappears.

Capitalism expands, and unemployment practically disappears. And to pay for this doubtful boon, the working class suffer hardships and privations that beggar description, separations, loneliness and bereavement, mutilation and death.

Whether the working class or the capitalist class hate war or not is immaterial. It is an inevitable part of the Capitalist struggle for markets and raw materials. International conferences are staged, treaties are signed, charters agreed upon, smiles, back-slapping, everybody happy—then—treaties broken, talks fail, conferences break down, crisis.

And ours is the class that is called upon, by the party we have chosen to govern us, to provide the weapons and the men to kill people with whom we have no personal quarrel, in defence of our Capitalist Class, which has robbed us systematically all our lives!

You KNOW this is what hap-

You KNOW this is what happens! You have lived through it! It will go on happening as long as the basic conditions that give rise to it exist. Well, what about it? Do you want more of it? Be cause this is all that any party or independent standing in this election can offer you. The trimmings mean nothing. If you cast your vote for the Labor, Liberal, Country or "Communist" party, you cast your wote for the continuance of Capitalism. YOU THEN VOTE FOR DEPRESSIONS, UNEMPLOYMENT, POVERTY, AND MASS MURDER, AND HAVE NO KROK COMMING WHEN YOU GET.

All right! If you want it—vote for it! Or have you, like us, had enough of this rotten system? If

so, what can you do at this election? You can't vote for Socialist candidates, there are none
standing. Why you will ask, all
this talk, when we have no candidate? Simply because YOU
want, as yet, no candidates for
Socialism. If you want them, and
desire to vote for Socialism, well,
you have to understand it and,
having understood it, help us actively to turn the handful of
ment tomorrow. At the semi-movement tomorrow. At the semi-movement tomorrow. At the semi-movement tomorrow at the semi-movement tomorrow at the semi-movement tomorrow. At the semi-movement tomorrow at the semi-movement tomorrow at the semi-movement tomorrow at the semi-movement tomorrow at the semi-movemove the semi-movemovemove-movemove-movemove-movemove-movemove-movemove-movemove-movemovemove-movemov

for something you do not want. But don't stop at that Take positive action! Get in touch with the Socialist Party of Australia. Come to our meetings, read our literature. Write to our "Press Service" which will answer your objections. Argue it out with us. If we can convince you that Socialism is the only solution to all these miseries, get into the struggle with us.

THE PARTIES

For too many years the working class have only thought about the matter a week before the elections, and then pinned their faith in one or the other of the Capitalist parties standing. The small farmer, woosed as the "backbone of the nation," relies on the COUNTRY PARTY to look after his interests. Both the Knonrable Member for the cure, is more concerned with the big pastoral interests than with the Bill Smiths whose votes elected him.

The LIBERAL PARTY makes suave overtures to the Working Class at election time, because the working class constitutes the majority of the voters, and they cannot assume office without our consent. What are the real aims of this party, the party of big busi-

(1) "Favoring the principles

that wages should be the highest and conditions the best that the industry concerned can provide, and that good work is the essential condition of good pay, we shall conduct a constant educational campaign against the doctrine that the interests of employer and employe are opposed . . . (2) . . . the encouragement of production by payment by results. Increased more efficient and cheaper production . . . Removal of re-strictions which prevent a man doing his best and giving high production (9) All strikes or lock-outs occurring in the course of industrial disputes waiting settlement or against a decision of the appropriate tri-bunal to be illegal. Penalties

against organisations to be recoverable by attachment of organisation funds."

From "Draft Platform of the Liberal Party of Australia," January, '46. Section, "Industrial," p. 6).

In plain language, the party of big business proposes that profits come first, that you should work harder, have your wages cut, do piece work, have no strikes. (The bit about the lock-outs, etc., is pure window dressing.)

PARTY, save the name, also appeals for your person of the person of the

Any Labor supporter over 18 should remember the shouling of striking whart laborers under Labor Premier, E. J. Hogan, in 1928; the Queensland Railway strike of 1927, etc. Labor Party policy has not wavered all through —even the youngest voter remembers who introduced military and labor conscription.

In spite of their shadow boxing, the Liberal and Labor parties are fundamentally alike. As a matter of fact, neither Chiffey nor Menzies can relish the thought of winning this election and having to administer Capitalism when the next depression comes!

That the two parties are much the same has been admitted by many pro-Labor writers: To quote

"It seems fair to say that on the whole the Curtin Labou Government in 1941-43, and the second Curtin Government from August, 1943, did not put into operation are of the composition which an intelligently led U.A.P.-U.C.P. government would have espoused" (p. 194).

(Quote from "A Short History of the Australian Labor Movement," by Brian Fitz-

What of the Labor Party's occasional lip-service to "Socialism?"

"At the ALP, Federal Conference, held at Canberra in December, 1943: 'A motion from the Gracefield (Q.) Branch, asking Conference to declare that a conference to declare that the conference to declare the commended on the ground that it was irrelevant to the party platform. It was pointed out that the party objective was "socialisation" and that there was no provision in the platform for total socialism." (Melbourne "Argus," 15/12/43, quoted by Brian Fitzpatrick in "The Rich 54 our emphasis.)

Enough has been said to show that the Labor Party serves as an instrument of the ruling class, and does their dirty work just as well as the Liberals. Remember: He who serves the master, cannot serve the slave!

The "COMMUNIST" PARTY who can change their policy and tac-tics at the drop of the hat to suit Russian foreign policy, pays lip service to Socialism. Their real aim, however, is entirely opposed to Socialism.

It is State Capitalism on Russian It is State Capitalism on Russian lines, with themselves as the foundation of a new privileged class. At the moment, having taken a 'left' turn, they pose once on militants' - felling the workers to fight for hard won conditions and awards WHICH COMMOS HEIPED TO BREAK DOWN DURING THE WAR YEARS. Fifteen years ago they demanded a 30-hour week; they demanded a 30-hour week; loday they ask for a 40-hour week. Such is the "progress" of these "militants" They appeal to you with a programme of immediate demands similar to those of the Labor Party. Their candidates are hand-picked "personalities."

* EVERY VOTE FOR THE LIBERAL, COUNTRY, LABOR OR "COMMUNIST" PARTY IS A VOTE FOR CAPITALISM

e Companion Socialist Parties the World have always held that no reform under Capitalism can lift us out of our status as wage slaves. That the very best that Capitalism can offer the vas-majority, between wars and de-pressions, is that we be allowed to work and battle with our masters over hours and conditions.
Which is a pretty shoddy deal for
a class whose intelligence and skill
produces all the wonders of modern industry!

We have one immediate demand—in season and out, we demand SOCIALISM, nothing less. We want a system where every able

bodied adult will be expected to take part in producing the goods that Society needs goods that will be produced for no other reason than that Society needs them; goods to which every human being shall have equal right of access.

That system is Socialism. Instead of running the world for the Capitalists, mankind will then run it for the benefit of mankind.

Capitalism has served its ose; it has brought production to the point where, stripped of the profit motive, it could provide a full life for every human being. The means of production MUST

BE MADE COMMON PROPERTY

The longer they are left in the hands of an unscrupulous minority the greater the danger to man-kind as a whole. The latest weapon of mass-murder, the Atomic Bomb, poses the alternative more urgent-ly than ever before: Socialism—or Social Extinction?

When enough of the working class want it. Socialist candidates will stand. You can help to make it the next election. When we have a majority of Socialists in a majority of the countries of the world, we shall get Socialism.

A tall order? None know that better than the members of the Socialist Party of Australia. The Companion Socialist Parties of the World have gone a little way in a long time, trying to make their voices heard above the din of the Capitalist propaganda machine, the press, the radio, and the pulpit.

But in that long time we have become convinced that there are no short cuts. Working Class no short cuts. Working class understanding is the only way, and when the working class understand they will have no use for any "leaders". There can There can be no betrayals.

Dont be appalled at the magni-tude of the task! Be appalled instead at the horror of Capit-alism, and resolve to do your best to end it.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SOCIALIST PARTY OF PARTY OF AUSTRALIA Melbourne, Sept. 1st, 1946.

TREASURE STREET, STREE LECTURES

MELBOURNE.

Tuesday, Sept. 10th: "Social-ism and the British Tradi-tion" (S. Willis).

Tuesday, Sept. 24th: "The Elections" (H. Holmes). Other Tuesdays: Branch Meetings. Open to Public. Meetings. Open to Public All activities at: Temper-ance Hall, Russell Street, 8 p.m. Debate: "Is the Refp.m. Debate; "Is the Re-crendum a working class issue?" Yes, Mr. K. D. Kenafick, Sec. No Con-scription Campaign, Ne: Y. London, S.P.A., Sun-day, Sept. 15th, S. p.m., in Temperance Hall

Lectures advertised "Age," Saturday, "Meetings"

NEW ZEALAND.

Auckland: Economic and Discussion Class, every Monday, 730 p.m., Car-penters' Union Rooms, Union Bank of Australasia Bldgs., East Street and

Karangohape Road.
Petone: Watch local Press! All Lectures, etc., free. Ques-tions, Discussion. Come

AUSTRALIAN BRANCHES.

S.P.A. SYDNEY: P.O. Box 2291, G.P.O. Meets fort-nightly, Tuesdays, Room 99, Station House, Rawson Place, Public invited.

S.P.A.—MELBOURNE: P.O. Box 1440-M. Meets every Tuesday. See "Lectures." Same and the same

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OBJECT.—The establishment of a system of society based upon the common ownership and democratic control of the means and instruments for producing and distributing wealth by and in the interest of the whole commonity.

The Sofalist Parties of Australia and New Zealand hold.

1. That society as at oresent constitutes is based used the ownership of the mans of iven (i.e. in January 1988), and the envergence of the product of the consequent conslavement of the working class, by whose labour alone wealth is produced.

2. That in society, therefore, there is an antagonism of the manufacting tief as a class strungle between these who medice but do not nesses.

3. That this antagonism can be abolished only by the enamentation of the working class from the domination of the master class, by the conversion into the common reconstant of the common reconstant of the common reconstant in the working class will involve the emancial class in the labour of social evolution the working class in the index of social evolution the working class in the index of social evolution the common class is the last class to achieve its freedom, the emancial of all manking the three distribution of a labour common constant in the working class will involve the emancial of all manking the manufaction must be the work of the The Socialist Parties of Australia and New Zealand hold:

5. That this emancipation must be the work porking class itself.

6. That as the machinery of government, including the armed forces of the nation, exists only to conserve the

monopoly by the capitalist class of the wealth taken from the workers. The working class must organise consciously and collicative for the conquest of the powers of covernal control of the courselon of the agent of emanciastion and the overthrow of privilege, aristocratic and sufficiently. The control of the courselon of the c freedom.

Those agreeins with the above principles and desiring enrolment apply to nearest address.