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# DEFEAT MENZIES' FASCIST BILL

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**T**HE Communist Party Dissolution Act, 1950, concerns all citizens. Under this Bill, the Menzies Government aims to dictate the most intimate details of your life—it is literally a thought-control Bill—a Bill to prepare the way for aggressive war.

It is not mere abuse to say that Mr. Menzies has taken his place alongside Hitler, because Mr. Menzies is doing precisely what Hitler did—this is a Hitlerite Bill.

Fascism means the ruthless dictatorship of big business—means the throwing away of all democratic forms.

Indeed, Mr. Menzies is an avowed and unashamed admirer of Hitler. One of his most prominent supporters—Liberal Member for Chisholm, Mr. W. S. Kent Hughes—is the author of articles entitled “Why I Am a Fascist.”

It is well to remember what Mr. Menzies said: “There is much in the Nazi organisation of Germany to admire; we cannot talk of destroying Hitlerism or shooting Hitler.” (22/4/40)

### MR. MENZIES MEANS WAR

And Mr. Menzies has the same aims as Hitler—namely war preparations.

Mr. Menzies himself, in introducing the Bill declared: “... We are not, except in a technical sense, at peace.” Mr. Menzies openly says that constitutionally his Bill stands or falls on the Commonwealth's power over defence—in short, a war measure. His speech was very economic with the truth—he freely indulged in fraudulent misrepresentation of the Communist Party's position.

What is the war for which Mr. Menzies is preparing?

The war for which Mr. Menzies is preparing will in no way advance the interests of Australian people; a war for which he has already promised conscription of Australia's young men; it is a war determined by American millionaires—American guns and Australian sons. For did not the American Congressman Clarence Cannon say: “U.S.A. must be prepared to equip soldiers of other nations and let those nations send their men into the holocaust so that we won't have to send our own boys. . .”

That war is clearly to establish American domination of the world—to crush Soviet Russia—despite the advocacy by that country of disarmament, a complete ban on the atomic bomb and the conclusion of a peace pact of the five major powers—U.S.A., Russia, Britain, France and China. And it is a war in which Mr. Menzies has promised his American masters full Australian participation.

### AMERICAN ORDERS

Is not Mr. Spender, Australia's Minister for Foreign Affairs, a director of the gigantic American rubber monopoly, Goodyear? Before the election, did not Mr. Menzies spend days in America closeted with American big businessmen? Did not the American monopolists hail his election as a victory for themselves? Has there not been an endless procession of American admirals, generals, diplomats to Australia? Do they come here to play marbles? Does not the F.B.I. boast that in every country in the

world it has a complete dossier of all progressive people? Do not the members of Mr. Menzies' party advocate that Australia be the 49th American State (Mr. W. S. Kent Hughes, “Argus,” 24/3/50), and do they not advocate the ceding of Cape York to America? Do they not plan to wage war on the Malayans who are struggling for freedom?

How are any of these things conceivably in the interests of Australians? Surely the Australian people desire only peace and freedom—surely they want none of these sordid plans.

But Mr. Menzies is hell-bent on war—war for his American masters.

### WAR ON THE PEOPLE

To involve Australia in it, he must wage war on the Australian people. He must crush the champions of peace and democracy. He must lower Australian living standards even further.

In the forefront of the defence of peace and living standards stand the Communist Party and the trade unions (particularly those under Communist leadership). They have prevented the sending of arms to crush the Malayans (just as they prevented the export of scrap iron to Japan in a previous situation). These mighty unions have declared themselves in defence of peace; have declared that they will take action to impose peace upon the Menzies and the Spenders.

That is their crime—the defence of peace.

### THE MAIN DEFENDERS OF PEACE

How does Menzies propose to go about destroying the main defenders of peace? He proposes to suppress the Communist Party and remove Communists from official trade union positions. He said that the Communists had been elected leaders of a number of powerful unions, and had tremendous influence.

Mr. Menzies' aim is to destroy the independence of the trade unions—no longer can they elect to official positions the people of their own choosing. It follows that the people elected will be people acceptable to Mr. Menzies; Mr. Menzies has said so; his whole scheme depends on it.

In Nazi Germany, there was a tame “trade union movement” known as a Labor Front; is the Menzies trade union movement much different?

### THE CENTRAL ISSUE

The central issue is therefore banning the Communist Party and destroying trade union independence. There are those who say let us approve the principle of banning, but let us remove the more objectionable features. That attitude can only result in disaster.

It is tampering with the non-essentials while leaving the central core—it is like treating a raging cancer with aspirin.

Those who support that attitude are putting beyond their own power the possibility of fighting the Act.

Because the very purpose of that Act is to crush the centre of the opposition immediately—that is the Communist Party

Mr. Menzies. They are assisting him to carry into effect the principle he so ardently desires by throwing dust in the eyes of the people.

The very fact that his Bill itself aims to dispose of the Communist Party and of Communist trade union officials is proof positive that he intends to use his powers ruthlessly. He could not take the risk of leaving a free Communist Party and a free and independent trade union movement while he disposed of his other opponents, because the Communists and independent trade union movement are the guarantee that all others would be protected.

They are the people who stand in defence of peace; they are the people who have thwarted and will continue to thwart the frantic Menzies war preparations taken on the orders of American millionaires.

### PARALLEL WITH HITLER

Hitler himself embarked on the same course. Hitler came to power in Germany in January, 1933; he immediately banned the Communist Party; in the first week of May, 1933, he banned the whole trade union movement; in the second week in May he banned the Labor Party; over the years of Nazi rule, all opponents of Hitler were railroaded to concentration camps; in August, 1939, Hitler launched the most terrible war in all history.

### THE BILL ITSELF

Let us glance then at the crux of the Bill, Sections 4, 5, 7, 9 and 10.

The first of those is Section 4, Sub-Section (1) which reads:

Section 4. "The Australian Communist Party is declared to be an unlawful association and is, by force of this Act, dissolved."

And its complement, Section 7, which reads:

"(1) A person shall not—

(a) become, continue to be, or perform any act as, an officer or member of an unlawful association;

(b)

(c) contribute or solicit anything, as a subscription or otherwise, to be used directly or indirectly for the benefit of an unlawful association; or

(d) in any way take part in any activity of an unlawful association . . .

Penalty: Imprisonment for five years.

Section 5. (1) This section applies to any body of persons, corporate or unincorporate, not being an industrial organisation registered under the law of the Commonwealth or a State—

(a) which is, or purports to be, or, at any time after the specified date and before the date of commencement of this Act was, or purported to be, affiliated with the Australian Communist Party;

(b) a majority of the members of which, or a majority of the members of the committee of management or other governing body of which, were . . . members of the Australian Communist Party

(c) which supports or advocates . . . objectives, policies, teachings, principles or practices of communism, as expounded by Marx and Lenin, or promotes the spread of communism, as so expounded; or

(d) the policy of which is directed, controlled, shaped or influenced, wholly or substantially, by persons who

(i) were . . . members of the Australian Communist Party . . . or are communists; and

(ii) make use of that body as a means of advocating, propagating or carrying out the objectives, policies, teachings, principles or practices of communism, as expounded by Marx and Lenin.

(2) Where the Governor-General is satisfied that a body of persons is a body of persons to which this section applies and that the continued existence of that body of persons would be prejudicial to the security and defence of

the Commonwealth or to the execution or maintenance of the Constitution or of the laws of the Commonwealth, the Governor-General may, by instrument published in the Gazette, declare that body of persons to be an unlawful association.

### THE ATTACK ON THE TRADE UNIONS

The next important provisions are Sections 9 and 10.

The material parts provide:

"9. (1) This section applies to any person—

(a) who was, at any time after the specified date and before the date upon which an unlawful association is dissolved by this Act, a member or officer of that unlawful association; or

(b) who is, or was at any time after the specified date, a communist.

(2) Where the Governor-General is satisfied that a person is a person to whom this section applies and that that person is engaged, or is likely to engage, in activities prejudicial to the security and defence of the Commonwealth or to the execution or maintenance of the Constitution or of the laws of the Commonwealth, the Governor-General may, by instrument published in the Gazette, make a declaration accordingly. . . .

"10. (1) A person in respect of whom a declaration is in force under this Act—

(a) shall be incapable of . . . being employed by the Commonwealth. . . .

(b)

(c) shall be incapable of holding an office in an industrial organisation to which this section applies or in a branch of such an industrial organisation. . . .

Reference must be made to the definition of "communist":

"Communist" means a person who supports or advocates the objectives, policies, teachings, principles or practices of communism, as expounded by Marx and Lenin;

(Hence one does not have to be a member of the Communist Party to fall within the definition; an unwitting advocacy of something, for example, wage increases, supported by Marx and Lenin would bring you in . . . .

### DICTATORSHIP—FUHRER MENZIES!

These sections ban the Communist Party and render Communists ineligible to hold trade union office (and certain other functions); they empower the Governor-in-Council (which is merely two or three of Mr. Menzies' ministers presided over by the Governor-General) to declare any body of persons an unlawful association.

This Act establishes a complete control of thought and political action because at any time—and literally by a stroke of the pen (because the Governor-in-Council is a sheer formality)—the Government may crush its political opponents either by declaring an association unlawful or by declaring an individual. It establishes a complete dictatorship with Menzies as the Fuhrer.

### AN END TO PREVIOUS IDEAS OF "JUSTICE"

Let us dispose of the other sections of the Act in a few words. They are machinery sections—brutal, ruthless sections, yes—but dependent upon the main ones indicated above.

All the traditional forms, procedures, liberties are cast aside. The secret police—men who never work in the open—degraded spies—may inform on you. Or your neighbour may quarrel with you and say you are a Communist. You are then declared. The burden is on you—always at your own expense—if you want to prove you have no terrible desire to improve the social order; the burden is on you to show that you wholeheartedly approve

of bad housing, of low wages, of fierce exploitation, of the imprisonment of a democrat and peacelover such as Sharkey, that you approve of this very Bill. Did not Hitler demand unquestioning obedience?

Mr. Menzies himself has threatened Labor Party members with his Act.

If you are an honest decent member of the A.L.P., or of a trade union, as the vast majority of workers are, you can readily fall within the clutches of the Act. Your support of a wage rise—your objection to an overbearing employer—will endanger you. You remember how anyone who questions anything in this society of ours is branded as a "Commo." Mr. Menzies' Bill gives legislative power to this weapon of the employers.

Mr. Menzies' policemen, without any warrant, may come into your house at any time of the day or night—break in—knock the place about—search you, your wife or your children—seize anything they like (because that is what it means) and you have no redress whatever. You remember Hitler!

Retrospective clauses abound. The old tradition against passing laws that operate on past events has gone. You can be jailed for an "offence" committed two years ago—when there was no law against it.

Even Mr. Menzies' own Parliament will never be consulted—so much for the defenders of Parliamentary institutions.

### **AMENDMENT IS NO ANSWER**

Those objectionable features, and there are many others, are not the root of the problem at all. They are there because that is the nature of the Bill: their removal—their amendment does not alter the real position. They are merely incidental to the main purpose of the Bill—the suppression of the Communist Party and the ending of a free trade union movement.

Given the successful suppression of the Communist Party and the destruction of the independence of the trade union movement, Mr. Menzies has secured his main objective; the rest is easy; whether it is accomplished now or later is a matter of indifference to him. Because without a Communist Party and a free and independent trade union movement, the main core of resistance has gone.

Those Labor leaders who are piously proclaiming their intention to amend the Bill are deceiving you. They are playing the part they have always played—they are, in fact, assisting Mr. Menzies. How can any honest man approve the principle of such legislation?

### **THE RECORD OF LABOR LEADERS**

The Labor leaders have largely forfeited any effective resistance; they themselves paved the way for this very legislation. How can men who imprisoned Sharkey for a peace statement effectively mobilise resistance to this latest threat? How can men who introduced the Fund Freezing legislation now lead a struggle against proposals having the same end—the destruction of a free and independent trade union movement? How can the

authors of the Approved Defence Projects Act now rally the opposition to a Bill which is but the logical projection of that legislation? These very men created Mr. Justice Reed's Security Service—Gestapo—which is now about to be given free rein.

Reliance upon these gentlemen leads straight to disaster. And let us remember that among the Labor Party parliamentarians are men such as Mr. Keon (Labor M.H.R. for Yarra), open supporter of the fascist butcher Franco, to name only one.

In all circumstances, the Labor leaders will manoeuvre to divide the people. They will introduce amendments, which, while important, do not touch the main issue; they will make fiery speeches about democracy, but unless the people speak with one mighty voice, these heroes of the Labor Party will stand idly by while this vicious attempt to destroy the great Australian Labor Movement is made.

### **THE ISSUE MUST BE CLEAR**

And this is not to say one word against the great mass of Labor Party members or adherents of the Labor Party, nor against the great mass of trade unionists. It is precisely because the problem is so urgent that all A.L.P. members and supporters, all trade unionists, all Communists must see the issue in its starkest and clearest form.

The genuine revolt that these far-reaching sections have provoked amongst all democrats is a healthy sign. But everyone must see that that revolt remains insufficient, unless it is carried forward into outright rejection of the whole measure.

### **UNITED ACTION NOW**

There is only one thing that can save the Australian people from this fascist measure and the terrible war that it portends—and that is the decisive action of a proud and independent people. All Australians, irrespective of party, religion or any other division, must unite as one against this measure. They must act now—the Labor leaders themselves must be forced (despite their desires) to act against the Bill in its entirety.

### **WHAT IS TO BE DONE**

How must the people act? What can they do?

There are many things they have done and can do. In all struggles against despotism, the Australian people have fought and ultimately won. They have a fine tradition.

Already the Australian people have spoken out against this Bill. Men and women in all walks of life—churches, trade unions, in the Labor Party, the Communist Party, men of independence and prominence. There have been many deputations; many letters and telegrams have gone to Mr. Menzies and other politicians. Men in many instances have stopped work to express their protest against it; more have threatened to go on strike.

All experience shows that unless the struggle against fascism is waged unremittingly; unless each single act of fascism is taken up and fought remorselessly, the would-be fascists will impose fascism upon us.



### **MR. MENZIES' WEAKNESS**

Mr. Menzies is profoundly weak. His much vaunted speech explaining this fascist measure was not that of a strong man nor of a courageous man. It was the speech of a desperately weak and desperately frightened man—a man who could no longer allow even a small measure of democracy to operate—a man who was saying: "No longer can I afford the luxury of argument—I must use the strong arm."

The people's movement has got dangerously strong and Mr. Menzies must resort to desperate measures to deal with it.

Nor does Mr. Menzies lead a united Cabinet. He and Mr. Fadden are bitter enemies—they have each accused the other of stabbing him in the back. Mr. Menzies represents the Australian industrial monopolists; Mr. Fadden the great landowners. Their interests on many things are in conflict. Victorian people in the great struggle against the repressive Essential Services Act proved that a similar Victorian Cabinet was built on shifting sands.

### **THE MIGHTY STRENGTH OF THE PEOPLE**

And the people's movement is no longer silent. A mighty people's movement in defence of peace daily attracts more adherents. The great Peace Congress, representative of more than half a million Australians, held in Melbourne, April 16-19, frightened the Menzies, the Faddens, and the Spenders to death. They rush in with the bludgeon.

A united people can rapidly destroy the Menzies and the Faddens and their American masters—a united people can defend the peace—can defend democracy—living standards. All over the world the common people are rallying to defend peace and freedom—the Australian people are a part of that world-wide movement. All over the world the people are throwing out the Menzies and Faddens of their own countries—all over the world the plans of the warmakers and the destroyers of democracy are being wrecked upon the rock of people's unity.

Australians must play their full part now.

We recall we have drawn the parallel between Mr. Menzies and Adolf Hitler before—let us conclude it—Adolf Hitler's path ended in his own utter destruction.

No people's movement has ever been successfully suppressed; the Communist Party can never be suppressed. This very Bill, sponsored by Mr. Menzies, the greatest enemy Australia ever had, has aroused greater and greater interest in Communism—more and more people are thinking about it.

Let us bring about the destruction of Mr. Menzies and his plans just as effectively as the destruction of Hitler, but without the pain and suffering.

The people are now immeasurably stronger—Australians must protest now—must act now!