

WHAT ARE THEY DOING TO QUEENSLAND ?

"FIRST, I would like you all to look at the glowing vista of development that lies ahead of Queensland . . . Given the development that we are determined to see, it won't be a matter of finding jobs for men, but finding all the men for all the jobs . . ."

These were the loud words of Queensland Liberal Party leader K. J. Morris in the policy speech for the 1957 State elections by which the Nicklin-Morris anti-labor Government secured office.

Today, less than five years after the Morris speech, reality mocks what he said. Instead of a problem of "finding all the men for all the jobs," there were at the end of March (even on Commonwealth statistics), over 24,000 registered unemployed in Queensland, and Queensland's percentage was the worst of any State in Australia.

Mr. Morris spoke of "the glowing vista of development." But on April 19, 1962, the Courier-Mail quoted an official disclosure that 3180 youngsters in Queensland, months after leaving school, had still not been able to find a job. What sort of "development" is that, when all these youngsters find that they're not wanted?

And this is only one aspect of the record of the Nicklin-Morris Government—the first Tory Government in Queensland since 1932 and in office thanks mainly to the wrecking role of the Industrial Group-National Civic Council-QLP clique headed in Queensland by Gair and Walsh.

Our State of Queensland has a vast area, and an immense natural wealth, and its working people are rich in skills. But everyone can see that Queensland faces serious problems, and these are growing worse. Why?

Such problems can be handled in one of two ways. One way is from the point of view of what is good for Big Business; the other way is from the viewpoint of what is good for the people.

The present State Government approaches every problem from the first point of view. Its starting point is that "what is good for monopoly is good for Queensland." Its whole policy flows from this. It hails each new monopoly invasion of our natural wealth as "development of the State."

The opposite is true. The basic economic and political problems of Queensland can be solved only by approaching them from the viewpoint of what benefits the people. And what stands in the way of real State development is monopoly and its political servants.

On every count, the record of the Nicklin-Morris Government is black indeed. This Government has served the monopolies—both foreign and "home-grown"—above all else, and at public expense.

*Claude Jones, What Are They Doing To Queensland?
The Record of A bushy Government, (1962)*



Oil—but whose?

IN recent months, Queensland has been in the headlines of Australian newspapers because of the dramatic oil-strikes at Moonie. After all these years of Australian dependence on overseas-produced, overseas-owned oil, the Moonie developments offer us a prospect at last of having our own oil.

But if the policy of the Nicklin-Morris Government (and of the Menzies Government) prevails, then it won't be our oil at all; control and ownership of it will be surrendered to monopoly interests, particularly American.

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American control of our oil has the most sinister implications. Last January, a Financial Review article warned that "with all-American control of our resources, the entire program of search, discovery and development of Australia's oil would be in foreign hands, and operated to suit foreign financial and political interests, rather than our own."

But the State Government would have us believe that such a situation is "development"!

Alongside this is the fact that Nicklin & Co., when challenged recently, saw nothing wrong in the Mines Minister himself (Mr. Evans) having 2000 shares in one of the companies (Australian Oil & Gas) directly involved in Moonie.

Even the Courier-Mail—so indulgent towards the Nicklin-Morris Government—said in an editorial on March 16:

"That a Minister for Mines should speculate for his personal profit in any mining enterprise that has to deal with him as a Minister will still appear improper to many people, though the Premier has found it possible to excuse Mr. Evans' 'flutter' . . ."

The Communist Party has constantly warned about foreign control of our oil, and pointed to the alternative. "This oil should be ours" said a Page 1 headline in Guardian (Queensland Communist weekly) in December 1961 immediately after the first Moonie strike. "Save OUR oil from monopoly," said another Page 1 headline in March 1962.

But the Government is deaf to such patriotic calls. The Government accepts a position that, when oil flows in commercial quantities—if it is not sabotaged by the existing oil cartel—the Queensland Government will get a mere 10% of crude oil sales while American Big Business groups will take more than 70%. Even the Middle East oil sheiks get 50% and more from oil—five times what the Nicklin-Morris Government thinks is good enough for our State!

Every sincere person wants to see oil developed here. But the question is: In whose interests is it to be—the interests of the people, or those of the US and other monopolies?

*The disclosure of the Evans oil shareholding had some side-effects. A Sunday Truth article (March 18, 1962) for example referred to "huge parcels of industrial shares allegedly held by some Ministers" and said that "Parliamentary circles have been alive with charges over the last few days that one Minister is a major shareholder of a company which could have some trading connection with his department."



Countries which have the richest oilfields in the capitalist world (Iran, Kuwait, etc.) are notorious for the desperately low living standards of the people. The billions go to the Rockefellers and their associates, not to the people. The oil-rich US State of Texas has poverty almost in the shadow of the derricks. Canada, with a US-dominated oil industry, has one of the world's highest rates of unemployment.

As in these countries, a monopoly-run oil industry in Queensland would bring no boons to the people.

Nor would there even be many jobs. The Financial Review of March 15, 1962, told us:

"Once the initial discovery takes place, the drilling of the structure for production and subsequent transportation are only fractional costs. Labor and related charges are very small indeed."

Aids & abets Menzies' policies

THE Nicklin-Morris Government finds it expedient at times to try to pass the buck to the Menzies Government; for example, accusing Canberra of denying needed funds.

But the Nicklin-Morris Government and the Menzies Government share the same fundamental pro-monopoly policies. To cite just one aspect: the Nicklin-Morris Government fully supports the squandering of huge Federal sums (£200 million and more a year) on war preparations. These war preparations (which go with the aggressive US-directed Canberra policies against other peoples) mean big new profits to the monopolies, at the people's expense.

The Nicklin-Morris Government shares the guilt of the Menzies Government on every count.

Fury at criticism

Placing themselves in opposition to the people's interests on issue after issue, Ministers furiously try to trample over criticism and to intimidate critics. Morris & Co. seize any opportunity to use the Red Bogey to divert attention and confuse the issue.

But it is the Government, not the people, which more and more is becoming confused and divided: Minister versus Minister, Liberals versus Country Party, and other divisions inescapable with a Government doing monopoly's dirty work.

Such divisions add to the prospects of the people being able to bundle this outfit from office.

To do this, the working class needs to unite its ranks and set out to win the support of the farmers and small business people for a progressive policy against monopoly, against Nicklin, Morris, Menzies & Co., for a complete change of policies.

If you want the facts about what is happening in Queensland and other places . . . If you want to know what people are doing to make things better . . .

Then read the—

QLD GUARDIAN

8-page weekly newspaper; published Wednesdays; price 6d. (plus air freight in North Qld.).

Available from—

People's Bookshop, 205 Brunswick Street, Valley, Brisbane, and from individual sellers throughout Queensland.

The alternative

ANY policy which has the interests of Queensland at heart must have, as its starting point, the curbing of the giant monopolies. The monopolies are strong, but the unity of the working people is stronger.

With unity of the people around a genuine anti-monopoly policy, our infant oil industry, metal mining, coal, meat, sugar and other industries could be taken out of the hands of the monopolies and returned to the real producers of the wealth, the workers and farmers.

Government action and control, leading to nationalisation, would turn the millions of pounds' wealth away from enriching the giant monopolies and into solving the great social problems of housing, health, education, transport, jobs, shorter hours and higher living standards for all.

The people of Queensland want a break from the old policy. They are seeking a new progressive policy. The people need a Government which stands for—

★ The right to work.

★ Rising living standards, including higher wages and margins, equal pay, 35-hour week, three weeks' annual leave, price and rent control, better education and more homes.

★ Democratic freedom, including repeal of anti-union penal clauses in laws and awards.

★ Anti-monopoly action to curb profiteering, takeovers and price rings; a capital gains tax, an excess profits tax and other measures including nationalisation of key industries.

★ An active trade policy to protect Queensland's primary industries in the European Common Market negotiations, opening up new markets in Asia and with the Socialist countries. Active support for a Commonwealth Government overseas shipping line. Government finance to be made available to sugar farmers so they can buy the company mills; nationalisation of sugar refineries.

★ Taking-over of the big private road transport companies by the State Government; co-ordination of all forms of transport as a Government enterprise; recognition of the railways as a public utility, for public service.

Any Government which sets out to meet these needs will enthuse the working people into firm support for its actions.

On the other hand, the people will reject those who try to rescue monopoly by dividing the people's ranks. Those who help monopoly in this way include the Liberals and the Country Party

leaders (as the Nicklin-Morris Government story shows), the National Civic Council-QLP clique, and some rightwingers who do this from within the Labor Party and the trade unions, masking their aims behind the dirty old banner of "anti-Communism."

The Communist Party, in working to expose and defeat the Nicklin-Morris Government, will do all in its power to help unite the working people around the forward-moving progressive policy outlined above.

The Communist Party makes that declaration because it stands for real development, for real progress, for the welfare of the people. We are for greater development of all our resources, for new industries, for full employment, for higher standards of life for the workers and farmers who produce society's wealth.

Under Socialism, to which the Communist Party is dedicated, development of resources, and the corresponding lift in the people's standards, proceed at tremendous pace, freed from the brakes and curbs which monopoly imposes.

But Socialism is not the immediate issue. The immediate issue—the purpose of this pamphlet—is to develop new unity, new activity among the ranks of the people against the monopolies who oppress us all and against those who serve monopoly—that is, in particular, the Nicklin-Morris Government in Queensland, and the Menzies Government nationally.

Decisive action against monopoly greed and plunder is the way our State can advance and bring lasting gain to the working people.

In your organisation, discuss and call for action against the monopoly plunder of our resources.

In the interests of all working people, join in the growing movement to get rid of the Menzies Government, to defeat the Nicklin-Morris Government at the State elections within the coming 12 months, and win a genuine policy for the people.

MR. CLAUDE JONES, author of this pamphlet, is Queensland State president of the Communist Party of Australia and is a member of the Party's Central Committee.

Mr. Jones was leader of the Queensland team of Communist candidates in the last Federal election.



THIS pamphlet has been produced, and is offered to people free, because the Queensland State Committee of the Communist Party of Australia considers that the facts it contains, and the proposals it puts forward, are of urgent importance to all Queenslanders.

The Communist Party's stand is: For the people, against monopoly—and against Governments and others who do monopoly's dirty work. The Communist Party exerts its full efforts for the betterment of the lives of the people, for the preservation of world peace, for better wages, jobs, housing and other conditions which can be won even under the existing system. It also strives to lead the people in the advance towards Socialism, which alone can guarantee security and abundance, rid for all time of the choking grip of monopolies, and thus ensure a world free from war and want.

Devoted entirely to the service of the working people, the Party depends on the people for its finance. If you consider this pamphlet, and the aims it advances, important and valuable, will you contribute towards the cost of its production? With such help, the Party will be able to produce more material of this type.

The Party also invites you to buy the Communist newspapers Guardian (Queensland weekly) and Tribune (national weekly) and to read also Party publications such as other pamphlets and the Party's rules, constitution and Program ("Australia's Path to Socialism"). All are available from the People's Bookshop, 205 Brunswick Street, Valley, Brisbane, and from Communist Party members everywhere.

Best of all, we invite you, if you agree with the Party's aims, to join its ranks—for a better life for the people, for peace, for Socialism.

E. A. Bacon,

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