

Sundberg Box 1 (iv)

OBJECT:
...ent of a system of
... upon the common
... and democratic control of
... and instruments for pro-
... and distributing wealth by and
... interests of society as a whole.



COMPANION PARTIES

Socialist Party of Canada
Socialist Party of Great Britain
Socialist Party of New Zealand.
Workers' S.P. of U.S.A.

SYDNEY BRANCH
BOX 2291, G.P.O., SYDNEY, N.S.W., AUSTRALIA.

Box. No. 2291.
G.P.O. SYDNEY.

30th April, 1958

The Secretary,
Melbourne Branch,
Socialist Party of Australia,
P.O. Box. No. 1440.
MELBOURNE.

Dear Comrade,

I herewith enclose a copy of a Report on Activities of the Sydney Branch of the S.P.A. covering the period December 56 - December 57.

This report was sent to the recent Easter Conference of the S.P.G.B., and it was decided by the Branch to circulate it to the Companion Parties.

Yours for Socialism,

P. Bryant

P. BRYANT
SECRETARY

encl:-

REPORT ON ACTIVITY DECEMBER 1956 - DECEMBER 1957:

From December 1956 to April 1957, this Branch continued to hold the indoor meetings which were inaugurated in August 1956. The average attendance at these meetings was between 15 - 20.

We have been holding regular outdoor meetings in the Sydney Domain ever since Comrades Brown, Taylor and Thorburn (all ex-SPGB) arrived in Sydney from New-Zealand. Literature sales at these meetings have been good, and the total sales figure, covering both indoor and outdoor meetings, is appended.

Our May-Day propaganda was greatly assisted by a duplicated sheet entitled "THE REAL MEANING OF MAY-DAY" which was rather hastily produced and of which approx. 1,000 copies were distributed in the Sydney Domain. Proof of its impact was indicated, albeit rather belatedly, only a few weeks ago when a Communist speaker in the Domain accused one of our members, who was interjecting from the audience, "of putting out a leaflet against the workers on May-Day".

At about the same time, the Branch submitted a letter to "The Sydney Morning Herald" outlining its attitude towards the so-called "Democratic Socialism" of the Australian Labour Party, following a vague expose of this latest creed by the Party's Federal President, Mr.F.Chamberlain. This letter was not published.

It was not long afterwards however, that Dr. John Burton of the A.L.P. addressed a meeting in Sydney on "Democratic Socialism" at which some of our members vigourously attacked Labour Party views. It was the general opinion, even amongst many A.L.P. 'ers, that the lecture was exceptionally poor ————— a possible reflection on the impasse which the Labour Party has reached.

Organizations which have been addressed by our members include The United Associations of Women; The Rationalist Association (twice) The Prison Reform Association, and a new addition to Sydney's Political discussion circle, The Socialist Forum (twice)

The latter-mentioned Organization sprang into existence on the occasion when Dr. Burton addressed the meeting mentioned previously. Following this, the Forum was organized on more positive lines, and since its function has been to provide a platform for discussion on topics of importance to Socialists real and unreal, our Branch decided to endorse representation on the Forum Committee.

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We have twice addressed meetings sponsored by this Forum - one on "WHAT IS SOCIALISM" the other "IS RUSSIA SOCIALIST?" This latter topic was originally planned to be debated between one of our representatives, and a representative of the Communist Party. The Communist Party refused to even acknowledge the invitation, and the debate degenerated into a symposium consisting of three speakers.

We have made a definite impression on the audience at every meeting of the Forum, as our point of view is always put forward in discussion, whilst literature has been sold as well. We feel, however, that the Forum meetings are failing to attract politically uncommitted people, and in order to counter this tendency, we are present considering the possibility of re-commencing the indoor meetings.

We also organized a study group on Marxian Economics which ran for approximately five months last year --- and attention is being drawn to running further classes sometime in 1958.

At present, this Branch is composed of 17 members -- a small group, but very active. We have decided against the paying of Party dues, preferring instead that each member contributes to Party funds at his own discretion.

In the literary field, we have not yet started to produce any duplicated commentary. However, we hope to make use of a forum-like magazine called "OUTLOOK", which has been requesting contributions from our members.

Our Branch sent a tape-recorded greeting to the Boston Conference of the World Socialist Party. The actual recording created much enthusiasm amongst members, and we were all pleased to see a reference to this message in an article on the Conference by Gilmac, which appeared in the November issue of the "Socialist Standard". We are also awaiting tape-copies of recordings made by SPGB lecturers at classes in London. These are being prepared for us by the W.S.P.

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TOTAL NUMBER OF "SOCIALIST STANDARD" SOLD FOR TWELVE MONTHS ENDED DECEMBER 1957:	545
TOTAL NUMBER OF "WESTERN SOCIALIST'S" SOLD FOR TWELVE MONTHS ENDED DECEMBER 1957:	65
TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTY PAMPHLETS SOLD FOR TWELVE MONTHS ENDED DECEMBER 1957:	330
TOTAL NUMBER OF NON-PARTY PAMPHLETS SOLD FOR TWELVE MONTHS ENDED DECEMBER 1957:	58

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RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT:
FOR TWELVE MONTHS ENDED DECEMBER 1957:

RECEIPTS:

Cash in hand			
1/Jan. 1957	...	31	15 2
To.Lit. sold	...	28	3 2
Bound Vols	...	16	17 9
Donations	...	30	17 1
Subscriptions	...	4	4 0
Collections	...	23	16 8
<u>TOTAL:</u>		<u>£135.13.10.</u>	

PAYMENTS:

By. Lit. Bought	...	27	18 7
Bound vols	...	16	17 9
Storage Platf	5	0 0
Prtg & Staty.	...	4	12 3
Advertisements	...	9	16 0
Recording Tape	...	2	0 0
Postage	...	4	4 8
Rent of Hall	...	12	7 6
Cash in Hand			
31/Dec. 1957	...	52	17 1
<u>TOTAL:</u>		<u>£135.13.10.</u>	

P. Bryant
P. BRYANT..SECRETARY.