

# Socialist and

In Co-operation with The



# Comment Review

Socialist Party of New Zealand.

**OBJECT.**—The establishment of a system of society based upon the common ownership and democratic control of the means and instruments for producing and distributing wealth by and in the interest of the whole community.

The Socialist Parties of Australia and New Zealand hold:

1. That society as at present constituted is based upon the ownership of the means of living (i.e., land, factories, railways, etc.) by the capitalist or master class, and the consequent enslavement of the working class, by whose labour alone wealth is produced.

2. That in society, therefore, there is an antagonism of interests, manifesting itself as a class struggle, between those who possess but do not produce, and those who produce but do not possess.

3. That this antagonism can be abolished only by the emancipation of the working class from the domination of the master class, by the conversion into the common property of society of the means of production and distribution, and their democratic control by the whole people.

4. That as in the order of social evolution the working class is the last class to achieve its freedom, the emancipation of the working class will involve the emancipation of all mankind without distinction of race or sex.

5. That this emancipation must be the work of the working class itself.

6. That as the machinery of government, including the armed

forces of the nation, exists only to conserve the monopoly by the capitalist class of the wealth taken from the workers, the working class must organise consciously and politically for the conquest of the powers of government, national and local, in order that this machinery, including these forces, may be converted from an instrument of oppression into the agent of emancipation and the overthrow of privilege, aristocratic and plutocratic.

7. That as all political parties are but the expression of class interests, and as the interest of the working class is diametrically opposed to the interests of all sections of the master class, the only party seeking working class emancipation must be hostile to every other party.

8. **THE SOCIALIST PARTIES OF AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND** therefore enter the field of political action determined to wage war against all other political parties, whether alleged labour or avowedly capitalist, and call upon the members of the working class of this country to muster under their banner to the end that a speedy termination may be wrought to the system which deprives them of the fruits of their labour, and that poverty may give place to comfort, privilege to equality, and slavery to freedom.

Those agreeing with the above principles and desiring enrolment, apply to nearest address. (See back page.)

## LABOR AT LOGGERHEADS

### A Conference Comment

During the Easter week-end the Victorian division of the Australian Labor Party held its annual conference. The opening day, Good Friday, was marked by a heated debate on the Federal Labor Government's proposed Preference to Soldiers' Bill. The Labor Party has evidently forgotten its wartime slogan of "economic security for all when victory is won."

The contentious motion was submitted by the Central Executive and the Fibrous Plasterers' Union and was carried by a majority of six. The voting was 109 for, and 103 against. The text of the motion being:—

"Conference endorses the policy of the A.C.T.U. and condemns attempts made by vested interests to divide the nation with political shams such as preference to soldiers. Conference regards the Federal Government's declared intention to introduce preference as a breach of faith with the trade unions and the Labor Party, and a betrayal of thousands of workers who have voluntarily accepted industrial conscription and wage-pegging, and therefore directs its representatives to strongly oppose the implementation of preference to soldiers." ("Labor Call," Melbourne, 5/4/1945.)

Mr. P. J. Cleary, M.L.C., pointed out that "it is the policy of the trade union movement to see that everyone who wants a job shall have a job." How this is to be accomplished under capitalism Mr. Cleary did not explain.

It was contended by supporters of

the motion that Mr. Curtin and his Government had overstepped the mark in proposing the Preference to Soldiers' Bill without consulting the party.

Mr. J. V. Stout President of the Victorian A.L.P., who said "we have swallowed many things, including conscription," stated:

"We believe that the right of the party to determine matters of Labor policy is greater than the right of the Prime Minister to act without the approval of his movement." ("Age," 31/3/1945.)

This statement of Mr. Stout's explains the point at issue the motion being merely a mask, as opponents to the motion pointed out later in the debate, that Victorian A.L.P., including the Central Executive, supported the Dunstan Country Party Government's Preference to Soldiers' Bill in the Victorian State Parliament.

#### THE PRICE OF OFFICE

Mr. Dedman Federal Minister for Post-War Reconstruction who is in charge of the Bill defended the actions of Mr. Curtin and the Federal Government. Mr. Dedman pointed out that

when the Repatriation Act was being revised by the Labor Government in 1943, Mr. A. W. Coles (millionaire chain store director), who, as an Independent, supported the Labor Government, and was one half of its majority of two, insisted on the Government including a preference provision. Mr. Dedman went on to say: "If we had not acceded to Mr. Coles' requirements the Government would have lost his support and would have been thrown out of office." ("Labor Call," 5/4/1945, Italics theirs.)

The fruits of office must be sweet. Mr. Dedman's statement confirms the Socialist contention that the Labor Party is prepared to dispense with any of its so-called principles if it has a possibility of administering capitalism. Capitalism can only be administered in the interests of the ruling class—the capitalist class.

Mr. Dedman caused an uproar when he said "that although there were seven members of the Victorian A.L.P. Executive in the State Parliament the Victorian State Labor Party apparently did not decide to oppose Mr. Dunstan's rotten preference bill." ("Age," 31/3/1945.)

After several interjections Mr. Dedman went on to say:

"The fact remained that the Victorian Labor Party did not oppose the Victorian Bill, and furthermore did not press for a division on the second reading." ("Age," 31/3/1945. Emphasis ours.)

Mr. Dedman's statements expose debate as a sham fight betwixt  
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# A HOBNOBBLING "WOBBLY" Lesson in Labor Kidstake

In the "Sydney Morning Herald" (Woman's page), 23/2/45, there appeared a picture showing Senator Donald Grant and his spouse being "received" by the Duchess of Gloucester at Government House. This event is significant insofar as it reveals to what extent Labor fakirs will go to further their own interest.

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He did not have to wait long, and soon became Labor alderman in the Sydney Council, until Mr. Lang tangled him into the N.S.W. Upper House. However, with the turn against Lang and Labor, Mr. Grant was relegated to the precarious existence of a rank and file member of the Labor Party.

Always he was ready at the beck and call of the party machine, and he addressed thousands of meetings in support of Labor Party candidates. Finally his turn came, and he landed the political bacon for himself, being elected to the Senate by the New South Wales three at the 1943 Federal election.

Like many another vote-chaser, Mr. Grant made many "militant" speeches in his pre-parliamentary days, always playing on the mass political ignorance. A few samples will suffice. This present day today the Royalty demanded at the 1931 Labor Conference, "Complete Australian Self-Government" told delegates:

"They could do nothing without a People's Government, and they could not have one in a capitalist State. The Labor Government was His Majesty's Government." — ("Labor Daily," 5/4/31.)

Previously the "Labor Daily" reported a speech by him in the Sydney Domain in which he challenged the powers that be with the following Johnsonian gem:

"Patriotism is the last refuge of scoundrels. If you want to meet at the barriera we will go there at—" ("Labor Daily," 23/3/31.)

April, 1931, he is reported thus: he only way to get a People's

Government is by mass insurrection. Mr. Lang should go into the Federal Parliament if he wants to destroy British Imperialism. He is the greatest enemy that capitalism has to-day."

Since Mr. Grant's election to the Senate, he has often told us that the present Labor Government is a Peoples' Government. When and where the "mass insurrection" took place we have yet to learn. How must Her Ladyship the Duchess quivered when she "received" this Senator with the lurid political past? But he who has kidded thousands of slaves could just as easily have explained to her that it was all part of the political game.

Those of us who remember Mr. Grant's wild and mad political past can recall his famous sarcastic slogan popularised during the anti-conscription campaign of the first world war:

"PRIESTS, PARSONS POLITICIANS!"  
"YOUR KING AND COUNTRY NEED YOU!"  
"WORKERS, FOLLOW YOUR MASTERS!"

And then there were the broad Scotch Wobbly injunctions: "PUT THE BOSS IN OVERALLS," "FAST WORKERS DIE YOUNG," "SMASH THE BALLOT BOX WITH AN AXE."

How often have we heard him delivering, with appropriate gesticulations, Ralph Chaplin's "Red Feast":

"Go fight you fools, tear up the earth with strife  
And spill each other's guts upon the field,  
Serve unto death the men you served in life  
So that their great dominions may not yield."

Stand by the flag, the lie that still allures,  
Lay down your lives for lands you do not own,  
And give unto a war that is not yours  
Its gory tide of mangled flesh and bone,  
But whether in the fight you fall or kill  
It is not yours to question why or where,  
You see these thin crosses on your hill  
It took all these to make one millionaire."

What a thrill for the frail little Duchess to have this mountain of "Red Menace" fawning before her! Adversity breeds strange bed-fellows. What a lesson in political opportunism for working men?

### A TYPICAL EXAMPLE

Here we have a typical example of how Labor Fakirs climb to place and power. The game has been played for years. First move to make yourself a martyr. Anything will do. An evileon case, a so-called "free speech" fight, or anything from questioning the King's legitimacy to calling a policeman names. Once having been "inside," the stage is set. Then begins the period of ingratiating yourself with the men by tagging yourself on to its idols until, after a while, you get a little pedestal of your own. A couple of failures but finally you get there. Then you can take it out on the mob and the more you put the boot in the more the master class will appreciate your loyalty to him for now he knows there is no turning back on slaves could just as easily have explained to her that it was all part of the political game.

The present Labor Government is composed of men who between them have condemned conscription in their youth but applied it against the youth of to-day. Some have decried political action, but have ridden to power on politics they have urged men not to fight in conscientious objects. They have sung the "Red Flag," but now wave the Union Jack. Whereas they previously preached to slow they now enforce a speed-up policy. And the Communist Party not only supports these Labor time-servers, but in many ways goes much farther along the road to reaction.

### HOW DO THEY GET AWAY WITH IT?

We have used the case of Mr. Grant because it was so apt in the present circumstances. But he is merely one of many who, throughout the world to-day, "put it across" the working class.

The question may be asked: "How do they get away with it?" The Socialist Party of Australia can supply the answer. Workers can be fooled because they do not understand their class position in society. Not understanding, they fall for the concealed political traps set for the unparty. They want a way out of the mess of capitalism, but they have no clue to the solution. Political pro-fetters set up as "leaders" manipulate the workers who follow "leaders" obviously do not know where they are going, hence it is easy for the "leaders" to mislead them. This is happening everywhere with the working class to-day.

Trusting implicitly in people whom they think know better than them-

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## A HOBNOBBLING "WOBBLY" Lesson in Labor Kidstake

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selves, working men hand over the control of political power to the representatives of the capitalist class whether they be openly capitalist supporters like Churchill, Roosevelt, Menzies, etc. or hoodlum stooges like Hitler, Stalin, Curtin, and others of their ilk.

There is an old political axiom: "Trusting in politicians invariably leads to treachery in politics." Instead of the blind faith which spells political disaster for the workers, the Socialist Party proposes a class understanding and intelligent organization with which the working class can win the power to end the present social system. Behind the veil of deceit and hypocrisy of the Labor fakir is the man who knows that the game is up once the workers understand. That is why so much jargon is talked about Socialism. Everything is done to discredit the Socialist. The fallacies of capitalism are labelled socialist experiments, while at other times, in order to gain support for pet capitalist schemes, the press furively hint that they are "Socialistic." Confuse and confound is the slogan of the fakir.

For these reasons, the Socialist Party insists on class understanding as the road to power for the working class. We cannot emancipate you, fellow workers. We can supply the material for your understanding so that together we can work out our struggle for a better world. It is up to you to avail yourselves of it, and once having come to the conclusion that Socialism is the only way out you can, along with us, put an end to the system which needs toadies to Royalty to dupe the slaves of imperialism.

W. J. JASEE.

## The Retort Courteous

The following paragraph appeared in the "Daily Mirror," Sydney, on February 23, 1945:—

"COMRADE ALVINE BRANCH, —London, Friday.—Speaking at Acton yesterday, Communist M.P. Mr. W. Gallacher said: 'When I read the Yalta agreement I felt like writing Churchill. You can come back home now; all is forgiven.'"

One can imagine Churchill replying to such a wire thus:

"THANKS, BUT STOP ALL I CAN BRING YOU IS TEARS, SWEAT AND BLOOD STOP YOURS FOR COLLABORATION, WINNIE!"

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## THE BLACK MARKET

Senator Leckie said in his speech on the Address-in-Reply, reported in the "Sydney Morning Herald" on March 3, 1945, "Australia was learning that one of the results of Socialism was the black market."

"It is not," cried the Labor Party members who were the ones under attack, "that the results of Socialism is the Labor and Communist Party variety of State control. A definition of Socialism can be found together with the declaration of Principles printed elsewhere in this paper, and it will be noticed it has nothing to do with State control."

Now let us get on to the question of the black market. "The black market will be turned inside out in an effort to recover 300,000 butter coupons," thus reads the "Daily Mirror," 2/2/45. These coupons were stolen from the office of the Rationing Commission and represents a huge foray on the black market. How the Government intends to carry out its threat is not stated.

It must also be noted that of late there has been quite a lot said about the black market and cargo pilfering. The same was stated two and a half years ago, as witness an article in the "Sunday Telegraph," 2/8/42, with the caption: "Proposals for a Commonwealth-wide drive against pillagers will be discussed at the Premiers' Conference in Melbourne on August 10." This was a Government move to smash black cargo gangs two and a half years ago and they are no nearer the solution of their problem now.

The black market arises out of the very nature of war-time capitalism, and is nothing more or less than a reflection of the law of supply and demand which permeates the whole capitalist system. The law of supply and demand simply means that commodities in short supply sell above their value, and commodities in excess of demand sell below their value.

In peace time there would be a flow of capital from the production of commodities in excess of supply to the production of those in short supply. The latterly speaking over a period of time, supply would equal demand.

But the conditions of war have a tendency for some commodities to remain in short supply because of the production of war materials and the flow of capital continually in the direction of these commodities. If the production of commodities in short supply, or if they are to be imported, shipping space cannot be spared.

It must also be realised that after the war the wealth is produced by the workers it does not belong to them, and

they only get out of production enough to keep them fit to produce more wealth and perpetuate the wealthy producers. Real wages are the only thing that the worker gets with his money.

The workers as the sellers of labor power do not take advantage of the short supply of labor power and get a higher price for it because they are governed by regulations pegging their wages and they have very little chance of getting over it because of their regimentation and man-over-control which they generally accept.

The reason the Government cannot break the black market is because it has gone into office to administer the capitalist system of society, which can only be administered in the interest of that class.

The only people who can smash the black market are the workers by taking power into their own hands and smashing the system that enslaves them, and so end all markets (black or white), in short, establish Socialism.

R.C.

## RUSSIA AS EXAMPLE FOR CAPITALISM

### INCENTIVES TO BOOST OUTPUT

"A tremendous effort must be made to raise the per capita efficiency of Australian manufacturing—the output of the individual worker in an hour of work must be increased," said Sir Herbert Gepp.

He spoke at the Summer School of the rapidity of Russia's industrial Science, at Sydney University.

There seemed to be a feeling that the Australian Institute of Political advance was largely due to the principle of "payments by results," said Sir Herbert.

It may be pertinent to point out here that Karl Marx, after an exhaustive analysis of "piece wages," stated: "From what has been shown so far, it follows that piece wages is the form of wages most in harmony with the capitalist mode of production" (page 668 "Capital").

Yet our Communist economists would have us believe that Russia is Socialist. No wages system, least of all piece wage, is compatible with Socialism. Communist read and UNDERSTAND your Marx.

## AUSTRALIAN BRANCHES

SYDNEY—P.O. Box 2291, G.P.O.  
SYDNEY BRANCH—Meets Room 99, Station House, Rawson Place, Tuesday, 7.30 p.m.  
MELBOURNE—P.O. Box 1440, Elizabeth Street.  
MELBOURNE BRANCH—Meets first and third Tuesday of each month, at Room 12, Temperance Hall.  
SOCIAL HISTORY STUDY CLASS—Meets Friday nights, at Room No. 11, Temperance Hall, Russell Street, Melbourne.



## PRESS CLIPPINGS

"Tribune" (Official Organ Communist Party, Sydney), 1/5/44:—

"As Trotskyites, Short and Origglass assert the war is a 'capitalist war' and, therefore, it is of no concern to the workers.

"The Trotskyites believe everything should be done to wreck the war effort. They were gaoled in England and America for doing just that. And they are doing it here." (Our emphasis.) (L. L. Sharkey, Communist Party President).

The workers have a very appropriate application for people who cry "copper."

"Tribune" (same date):—

"At a time when our war effort needs the greatest financial support, the chief occupation of Mr. Menzies is that of sabotaging the current loan campaign." J. D. Blake, Secretary, Victorian Communist Party, Verb Sap.

"Herald" (Sydney, 1/5/45):—

"Mr. Justice Davidson asked if it could be that there was a section of the men who regarded the situation as a class war which was to be fought until the owners were completely destroyed as such. If that were the case, he said, there would be nothing but a string of fights."

Mr. Wells (President Miners' Federation): No; that is not altogether the case. There is, however, a section which is working for a state of near-anarchy, and it will be a tragic thing for this country if, as a result, we find after the war that the industry and the owners have each other fast by the throat." (Emphasis ours).

We may be pardoned if we suggest that regardless of any section, large or small, near-anarchists or pseudo-communists, the CLASS WAR WILL PERSIST LONG AFTER THE OTHER CAPITALIST WAR HAS CEASED, in fact, until the workers as a class reach the point where they regard the situation as a class-war and take the necessary steps to abolish capitalist ownership of the entire means of wealth production and distribution and substitute common ownership and control, the class struggle will manifest itself. We can understand "His Honor's" apprehension; we can understand Mr. Wells' post-war fears; and weighing up the position, it becomes easier to understand why miners go on strike occasionally.

## HANDS OFF GREECE

During the bitter fighting between the E.L.A.S. forces and the British troops in Greece, Mr. Churchill stated that he acted after full consultation with Roosevelt and Stalin.

The Communist Party staged one of its usual "Hands Off" demonstrations, demanding "the cessation of what they termed 'the brutal butchery of Greek patriots.'" During the crisis it is significant that Stalin made no move to join the "Hands Off Greece" advocates. The following press report may help to explain

## THE THIRD VICTORY LOAN

## 'YER PAYS YER MONEY AND YER TAKES YER CHOICE OF POLICIES'

Now that the "Communists" are running around hoisting the Third Victory Loan it may serve as another reminder of Communist Party twisting to draw attention to a statement contained in a Communist Party pamphlet entitled "The Communist Way Out of the Crisis," which read:—

"Repudiation of ALL WAR DEBTS, whether abroad or in Australia."

So they kid the slaves to put the hard-earned cash in capitalist war loans in order that they may repudiate them later on.

In case there may be some doubt about their "thimble and pea" policies, the following should dispel them:—

"We shall at once throw off the tremendous burden of interest payments by cancelling the national debt of more than a thousand million pounds, etc."

We wonder what would happen should any simple follower of this policy voice similar sentiments in Soviet Russia.

the "Red" gentleman's silence:—

STALIN FIRM WITH E.L.A.S.

"Daily Mirror" World Cables.—26/2/45.

LONDON, Monday.—In the hope of rousing Marshal Stalin's sympathy, E.L.A.S. sent a delegate to Russia during the height of the fighting in Greece.

This was disclosed by the "Sunday Pictorial" yesterday.

The report says that the delegate was immediately interned on reaching Russia, and was not permitted to communicate with friends.

Communists, please note.

## COMPANION PARTIES

SOCIALIST PARTY OF CANADA.—P.O. Box 1751, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada.

SOCIALIST PARTY OF GREAT BRITAIN

—Rugby Chambers, Rugby Street, London, W.C.1.

SOCIALIST PARTY OF NEW ZEALAND—

P.O. Box 62, Petone, New Zealand.

SOCIALIST PARTY OF NEW ZEALAND—

P.O. Box 1929, Auckland. Discussion

Group held in Room 12, 37 Courtney

Place, Wellington, 8 p.m. on Sundays

(except first Sunday in each month).

WORKERS' SOCIALIST PARTY OF U.S.—

12 Hayward Place, Boston, 11, Mass.

## LITERATURE

"Western Socialist," official organ of the companion parties in U.S.A. and Canada.

"Socialist Standard," official organ of the Socialist Party of Great Britain.

"Socialism," "Questions of the Day."

Other Socialist literature obtainable on application.

## Greetings from London

To our companion parties in the Socialist International, greetings. The days that have so far tried us are passing over and we emerge stronger than ever. After five years of stress and the shattering bomb with the added strain of war propaganda, our message of hope finds a growing volume of sympathetic listeners and the promise of Socialism in times not far distant is bright. We here, and you across the seas, as the hushings of the new society, and the early fruition of our hopes depends upon the energy we all put into the struggle with the enthusiasm born in the fray. A message of fraternal greetings and earnest wishes for rapid progress towards our goal, the earth and fullness thereof for the equal enjoyment of all.

HAROLD HOLT,

For the Socialist Party of Great Britain Annual Conference.

## LABOR AT LOGGER-HEADS

(Continued from page 1)

Central Executive and the Federal Labor Government. The debate shows clearly that the Victorian A.L.P., including Central Executive, supports preference to returned soldiers as much as the Federal Government.

As Mr. P. J. Kennelly pointed out, "The conference has only one thing to do—to accept the choice between the Federal Act or the State Act or to bury their heads in the sand—to refuse to face facts." ("Labor Call," 5/4/1945.)

The only point at issue was: Should the Curtin Government consult the Victorian Labor Party on the proposed Preference to Returned Soldiers' Bill? Obviously, the motion was a sop for the trade unionists who provide the majority of votes for the Labor Party. However, the preference to jobs for any particular section of the working class is merely a question of which workers are to be exploited for profit in the interest of the capitalist class. This aspect of the question was not even mentioned at the Labor Conference in spite of the fact that most of the trade unions were represented.

Preference bills will not solve any working class problems, but will create antagonisms between members of the working class. The ONLY solution to the problems which confront the working class of this and every country is the abolition of exploitation in all forms, is the abolition of the capitalist mode of production and the establishment of Socialism, that is, a system of society based upon the common ownership and democratic control of the means and instruments for producing and distributing wealth by and in the interest of society as a whole.

E.W.

When you have read this COMMENT AND REVIEW pass it on.