

SYDNEY UNIVERSITY LABOR CLUB, POLICY STATEMENT 1959.

WHAT WE ARE: The Labor Club is an organisation of students, staff and graduates of socialist opinion. It is open to socialists of all shades including democratic socialists, Christian socialists, and communists.

ON SOCIALISM: We stand for the co-operative or public ownership of the more important means of production, distribution, and exchange. We believe that only when their present private ownership and use of the profit motive is ended, can there be more equitable distribution of wealth and elimination of privilege and class distinction. While recognising that developments in economic theory make serious capitalist crisis less likely, these developments do not prevent continued attacks on trade union organisation and living standards in general; we therefore state that only the organisation of production along scientific socialist lines can abolish unemployment and give man maximum use of his productive capacity.

We believe that a socialist society will give a greater opportunity for all to develop their talents and capabilities.

CURRENT ISSUES: 1. Peace. Perhaps the most important problem the world has to face today is the question of peace-both because of the danger of a world war and because of the tremendous wastage of the current arms economy.

We regard the awakening of the people of the world to the dangers of war, and largescale campaigns against its slaughters, as the most important immediate steps to prevent the outbreak of a world war.

In particular, we support the present wide campaigns for the cessation of nuclear bomb tests, partly for the above reasons and also because of the harmful effects of nuclear fall-out - and the destruction of nuclear stock-piles, as preliminaries to nuclear disarmament and eventual total disarmament along the lines of Krushchev's proposals for world disarmament in four years.

We also call for further studies of the effects of fall-out and the wider publication of these findings.

However, we recognise that only when there is some form of international control or union, restricting the sovereign rights of individual states, can peace be put on a permanent basis. Even the establishment of socialism throughout most of the world, if unaccompanied by some such union, would of itself not guarantee peace.

2. Self determination. While favouring an end to international anarchy we do not deny the right of all nations to self determination, and we oppose all forms of colonialism or military or economic exploration.

3. Trade unions. We stand for the right of trade union organisation and oppose any attempt to limit the right to strike or the right of unions to control their own ballots and finances. We support the effort of these unions to secure better conditions for the working class.

4. We condemn the present treatment of Australian aborigines and the inactivity of the Commonwealth government on the matter. We call for active Commonwealth assistance, financial and otherwise, to enterprises on the lines of

the West Australian aboriginal co-operatives.

We oppose the present racially biased White Australia policy, and support a quota system containing no implied insult to any ethnic group.

We regard the present educational expenditure as inadequate. We stand for a free educational system available to all regardless of race or social status, and for the extension of knowledge and culture to the community at large. We regard as some of the indispensable preliminaries to this end:-

a) Increased and liberalised Commonwealth scholarships, both ordinary and Mature Age.

b) Scholarships for secondary school pupils.

c) The provision of special educational facilities for those desiring to improve their educational level in later life.

d) Greater funds for education to allow school classes of a reasonable size, adequate staff, and improved school amenities, as urged by the Teachers' Federation.

5. New Guinea. (a) We believe the object of the administration of New Guinea should be to advance native peoples to the position where they can govern themselves as soon as possible.

(b) We recognise the justification of the Indonesian Government's claim to West Irian as part of the Republic of Indonesia, and realise the menace to the Indonesian Republic that is entailed in the existence of a Dutch colony in West New Guinea.

(c) We oppose the continuing colonialism of the Australian Government in Papua and call for the integration of the United Nations Trustee area of New Guinea and Papua as a self-governing state, within twenty years.

ACTIVITIES: The Labor Club participates actively in student affairs through its membership of the Political Clubs Council formed early in 1958. On a less regular basis we co-operate with non-political student bodies when topics or situations of mutual interest arise.

As an affiliate of the Australian Student Labor Federation (A.S.L.F.) we are in a good position to share experiences with inter-state socialist clubs.

Within the University the club arranges discussion groups on socialist issues. Frequently prominent visiting speakers are invited to lead discussion or comment on controversial domestic or world events. Our ideas are presented in the newsheet "Quadwangle".

Labor Club socials are notorious.

Members of the University are invited to join the Labor Club and participate in its activities.