

# People's Conference To Answer Menzies' Threat

The opening of the Federal Parliament on February 22 draws near, the tide of public feeling against the threatened anti-Communist ban keeps on rising.

The Council for Democratic Rights has called a conference of all organisations desiring to defeat the ban on the evening of February 23 in the Kelvin Hall, Collins Place.

This was announced yesterday by the secretary of the Council (the Rev. Frank Hartley.)

## UCHS FRAMED TO INTIMIDATE SCIENTISTS

Dr. Klaus Fuchs (38), one of Britain's leading atomic scientists, is being framed as a spy by British and American warmongers.

The object of the frame-up is to intimidate nuclear scientists among whom there is a growing revolt against America's monstrous atomic war preparations.

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Menzies will receive a further answer to his threatened ban when the Council holds a mass rally of Melbourne citizens planned to follow the conference.

Mr. Broadby, Secretary of the Australian Council of Trade Unions, said earlier that 90 per cent of the workers were opposed to banning of the Communist Party (Herald, January 5). This is more than confirmed by factory meetings and by Guardian interviews with factory workers approached at random.

Workers' hatred of the ban proposed by Mr. Nicol, retiring Federal President of the A.W.U., strongly attacked it in a speech last week at the A.W.U. Convention. Speaking from an anti-Communist viewpoint, he yet emphasised that the union would not co-operate if the Menzies Government introduced legislation banning Communists from holding union office.

He remarked that, if it were possible to destroy the A.W.U. this would be one of the best methods the Government could use.

Four Labor Party leaders of unions, a leading clergyman and a well-known author have made outspoken statements to The Guardian this week against Menzies' banning policy.

These follow on statements previously published from Mr. Crofts (Gas Employees' Union), Mr. Divers (Municipal Employees' Union), Mr. McNulty and Hill (Sheet Metal Workers), Mr. Brebner (Paper Mill Employees), Mr. Brown (Furnishing Trades Union), Mr. Gordon (Bakers' Union), the well-known authors Leonard Mann and Frank Dalby Davison, and Rev. David Munro.

## New Pamphlet On Royal Commission

"COMMUNIST Leaders Speak," a new Communist Party threepenny pamphlet, will be on sale next week.

It will contain extracts from the evidence of Mr. E. Hill, State Secretary of the Party, Ralph Gibson, J. J. Brown and others before the Royal Commission on Communism.

Presented without comment, this evidence is still a powerful vindication of Communist policy and methods. It gives the public what the Press tried to hide, submerge or distort by false headlines.

All extracts are short. A wide range of subjects is covered. From the defence of democracy to Communist morality, from work in the unions to the Royal Commission itself.

Sold in large numbers now, the new pamphlet will be an important weapon in defeating the threatened ban of the Menzies Government.

### CZECH TOBACCO (4/- A POUND) AVAILABLE FOR AUSTRALIA

LONDON.—Sir Alexander Maxwell, chief advisor on tobacco to the Board of Trade, was told by Mr. Perry Belcher, general secretary of the Tobacco Workers' Union, of an offer by Czechoslovakia of 200,000 lb. of their tobacco for immediate delivery. The tobacco is called "Haky" and would be sold at about 4/- a lb. The offer of tobacco in shops here is 56/- a lb. The offer is a result of inquiries made by Mr. Belcher when he was recently in a Prague hospital after an accident when attending a Czech trade union conference in the city. It is a surplus from the 1948 crop. Inquiries made in London show that similar cheap tobacco would be available for the Australian market from East European countries.

## Fighter For Peace Has Been Four Months In Jail



### FREE SHARKEY

THOUSANDS HAVE SIGNED a petition to the Attorney-General for release of Communist leader Lance Sharkey in the interests of free speech. The Victorian Release Sharkey Committee says public response to its collection cards has been most generous.

Picture shows one of the innumerable signs workers have painted up around Melbourne.

The Release Sharkey Committee here is seeking to hire the Melbourne Town Hall on March 3 for a public rally. The circumstances of Mr. Sharkey's jailing will be presented by Mr. Kevin Healy, West Australian party leader, who was recently acquitted of the same charge in a W.A. court. Mr. Healy is touring the Easter States.

## Prominent Writer, Churchman Speak In Party's Defence

BANNING of the Communist Party would be the first step in the curtailment of the freedom of Australians, said well-known author Alan Marshall in a statement to The Guardian.

Mr. Marshall is the author of several books, including the widely-read "These are My People" and "Ourselves Writ Strange." He writes:—

"Fascism does not emerge full-grown in a community. It develops gradually, unrecognized by many people, until the liberties they value are taken from them and concealment of its aims is impossible.

"Fascism never flourishes in a community of free people. To gain power it must suppress, ban, stifle and imprison.

"I feel that in Australia today we are witnessing the development of fascist tendencies, the emergence of dangerous and sinister ideas that could end in our country becoming a fascist state unless the people combine to fight them.

"The banning of the Communist Party would be the first step in the curtailment of our freedom, that freedom which is part of our heritage and for which so many Australians have died.

### CAN'T BAN IDEAS

"Ideas cannot be banned; you can't suppress the thoughts of a people.

"The history of the last 20 years proves that the banning of the Communist Party is the beginning of the banning of all liberal organizations, the attempted suppression of all liberal ideas.

"Australians who value their liberty, no matter what their creed, must unite in fighting any such attempt to deprive fellow citizens of their rights."

## PROVINCIAL THE ASSN. DECLAR AGAINST MENZIES BAN THREE

## "Ban On Party First Step To Fascist Violence"

THE annual conference of the Provincial Trades Hall Council Association held the weekend pledged itself to fight the Menzies Government's proposal to ban the Communist Party.

In fighting speeches delegates declared that the banning of the Communist Party was the first step on road to fascist violence and that it should be rejected at all costs.

They pointed to the example of Germany where the Hitler regime of terror, death camps and war commenced with the outlawing of the Communist Party and the shutting down of the free German trade unions.

Conference also pledged itself to fight for the elementary rights of trade unionists to elect their own officials and take industrial action when necessary.

Mr. A. Richardson, who has figured prominently in the Bendigo THC dispute with big business-backed Right Wing disruptors, was re-elected secretary for the third year in succession.

Delegates vigorously called for united action to obtain a 15 wage without further delay, demanded that the G series on which the basic wage is based, be replaced by an all-idx to allow a fairer method of computing the wage.

Conference adopted a program that all applications for price increases should be heard in public and that the present commission should be replaced by a commission to allow the conf to be held at the THC building.

## CALL TO LABOR SENATORS BY POWERFUL UNION

VICTORIAN State Council of the Railways Union at the weekend called on Labor Senators to oppose vigorously any Menzies Government legislation aimed at interfering with trade unions or at banning the Communist Party.

The Labor Party has a majority in the Senate and can block Menzies from imposing the rule of big business on the people.

It is stated Labor Party policy to oppose political bans such as the Menzies proposals to outlaw the Communist Party.

The Railways Union Council declared that Labor must uphold that policy in the Senate.

It added that any "outlawing" legislation would result in complete industrial unrest.

The Australian Council executive of the A.R.U. which met last week passed similar resolutions.

President Truman's decision to go ahead with the manufacture of the H-bomb was condemned by its members to support to the full the activities of the Australian Peace Council.

The A.P.C. is organizing the peace fight against the warmongers in Australia, and at present has issued thousands of peace ballot-papers. It wants your vote for peace.



ALAN MARSHALL

## UNIONS BANNED FROM MARCH MOVE FOR UNITY

THE Combined Union Committee appeals and is anxious to act unity in the trade movement, the Communist secretary (Mr. A. Creighton) said yesterday.

For this reason it was that union members of the committee be allowed to march with other unions on Labor Day Mr. Cregan.

He said that negotiations proceeding with the Trades Council executive to try and means of rescinding the ban has been imposed on the Coed Unions' Committee.

Mr. Cregan said the Com would do everything it could unity on this question because was imperative that the Labor Movement should be united in the face of the Menzies threat.

## WITNESS SAYS SHARPLEY WAS PAID TO SLUR UNION OFFICIALS

SHARPLEY was paid to slur all members of the Communist Party who held trade union positions, Plumbers' Union organiser Mr. Henry Armstrong told the Royal Commission into Communism this week.

Mr. Armstrong said this in reply to a question from Mr. Lewis (counsel assisting the Commissioner) on why Sharpley had singled him (Armstrong) out.

During his cross-examination of Mr. Armstrong, Mr. Lewis wanted to know how many Communists there were in the Tramways Union.

"Would you have an opinion?" queried Mr. Lewis after he had asked several questions.

To this Mr. Armstrong replied: "I could not have a correct opinion. I could have no more assessment of the number of Communists than I have of how much Sharpley has been paid."

## REVIEW ARTICLE EXPLODES PRICE WAGE "MYSTERY"

THE "prices wages mystery" stated by the capitalist press exploded in the February Communist Review in an article titled "Inflation, Devaluator the Workers' Wage."

Written by that outstanding veteran of the Australian Communist Party, Mr. J. B. Mitchell, the article underlines the "economic" and "discloses truth."

Palumbo Togliatti, leader of the Italian Communist Party, testified of the unity of the working class based on the great experience of the Italian people.

If you want to understand the Right Wing in Australia, read the article by Togliatti.

In the same issue the Premier of the Australian Communist Party (Mr. R. Dixon) writes "The Way to Victory."

The full text of the Communist Review is available in the November session of the Trades Union Congress of the United Nations is included.

Get your copy of the Communist Review today—