Since the last referendum was defeated in 1944, the Labor Party has excused its failure to introduce the 40-hour week by declaring that the basic wage, on the grounds that under the Constitution as it stands, it has not the power to do so. In 1948, the Lyons U.A.P. Government was itself the object of much uneasiness and discontent because of its failure to introduce the 40-hour week. THOMAS EAVES maintained that the Federal Government had not been consistent in its action in this legislation.

Now when the Labor Party finds itself, with a majority in both Houses, it suddenly discovers "legal difficulties" which prevent it from honoring its promises.

Briefly, the position is this: Prior to Federation in 1861 there were only State Governments, each pursuing its own way without consideration of the other States, and excepted quite by oneself. When Federation was brought about, a Constitution was drawn up, handing certain spheres of legislation over to the Federal Government, while the States retained the rest.

The present referendum is for the purpose of granting wider powers to the Federal Government in respect to (1) Social Services, (2) Marketing of Prime Produce, (3) Industrial Employment.

In regard to Social Services, the Labor Party claims that there is some doubt as to the legality of their Social Service Legislation, such as Child Endowment, Old Age Pensions, etc. "If you vote Yes you will make EUREKA of Social Services" is the Labor slogan. What are the facts? Child Endowment was introduced by the States Government to counteract a demand for increased wages. Ministers and the Liberal Party now advocate its extension to the first child, for the same reason. Surprising, is the fact that the militant class four years ago have realized that Social Services are extremely valuable from their point of view. They distribute the wages bill more evenly among the workers - out of the wage envelope of a single worker, or a worker in constant employment, money is taken by means of taxation which is distributed amongst them, with several children, or who are unemployed or ill. Many workers believe that they receive something for nothing from the Government when they get these "benefits" - actually their poverty is merely being reorganized, spread more evenly over the class as a whole. Liberal, Country and Labor Parties all support these services, and whether you vote so, they have not been seen fit to grant the 40-hour week to their own employers. Furthermore, after sending the unions to the Court to seek the shorter week, the Government Counsel defined the attitude of the Government as follows:

"The Commonwealth Government was neither supporting nor opposing the application for a 40-hour week." Mr. Stanley Lewis, representing the Commonwealth Government, told the Full Arbitration Court yesterday: Judge Kelly asked Mr. Lewis: "Then I take it you are neutral?" No, "No, your Honor, we are not neutral," Mr. Lewis replied. "It would be absurd to suggest that a Labor Government would be anything but friendly to labor reform, but to say that the Commonwealth is supporting the claim is absolutely wrong." (Sun.)

The System of Wage Labor is a System of Slavery, and Indeed Slavery, Which Meat, Grows Harder in Proportion as the Productive Powers of Labor Are Developed in Society, No Matter Whether the Laborers Pay Is Better or Worse.

Karl Marx

The Greta Programme.

"Yes" or "No" will make no difference at all. They are indispensable to modern Capitalism and here to stay.

The Marketing question was voted on in 1937 and defeated. In spite of the dire results forecast if it were not carried, Capitalism continued as before, with little or no change. Whether it is carried or rejected, again, you as worker, will still have to market the only commodity you possess - your ability to work, under the same conditions. It won't make the slightest difference whether you vote "Yes" or "No."

The Industrial Employment proposal is the one which the Labor Government maintains it needs if it is to interfere with wages and hours and working conditions generally. They infer that if this grant of wages will be increased and hours reduced: "A 'Yes' means full employment and a fair deal for every worker," says the Labor Call (1-8-49). The sincerity of the Labor Government can be seen when we realise that although there is no question of them not having the power to do...
To Record Your Opposition to Capitalism,
Write Socialist Across Your Ballot Paper.

The referendum, which is due in the next few weeks, will determine whether Australia will move closer to the United States on the issue of nuclear weapons. The Socialist Party of Australia, however, believes that this referendum is unnecessary and that the government should be held accountable for its actions.

This referendum is just a smoke screen to divert attention from the real issue of nuclear weapons. The government is using it as an excuse to further its own agenda and to continue its policies of nuclear proliferation.

The Socialist Party of Australia, as well as other socialist groups, believes that the referendum is a waste of time and resources. They argue that the real issue should be addressed, such as the need for disarmament and international cooperation, rather than engaging in a futile exercise.

The Socialist Party of Australia is calling on all socialist and progressive groups to write Socialist across their ballot papers as a clear statement of opposition to nuclear weapons and for a world free of nuclear arms.

The Socialist Party of Australia is also calling for a boycott of the referendum and for people to use their votes to express their opposition to nuclear weapons.

The Socialist Party of Australia is calling on all socialist and progressive groups to join forces in this struggle and to work towards a world free of nuclear weapons.
Socialist and Review

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S.P.A.

GOAL-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 life (land, factories, railways, etc.) by the capitalist or master class, and the consequent exploitation of the working class, by whose labors the wealth is produced.

2. That in society, therefore, there is an antagonism of interests between the master class, which benefits from those who pass, and those who produce but do not possess, and those who possess but do not produce.

3. That this antagonism can be abolished only by the emancipation of the working class from the domination of the capitalist or master class and the establishment of the common ownership of the means of production and distribution by the working class itself.

4. That as in the case of 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, the armed forces of the nation, exist solely to preserve the monopoly by the capitalist class of the wealth taken from the workers, the working class must overthrown consciousness and politically for the conquest of the powers of government, national and local, in order that this machinery, subject to the control of the working class, may be employed in the interests of emancipation and the abolition of all privileges, which have been so long ascribed to interest at all costs of the master class.

THE SOCIALIST PARTIES OF AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND therefore enter the field of political action with the determination to wage war against all parties, whether alleged labor or avowedly socialist and in a struggle to overthrow the system of privileges to master under their banner to the end that a society may be established which shall derive its organization from the labors of the people and also to comfort privations to equality, and slavery to freedom.

Those agreeing with the above principles and desiring election shall apply to nearest address.

S.P.A.

S.P.N.Z.

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