



# GUARDIAN

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## UNITY VITAL FOR LABOUR VICTORY IN FEDERAL ELECTIONS

Except in some country centres where Labor-Communist unity had reached a high pitch, Labor suffered a defeat in the municipal, town and shire elections.

All Communist candidates received a much increased support. Though details for some country centres are still incomplete, at least five Communist Party candidates are now members of town or shire councils.

Unless the Labor Party in Queensland is united under the leadership of those who support the Curtin Government and Labor-Communist unity is raised to a much higher level, Labor will have a hard fight in the coming Federal elections.

Communist candidates are: Townsville, Comrade Fred Paterson; Collinsville, Comrade J. B. Henderson; Mackay Shire, Comrades Carmichael and MacKenzie; Roma, Comrade B. Walpole (elected unopposed).

In Collinsville the Communist ticket was successful.

In all centres where Communists stood, they received a large vote, several others coming close to winning seats.

### LABOR LOSS

In Brisbane, Townsville and Mackay especially, the candidates of Official Labor received a serious setback. In Townsville, the Hermit Park Labor-Communist ticket, with the exception of two Communist candidates, was returned. Two independents defeated Comrades Latzkow and Hills, who received the next highest votes to those elected, head of the Official Labor, Independent and Ratepayer (C.M.O.) candidates. Four of the Official Labor candidates lost their deposits.

In Mackay, where the State seat was won for Labor recently in a hard fought battle in which Communists played a decisive role, a Council which had seven Labor Party aldermen now has only two Labor aldermen. Mackay, Forean Smith's hunting ground, revealed the sharpest response to the Fallon-Smith leadership of the Labor Party.

In Brisbane, although the relation of strength on the Council is unaltered, the Labor vote declined.

### LEFTWARD SWING

Although the parties of reaction, under various aliases (Citizens' Municipal Organisation, Independent Group, Ratepayers, etc.) won the day, the election voting, nevertheless, revealed a sharp leftward swing.

This was so mainly among farmers, and among those sections of the workers, especially in country centres, which have only recently become connected with the Labor Movement.

In Wynnum Comrade J. W. Bailes increased his vote by nearly five times mainly as a result of the farmers' vote.

Canvasses, especially in Brisbane, where Comrade Jones received 1,123 votes (as against 416 votes in 1940), also showed a swing towards the left, but the strong traditions of Labor overcame the electors' dissatisfaction with the Q.C.E. leadership in this ward.

### CONFUSION

Because some electors were unable to distinguish between candidates of the C.M.O. and of Official Labor, and failed to see the need to strengthen the Curtin Government by placing the control of the local instruments of government in the hands of Labor, details of the voting showed a high degree of political confusion.

Many votes in Brisbane were cast for Labor alderman and C.M.O. Mayor; others for C.M.O. alderman and Labor Mayor.

### TOWNSVILLE

In Townsville, the deep-seated left swing had the opportunity to be expressed in a united front ticket. A record Labor vote, established in 1933 by Mr. Keyatta (Labor) was broken by both Alderman Aikens (Labor) and Alderman Paterson (Communist), both sharing the honour of being the first to exceed 9,000 votes in a Coun-

cil poll, and securing a higher vote than Keyatta in 1933.

A statement issued by the Hermit Park Labor Party read:—"The Hermit Park A.L.P. intends to maintain the unity it has established in the real Labor Movement of Townsville, and to organise for similar unity throughout Queensland, believing that this alone can avert the political catastrophe which at present faces the Labor Party at the next State elections."

Labor-Communist unity is the key to the victory of the Labor Movement. Efforts of the Fallon clique to provoke further breakaway groups of the Labor Party must be resisted.

The declared policy of the Queensland Trade Union Congress for a Labor Party united under new progressive leadership, already has the tacit support of the Parliamentary Labor leaders.

Fight for Labor Party unity. Demand membership rights for the expelled Labor Party Parliamentarians, Aldermen and Branches. Clean out the Fallon clique, and change Queensland, a Labor State, from a source of weakness to a source of strength for the Curtin Labor Government.

Intensify the struggle for Labor Party-Communist Party unity. A united Labor Movement guarantees the defeat of Fascism in war and of reaction in peace.

## COMMUNIST PARTY STATE CONFERENCE

The State Conference of the Communist Party will be held in Brisbane on the 22nd and 23rd inst.

Conference will review work of past year and plan for the coming year.

Membership of the Communist Party has increased five-fold since last conference; with a corresponding increase in influence in the labour movement.

Unity in the labour movement around the policy of the Curtin Government for a bigger and better war effort will be in the forefront of conference discussions.

Worker-farmer-soldier unity will also receive attention.

In the City Hall on the evening of the 25th inst., Communist Party Leaders, J. B. Miles, J. Henry, and C. Jones will report to the people on Conference decisions and plans.