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## 3000 At Town Hall Rally Acclaim Communist Policy ONLY PARTY TO DEMAND £10 BASIC WAGE,

### SAYS J. D. BLAKE

THE Australian Communist Party was the only Party which stood in defence of the people's living standards; it was the only Party which stood behind the demand for a £10 basic wage, Mr. J. D. Blake, a national leader of the Party told a packed-out Melbourne Town Hall on Wednesday night.

The meeting was the Party's major election rally in this State. More than 3000 attended—a bigger turnout than that of any other political party. Over 500 was subscribed in the collection.

Mr. Blake, who until recently was the leader of the Communist Party, received a ovation from the big crowd. All the Party's candidates in the election, were on the platform. Mr. Blake, the Victorian State secretary of the Party (Mr. E. F. Hill) said the meeting was a victory against the vested wealthy interests who had tried to suppress the Party's voice by intimidation, violence and press and radio blackouts.

#### Names People's Enemies

Mr. Blake said the Communist Party based itself on the irreconcilable struggle between the capitalists and the workers which would finally end in the victory of the working people. All other parties claimed that the interests of the capitalists and workers were the same. The Communist Party considered the small cluster of families who own the business interests were centred in Collins House to be the class enemy of the Australian people. Not more than 25 to 30 families directly controlled companies with a total capital of £330 million. They controlled the economic destiny of all Australians. For these few parasites every Australian paid £100 in profit during the last year.

Mr. Blake said that the test of a politician's sincerity of every politician is not their words but their attitude to this Collins House. This small cluster of monopolist families, continued Mr. Blake, directed their attacks against the Labor Movement not only through the Liberal Party which was the mouthpiece of big business but also through the Labor Party.

#### Blame "Socialism"

There had been much talk about the Labor Party being a Socialist Party. If Socialism meant allowing a small group of monopolists make millions out of the labor of the Australian people then he did not want that kind of Socialism.

The Communist Party aimed at the destruction of the tremendous economic and political power that the Collins House group wielded.

The immediate steps for the defeat of these parasites were:

- The winning of the £10 basic wage.
- The reduction of prices and rigid control of prices.
- Equal pay for women.
- Higher pay for young workers.
- The defence of the farmers.

- A great housing campaign.
- Free education from kindergarten to university.
- An all round improvement in social services.

#### Program For United Struggle

Mr. Blake said this program was not just an election promise. It was a program for united struggle and it was in the process of this struggle that the monopolists must be defeated and a real Socialist society established in Australia.

Mr. Blake warned of the coming depression. He said that American production had already dropped far below the pre-depression figure of 1929-30.

This depression which had already developed on a world scale must affect Australia.

Mr. Chifley hoped to use his fund of a few hundred millions to stave off the crisis. But what Mr. Chifley did not say was that more than half of this fund was held by Britain which everyone knew was going bankrupt.

Britain would repudiate her debt just as she had already done to India. Mr. Chifley might just as well hand over the money to the City of London now.

The only solution the capitalists had to the coming crisis was to plunge the world into another blood bath.

Mr. Blake said the fight for peace was tied up with the fight for better living standards and it had to be carried right through until the capitalists, the only ones who benefited from war, were overturned.

While America was developing atomic energy for war purposes, the Soviet Union had shown the world what benefits atomic energy could bring to mankind when turned into peaceful channels.

By blasting new river beds the Soviet was stiring a desert area the size of France into a garden. Atomic energy could be used in Australia for exactly the same purpose.

The capitalists had an animal fear of the Soviet because of the example it was setting. In two years it had developed atomic energy to the point where it could be harnessed. It took the combined efforts of Britain and America five years to make their bomb.

#### Big Victories for Peace Forces

The forces of peace already had had great victories. The Soviet Union, the consolidation of the People's Democracies, the great people's victory in China, and the mobilisation of 600 million people at the Paris Peace conference had checked the warmongers.

But the fight for peace had to go on. While there were Collins House groups in power there was always the danger of war.

The Communist Party would carry on this fight. It did not propose to let the flower of Australia's manhood be slaughtered in an-

#### QUEENSLAND CALL FOR RELEASE OF SHARKEY

THE Queensland Trade Union Congress in Brisbane last week called for the immediate release of L. L. Sharkey and Gilbert Burns, who have been jailed under the Crimes Act.

The resolution protested at the severity of the sentence, and stated that the use of the political sections of the Crimes Act was repugnant to the ideals of the Labor Movement.

L. L. Sharkey, Australia's No. 1 fighter for peace, has been in jail since Monday, October 17—45 days ago. What have YOU done to secure his release?

Secretary of Victoria's Release Sharkey Committee is Mr. J. Morrison. Contact him at International Book Shop, 180 Exhibition St. (phone JM 1851). Contribute to the £5,000 Release Sharkey appeal.



95th ANNIVERSARY OF AUSTRALIAN LANDMARK

## CITY MARCH TO MARK EUREKA DAY (Sunday)

THE 95th anniversary of Australia's first great struggle for democracy, the Eureka Stockade, will be celebrated this Sunday.

(The Eureka Stockade was stormed by Red Coats on December 3, 1854.)

The Eureka Youth League, the pioneers of a new generation, will march down Batman Avenue to

the Yarra Bank, where a ceremony will be performed around the Eureka flag.

League athletes will run in relays from Ballarat to the Yarra Bank in time to participate in the ceremony.

Veterans of the Labor Move-

ment will speak with youth the rostrum.

Other celebrations of the Eureka Day include a "Dance" to be held at the clubrooms, 104 Queensberry this Saturday, December 3, dinner at the club on Sunday night, addressed by Mr. Laidler.

What Eureka Means to Australia (see Page 5).

#### VOTE COMMUNIST THUS—SENATE

1	GIBSON	9	Stead	5	Cameron	18	Spicer	15	Atkinson	11	Webber
2	LAURIE	10	Ray	6	Devlin	19	Rankin	16	Bawden	12	Dale
3	LEES			7	Sheehan	20	Gorton	17	Serpell	13	Evans
4	SAMSON			8	Clarey	21	Wedgwood			14	Bromham

YOU MUST PLACE A NUMBER IN EVERY SQUARE OR YOUR VOTE WILL BE INFORMAL.

(Authorised by V. Bonner, 49 Elizabeth Street, Melbourne.)

#### PEACE BALL

All Candidates Asked To Vote

THE Australian Peace Ballot has decided to write to all candidates for the Federal Parliament, asking them to vote Peace Ballot.

This decision was made at a meeting of the council last day night.

Candidates will be invited that their votes will be made public by the council, so that they may know where they stand on the question of war or peace.

The council also agreed to commend to its local branches of parliamentarians the Peace Ballot for the purpose of securing their support.