

26/54

## 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 international questions involving war and peace, 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, behoove us as unionists to think carefully, to look ahead and to 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 minds of unionists the necessary information. It is a simply and democratically organised body of union delegates, which, at a trifling cost, 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 our work not only enlightening but stimulating in a way not found elsewhere.

Out of such broadly gathered knowledge and wisdom we feel that, as unionists, we can obtain the mental tools with which to prepare and determine politics, fit 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 socialism.

Workers found it necessary to co-operate in trade unions to protect their interests and to improve their conditions as wage earners in industry.

Workers also found it necessary to organise their own political party because political and legal limitations existed which prevented organised unionism from obtaining justice from Governments politically opposed to the workers.

The workers have also found it necessary to establish and support their own educational institutions because the training and outlook 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 institutions 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 May Brodney, Secretary, Box 39, Trades Hall, Melbourne. Phone: WX 1686.



The Industrial Printing and Publicity Co. Ltd., 24 Victoria Street, Carlton, N.3.

## 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

**Labor History and Politics:** Weekly — Beginning Tuesday, March 22. Class Leader: E. Tripp.

**Economics:** Weekly—Beginning Wednesday, March 23. Class Leader: H. Lahy.

**Industrial History:** Weekly—Beginning Thursday, March 24. Class Leader: Miss M. Holdsworth.

**Public Speaking and English:** Fortnightly—Beginning Monday, June 6. Class Leader: T. W. Brennan.

### 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

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# VICTORIAN LABOR COLLEGE

## 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 analyse political events and to apply correct tactics for the progressive development of the Labor Movement.

The subjects include:—

- (1) Important events of the past and their bearing on modern political struggles:—
  - (a) Industrial revolution; (b) the great French revolution; (c) stormy struggles of 1848; (d) Paris Commune.
- (2) Development of Socialist theory:—
  - (a) Utopian Socialists; (b) Reformism; (c) Socialism of Marx and Engels; (d) conflicting theories in the First International.
- (3) History and theoretical controversies of Russian revolution:—
  - (a) History of Bolsheviks; (b) 1917 revolution; (c) formation of Third International; (d) the cry of permanent revolution and socialism in a single 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. Employers' Enterprises: Individual Firms, Companies, Trade Organisations, Amalgamations, Trusts, etc.
3. Employers' Organisations.
4. Interest, Rents, Profits, etc.

**IV.—The Productive Process**

1. History of the Process—
  - (a) Pre-Capitalist; (b) Capitalist.
2. The requirements and organisation of production today.
3. Incentives to production.

**V.—The Product of Industry**

1. The Commodity.
2. Its Value and Price.

**VI.—Money and Money Reform**

1. Money.
2. Credit.
3. The Gold Standard.

**VII.—Crises**

1. Inflation and Deflation.
2. Depressions.

**VIII.—Monopolies**

**IX.—Banks, International Trade and Foreign Exchange**

**X.—What Unionists 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 English Background**

- (a) Before and after the Industrial Revolution; (b) English Trade Unionism; (c) Conditions of the Workers.

**II.—The Foundation of Australia.**

- (a) Convict Period; (b) Wool; (c) Gold; (d) Other Industry; (e) Union Beginnings.

**III.—The Nineties.**

- (a) Strikes; (b) Bank Crash; (c) Politics.

**IV.—Federation.**

**V.—The Industrial Changes, 1914-18.**

**VI.—Industry and Unions between the Wars.**

**VII.—1939-45.**

- (a) Industry; (b) Unions; (c) Political Relations; (d) Promises.

**VIII.—Legal Protection of Workers.**

- (a) Wages; (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. Ex-students from previous years may be enrolled. This is to ensure that all students will be able to undertake practical work from the beginning of the class. Many are anxious to be effective speakers, but the first essential 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 at their ease in addressing the class, and even if you have had previous difficulty in addressing meetings, you will find that this difficulty is soon overcome, provided that you are familiar with your subject.

You will receive points 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.