

For Peace, Higher Living Standards, Democracy

**THE PEOPLE
AGAINST
MENZIES
and
MONOPOLY**

by

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The Communist Party places before the people a militant programme of action to change the whole position of our country.

The Communist Party constantly works for united people's action against the rich and powerful vested interests which manipulate our nation, exploit the people, and endanger Australia's security and independence in pursuing their sectional profit and advantage.

The Communist Party's policy is a policy of people's action for peace, higher living standards and freedom, for national development of our country.

The most vital issue facing mankind today is to preserve peace, to prevent the tragedy of a world nuclear war.

Australia can play an important part in the fight for peace, if it adopts an independent foreign policy and throws off United States domination.

The people can prevent war, if they take the cause of peace into their own hands, removing foreign policy from the grip of the sinister groups which profit from war and use it to maintain imperialism.

Great changes have created a new world situation in which the peoples can prevent the imperialists from launching a Third World War. The socialist countries are now a mighty bulwark of peace; the great upsurge of national liberation struggle is freeing the colonial world; everywhere the peoples are uniting to prevent imperialist war.

Every imperialist effort to provoke world war has been defeated — in Korea, Laos, Cuba. The present grave threats to world peace by imperialism over Germany and South Vietnam, can also be defeated if the peoples are united and vigilant in defence of peace.

FOR PEACE AND HIGHER LIVING STANDARDS

The fight for peace, for ending the arms race, is vital to the struggle to raise the people's living standards.

Communist policy is for people's action to force sweeping redistribution of national income and wealth in the interests of those who produce it.

Communist policy expresses the legitimate demands of the

working class, recently decided by the Congress of the Australian Council of Trade Unions.

The first is an increase of 42/- in the basic wage, and restoration of cost-of-living adjustments.

Justice of this demand is confirmed by the conservative economist Sir Douglas Copland, who told the Arbitration Court that because of the price increases and increased productivity, the basic wage should be £19 today instead of £14/8/-.

All wage margins should be raised to restore their purchasing power to the 1947 level.

Prices of essential commodities, monopolised by one or a few huge concerns in every field, must be reduced in consumers' interests. Broken Hill Proprietary increases steel prices at will, scorning national interests. Oil monopolies do the same with petrol prices, the chemical cartel with fertiliser, the shipping ring with freight, the flourmillers and bakers with bread.

The trade union movement's demand for the 35-hour week would give lasting social benefit to the people and provide jobs.

Is it possible? Yes! In the steel industry, production per worker rose from 100 tons a year in 1950 to 150 tons in 1960. Over the same period, annual production of Holden cars rose from two cars to six cars per worker.

Increased steel production and higher prices meant that production per worker rose from £1,800 a year to £6,400. B.H.P. took £4,000 of the increase. The 35-hour week and a £4 wage rise for each worker would cost £380 a year. **B.H.P. would still be making £3,620 a year more from each worker.**

Industry can afford higher wages and shorter hours. The new value added in factory production for 1959-60 was £2,100 million, after all costs of production except wages were deducted.

Over a million workers shared £1,100 million in wages. A handful of capitalists shared £1,000 million in profits. But monopoly-run governments and Arbitration Courts refuse every union claim for wage rises, shorter hours and improved conditions. The American-owned Mt. Isa Mines had a capital of about £5 million in 1950. Since then, it has revealed £35 million in profits, yet arrogantly locks out its workers.

Only united action by the trade union movement can force the employers to concede the just demands of the working class.

A substantial rise in real wages would stimulate employment and provide a bigger market for factory and farm produce. Monopoly-caused inflation has forced down Australian food consumption since 1939—meat consumption by 15 per cent, butter 16 per cent, eggs 17 per cent.

THE RIGHT TO WORK

Official (October) figures show 109,000 unemployed; most people agree the real number is over 150,000.

When workers go on strike, the capitalist press delights in publishing figures of the loss of production. In **ten years**, the man-hours lost by workers exercising the right to strike were 76,953,000. But capitalism in exercising its "right" to sack, **lost the nation 110,000,000 man-hours in only seven months.**

We believe that Australia can provide jobs for all, that Australia needs all hands and brains for national construction. We oppose the reactionary demand that the right to work be denied to married women, that migrant workers be laid off first, or that work be "rationed out".

The plight of those already unemployed must be tackled immediately. We propose that the social service payment for unemployment be doubled, the migration programme be restricted to fiancées and near relatives of those already here, and moratorium legislation introduced to protect the unemployed from H.P. sharks.

PROGRAMME FOR WORKING FARMERS

Farmers are exploited by those who control their source of finance and materials, and monopolise the transport, handling and sale of their produce.

The Communist Party demands for farmers:

- Cheap finance.
- Reduction in price of monopoly-controlled essential farm needs, such as fertiliser and machinery.
- Guaranteed prices and orderly marketing for all farm produce.

- Development of reciprocal trade with Asian nations and the socialist countries.

- Establishment of a government-owned overseas shipping line.

Australian farmers and the national economy are threatened by Britain's proposal to join the European Common Market.

The Menzies Government supports the political objective of the E.C.M., dictated by the U.S.A. and West Germany—to build up an aggressive economic, political and military alliance.

Workers and farmers have common interests and a common enemy. The trade unions and farmers' organisations, working together for progressive changes, would be an invincible force.

FOR THE PEOPLE, AGAINST MONOPOLY

The working class policy of the Communist Party favours also most salaried workers whose wages and conditions are related to those of industrial workers. It is a policy for over 80 per cent of the people. Only the monopolists and their top executives stand to lose by this policy.

Monopoly's representatives hypocritically call on small businessmen to help uphold "free enterprise". But it is monopoly which crushes small business.

IMPROVED SOCIAL SERVICES

Communist policy for action to improve social services includes:

- The old age pension to be fixed at half the basic wage.
- Child endowment to be doubled, to £1 a week for each child.
- Free, comprehensive health service, aiming to prevent disease as much as to cure (as already realised in socialist countries). Nationalisation of the drug monopoly, controlled by a profiteering U.S.-Australian ring.
- Federal allocations of finance to ensure much greater, ever-increasing expenditure on really free education. Education is starved of funds for schools, books, equipment; universities are restricting entries.

Monopoly capitalism denies most youth the possibility of full

development through education, on the false theory that only a small minority of children—10 per cent or so—respond to higher education.

- Allocation of 10 per cent of national revenue to local government which now battles to provide roads, footpaths, recreation and sports facilities, libraries.

THE MONEY CAN BE FOUND

There is a great reservoir of money which can be raised through taxation while **decreasing taxes upon lower-income earners.**

Australia's tax laws favour the rich, the owners of big business. A N.S.W. University lecturer wrote recently:

"The burden of income tax has been shifted on to the shoulders of the small private company . . . the effect of the Government's tax policy is . . . if you are big you get bigger, if you are small you stay that way—or go out of business."

The wealthy few, who get about half the national income, pay much less than half the taxes. The vast majority of taxpayers, who divide only half of the national income between them, pay much more than half the taxes. **Increase the taxes on dividends and excess profits; this will raise more money.**

There should be a capital gains tax. **The wealthiest people in Australia get most of their wealth tax-free, in bonus share issues and other capital gains.** Last year, dividends distributed by companies amounted to £150 million, but £338 million was distributed to shareholders in bonus and new share issues. At 8/- in the £, a capital gains tax would have netted £135 million.

Millions more could be raised by tightening the laws, to stop racketeering in expense accounts, and other tax-dodging lurks. Abolition of the infamous Double Tax agreements would prevent overseas companies from dodging a large part of tax due.

Hundreds of millions can by such means be raised from the millionaires who own the monopolies.

The working class policy is: Change the whole bias, make the rich pay, and so raise the money needed for social services, education, local government and other national needs.

WAR BUDGET IS NOT FOR DEFENCE

The "where's the money to come from" gang regard the present expenditure pattern as a holy cow.

There is gross waste in government expenditure, for example on the Security Service which spends huge sums to subvert democracy.

High salaries of politicians, tall-poppy bureaucrats and the biased judiciary could be pruned.

Monopolist racketeering in government works could be cut out by the government undertaking such works.

Money can be saved mainly from war preparations, on which Menzies has spent **£2,400 million** in 12 years. Think what this could have built!

Menzies initiated this criminal waste in 1950, proclaiming "war in three years". This was soon proved a lie—but the spending continues.

Big sums were spent on obsolete American equipment and on the St. Marys "white elephant" arms plant.

Large sums go to the 405 generals, colonels, admirals, commodores, captains, air marshals and 5,939 other commissioned officers who command 43,000 troops. Menzies underwrites this waste with lies about the "threat of Communist aggression".

But there is no such threat! Menzies knows that Australia faces no attack by any socialist country, or Asian nation, except for the possibility of a rearmed Japanese militarism, which Menzies supports.

Menzies' expenditure is not for defence, but to build military forces for aggression outside Australia, under the South-East Asia Treaty Organisation, which creates a U.S.-dominated military force to intervene in Asian countries, to uphold corrupt tyrannies and imperialism. This conspiracy would make Australia an American base for offensive war.

Every pound spent on this military plan undermines Australia's defence and security, worsens the war danger, estranges our S.E. Asian neighbours.

Australia's independence and security does need defence against the U.S. war policy of rearming Japan and West Germany.

THE BEST DEFENCE—A PEACEFUL FOREIGN POLICY

Most important for this defence planning is that Australia raise its independent voice for world peace, ending Washington's domination.

American foreign policy is decided by the huge monopolies—the Rockefellers of Standard Oil, the Morgans of high finance, the du Ponts of General Motors and the chemical cartel, and other billionaire monopoly groups, so powerful that they put their men directly into the White House and the Pentagon.

Imperialism is the political and military expression of the dominance of giant monopolies over the economy and political life of capitalist countries.

The giant U.S. monopolies have spread their investments, accompanied by war bases, throughout the capitalist countries.

Since August 6, 1945, the Americans have threatened nuclear war to impose their will upon the world.

Only the United States has used nuclear weapons. The 120,000 dead of Hiroshima and Nagasaki were killed, not to win the war, but to try to intimidate the Soviet Union and the peoples of the world.

The Americans have frustrated all disarmament negotiations, and endangered the world by inciting the West German militarists to threaten a new war over Berlin, with the aim of grabbing back Nazi Germany's European empire.

The Communist Party fully supports the Soviet Union's proposal to sign a peace treaty with both German States, thus clinching the allied victory of 1945 and transforming Germany, the cause of two world wars within 30 years, into a neutral, atomic-free area.

The Menzies Government supports U.S. nuclear arming of Japanese militarism and rebuilding the Zaibatsu monopoly power—the aggressive forces which launched the Pacific War and almost invaded Australia.

In the United Nations, the Menzies Government supports imperialism, colonialism and South African racialism; it supports the U.S. policy of hostility to People's China, and exclusion of China's representatives from the U.N.

Australian monopoly capitalism exploits and oppresses the subject peoples of Papua, New Guinea and other Pacific Islands.

Big Australian monopolies like C.S.R., Burns Philp, W. R. Carpenter, Steamships Trading and the banks, make millions by exploiting the peoples and rich resources of these islands.

Australian imperialism, alone, could not realise its aims in the South Pacific and so it clings to U.S. imperialism. The people must unite to smash this policy and to replace it by a truly Australian policy which actively supports forces working for peaceful relations.

These are our main proposals:

- Acceptance of the principle of peaceful co-existence of all countries, whatever their social system, and renunciation of war as a method of settling differences between nations.
- Active struggle for world agreement on universal, general disarmament as proposed by the U.S.S.R.
- Close relations of friendship, trade and cultural exchange with the countries of Asia, making the Pacific a nuclear-free zone; opposing the re-arming of Japan; recognising People's China, seating its representatives in the U.N. and expelling the Chiang Kai-shek clique; denouncing colonialism in all forms; withdrawing from SEATO; abolishing the discriminatory White Australia policy.
- Revoking all agreements for use of Australian bases by U.S., British or other foreign military forces.

This foreign policy can be won by struggle of the working people against monopoly's pro-American policy which leads to war.

OPPOSE AUSTRALIAN IMPERIALISM

The Communist Party opposes the exploitation and oppression of the peoples of New Guinea and other Pacific territories by Australian imperialism, supporting their right to self-determination and independence.

The Communist Party stands for the right of the oppressed Aboriginal people to decide on their own national development, full citizens' rights and full award wages for Aborigines, preservation of remaining tribal lands and land for those driven off the reserves; education and training facilities, repeal of the infamous Aborigines' Protection Acts.

ACT TO BREAK MONOPOLY'S GRIP

The monopoly grip continually concentrates economic and political power into fewer hands through take-overs by big business.

This power is now in the hands of only 60 millionaire families, which provide 104 directors for no fewer than 249 different companies, including all the major banks, insurance companies, industrial enterprises, newspapers, radio and television and retail trading chains in Australia, except those controlled by foreign capital.

The total capital of these 249 companies is valued at £2,075 million.

The political aspect of monopoly's grip is revealed in the thousands of visible and invisible ties linking politicians, high civil servants and the judiciary with Big Business.

For instance, Sir Arthur Fadden left the Treasury well-armed with information and key contacts, and is now a carpet bagger for Japanese big business and the land shark, L. J. Hooker.

Brigadier Spry, a member of a wealthy family, heads monopoly's secret political police, the "Security Service".

ACT NOW TO DEFEND DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS

Menzies sought dictatorial powers to suppress the opponents of monopoly by the anti-communist referendum. Ignoring the people's refusal, he has multiplied reactionary laws.

Anti-union laws virtually outlaw strikes through crippling fines and costs, power to ban strikes and to jail trade unionists. The trade unions' independent right to conduct union ballots has been taken away.

Secret telephone-tapping has been legalised, the Security Service (first set up by a Labor Government) is a fully fledged secret political police, spying on the labour movement, victimising workers, public servants, university people and those who work for peace.

The recent Crimes Act amendments are intended to suppress opposition to monopoly, especially its aggressive foreign policy. These powers, gravely threatening democracy, must be repealed.

Ever since 1788, the Australian people have fought unjust laws, against the forces of wealth, privilege and reaction.

Democratic rights are under new attack by the forces of monopoly capitalism. But the people, stronger now, can sweep away the restrictions on freedom and beat the Menzies brand of McCarthyism if they unite to force the repeal of all reactionary laws. Democratic rights can be defended and new rights can be won.

Police-state measures are designed to stop the people uniting against monopoly capitalism, using as excuse hysterical anti-communism.

SOCIALISM—THE WAY FORWARD FROM MONOPOLY CAPITALISM

Monopoly fears the Communist Party, because it has always been to the fore in the struggle against monopoly capitalism.

We communists openly proclaim our aim—a socialist Australia.

The noble aims of socialism have been advanced through the ages by great thinkers, ridiculed as "dreamers" and "visionaries". But today socialism is no dream; it is a living reality.

Though established only 44 years ago in old, backward Russia; the first Socialist State, the Soviet Union, is today the foremost nation in the world, now planning the building of communism in which all will freely give their ability to society, and can freely satisfy their material, spiritual and cultural needs.

Great China, most populous country in the world, is solving age-old problems of backwardness, poverty and oppression.

The advance of socialism is the great movement of history, which cannot be reversed by reaction and war.

Socialist Australia is the great goal for which the Communist Party fights, inspired by the vision splendid of what our country will become when monopoly's grip is finally broken, when the working people run the country.

They will then plan production to ensure national development with rising living standards; unemployment will disappear forever.

Socialism will develop education, science and a truly Australian culture, permitting development of the talents of every individual.

ACT NOW TO CURB MONOPOLY

While socialist transformation is the only way to break monopoly's grip surely and finally, immediate action can and should occur to curb and restrict monopoly.

Urgent steps are:—

Strict government control of prices and prevention of monopoly price fixing; legislation to prevent takeovers by overseas and big Australian monopoly concerns or companies in which they have an interest, and to prevent overseas and Australian monopolies from buying up land; legislation to prevent monopoly control of T.V., radio and press; return of the very profitable government-owned industries handed over cheaply to big business.

We support all proposals for government enterprises to compete with the large—and especially overseas—monopolies.

These steps, however, will be insufficient while the commanding heights of industry, finance and commerce are in the hands of the 60 families and overseas interests.

We advocate the nationalisation of the key monopolies—the steel industry, the oil cartel, shipping, chemicals and fertilisers, and the banks.

Action to curb and restrict monopoly will not end capitalism, but would benefit the small men in agriculture, industry and trade, as well as the working class.

This is a programme for action by the people, led by the working class, discovering their strength in uniting of their forces to curb and restrict monopoly.

We are certain that in the experience of this fight, the working people will decide that the power of monopoly must be smashed and socialism established.

LIBERAL-COUNTRY COALITION IS MONOPOLY'S AGENT

The **Liberal Party** is the open representative of monopoly capital, giving monopoly a free hand to exploit the nation.

The **Country Party** politicians, glibly talking of "country interests",

enter the unprincipled coalition with the Liberals, selling out farmers' interests to the big monopolies.

This disastrous coalition has ruthlessly done monopoly's bidding through the credit squeeze, which has aggravated unemployment. This has brought disunity between, and within, the Liberal and Country Parties, in both Federal and State spheres.

The Menzies-Holt economic measures brought disaster to all but the dominant monopolies.

Far from tackling inflation, its **main cause—monopoly price-fixing**—has been encouraged by the Menzies Government.

That Government, obedient to monopoly, has opened wide the floodgates for a tide of U.S. and other foreign investments, showing indecent haste to "sell Australia".

Menzies says this helps our balance of payments, but U.S. investment is mainly financed by profits extorted from Australia and not by an inflow of new capital.

U.S. monopolies now dominate Australia's oil supply, automobile production, and have a big share in aluminium, lead and copper production; they are penetrating every important industry.

Along with U.S. investment, we get the imports—trashy and vicious ideas in comics, T.V. and films; McCarthyism and reaction, U.S. domination of our foreign policy.

On every count, the policies of the Liberal-Country coalition led by Menzies are disastrous to the people.

D.L.P.'S BLACK RECORD

The Democratic Labour Party claims to oppose monopoly, and says it supports the Catholic Church in regarding both big business and socialism as equally harmful.

But it **upholds monopoly** by supporting the Menzies Government, once again giving its second preferences to the parties which openly represent monopoly.

The D.L.P. supports every reactionary move, upholds and practises McCarthyism, and supports U.S. aggressive war policies.

The D.L.P. and the Q.L.P. are puppets manipulated by the

sinister National Civic Council, a new front for Mr. B. A. Santamaria, who was the power behind the scenes in the Industrial Groups.

The National Civic Council concentrates upon disruption of the trade union movement, disposing of seemingly limitless funds.

This sinister body, supported by its agents still in the Labor Party, is now attacking national trade union unity, the most valuable aid monopoly could be given.

The whole labour movement must unite against this threat, which is not aimed just at the communists or the trade unions.

Those Rightwing labour leaders now flirting with Mr. Santamaria should recall how his placemen first won a basis in the trade unions, grabbed control of the Labor Party machine, and finally set out to dump everyone who would not submit to their orders and perversion even of moderate Labor policies.

The logical outcome of the D.L.P.'s anti-communism is its proposition for a South-East Asian Common Market of countries with the most reactionary governments, including Japan and Australia. In such a common market, Japan would dominate, having the strongest industry and much lower wages than Australia.

What would be the results upon employment and the Australian economy when Japan became the dominant partner in such a common market?

The whole policy of the D.L.P. and its running mate, the Q.L.P., is pro-monopoly and anti-Australian.

LABOR PARTY'S TWO VOICES

The working class members and supporters of the Labor Party oppose monopoly and want action against it. Their voice is expressed at Labor Party conferences and by the trade unions, and influences leftwing politicians to call for anti-monopoly action.

The Rightwing A.L.P. leaders will not fight for working class policy, but are moving behind the scenes for a deal with the D.L.P. This is the main cause of continuing disunity in the A.L.P.

The policy of the labor leaders is too timid and ineffective, goes nowhere near reflecting the views and opinions of the trade

unions and A.L.P. rank and file, and, above all, opposes mass political and industrial action, the only way to fight monopoly.

Despite these criticisms, we make this offer: The Communist Party will work for unity to force progressive measures through, against the inevitable monopolist opposition.

We mean proposals like those made by the August A.L.P. Federal Executive meeting:

Increased government investment for national development.

Financial support by the Federal Labor Government for setting up State industries to compete with the steel and aluminium monopolies, and the setting up of competitive public corporations.

Federal aid to education and improved social services.

Recognition of People's China, support for total world disarmament, and withdrawal of Australian troops from Malaya.

The promises made previously to repeal the anti-democratic political clauses of the Crimes Act and the penal sections of the Arbitration Act.

We believe it our duty to say that pledged promises by Labor politicians are often breached. The working class will have to unite in action to fight for a Labor Government to carry out policies in the interests of the working people.

Despite the A.L.P.'s socialisation objective, no Labor Government has ever taken one step to socialism. Labor Governments have helped build up monopoly.

The Chifley Government initiated the flow of American investment and gave every facility for it. The N.S.W. and Tasmanian Labor Governments compete with Tory governments in trying to sell their States to American and other overseas investors.

Rightwing Labor leaders in fact uphold capitalism. This is the inescapable conclusion of 50 years' experience of Labor politicians in office. Labor Governments have repeatedly dashed the hopes of the workers who elected them.

This is the basic cause of the many splits and conflicts between the industrial and political wings, between rank and file and leaders.

Calwell and Whitlam spend most of their time assuring Big Business they need not fear a Labor Government attacking monopoly or the foundations of capitalism. They attack trade union unity and repeat monopoly's poisoned weapon of anti-communism, instead of campaigning actively on a working class policy.

VOTE COMMUNIST, UNITE AGAINST MONOPOLY

The best way to vote against Menzies and monopoly is to vote Communist. Communist Members of Parliament would be the best representatives of the working people, the best champions of peace, higher living standards, the best watchdogs of the nation's interests, the most resolute and effective opponents of monopoly exploitation of the people and plundering of Australia.

A vote cast for Communist candidates is the most effective vote for peace, the people's livelihood and democratic rights. A big vote for Communist candidates will strike fear into the vested interests, the most effective warning to the monopolists that the people demand a radical change.

To make this vote fully effective, make sure the second preference goes to Labor, and that the Liberal-Country Party candidate is given the last preference.

We ask for a big Communist vote, for defeat of Menzies, but we stress that the most important thing for Australia's future is united action of all working people to defend peace and win the people's demands.

This stand is in the great traditions of the Australian labour movement, which was created in militant struggle of the working class, dedicating itself to struggle against the vested interests and reaction. The Communist Party carries on these great militant traditions in calling for people's action for peace, higher living standards and democratic rights, against monopoly capitalism, for Socialist Australia.