

Unity Proposals for a Labor Government

On September 17th, the following letter was sent to Federal Labor Leader Curtin:—

Dear Sir,

We, the undersigned, believe that the complete defeat of Nazi Germany is necessary to safeguard the security of Australia, and we believe that it is in the interests of the Australian Labor Movement that every effort should be made to mobilise and use Australian resources to help bring about the early defeat of the Nazis.

To do this we consider it necessary that all sections of the Labor Movement should be united, as a basis for a wider national unity. Therefore we would like to discuss with you ways and means of achieving a better understanding between different sections of the Labor Movement which, we consider, would pave the way to working class unity.

There are many matters that need discussion, and we submit the following as some of the most urgently important:—

- (1) The need to replace the present Federal Government by a Labor Government.
- (2) With the object of increasing production and minimising stoppages of work, reconstitution of the various Boards controlling the war effort to give direct representation to the trade unions. Removal of representatives of private interests from controlling positions on such Boards. Workers to have a measure of control of industry which would ensure maximum production; workshop committees to have access to company records, and a voice in the engagement and dismissal of workers and other problems of factory administration.
- (3) An investigation into the monopolies with a view to controlling their activities.
- (4) An improvement in price control, restriction of profits, and maintenance of living standards.
- (5) Freedom of organisation, speech, press, and assembly for the Labor Movement. Release of anti-fascists from jail and internment. The restoration of legality for the Communist Party, and return of its property.
- (6) Development of full diplomatic and trade relations with the Soviet Union. Australian representatives to be sent to Soviet Russia with the object of discussing, along with the British representatives, problems of Anglo-Australian-Soviet mutual assistance and diplomatic representation.
- (7) The signatories to this statement, together with all other persons sharing their views, to use their influence to secure as far as possible continuity of production and avoidance of industrial disputes, and to work in conjunction with the Labor parliamentarians and the Labor Party leadership generally in advancing the policy set out herein.

We sincerely believe that old differences in the Labor Movement can and must be brushed aside, and real unity and a better understanding secured to bring about the defeat of the Nazis and to win security for the Australian people.

Yours fraternally,

The letter was signed by the following Trade Union Officials:—

E. V. Elliott, Fed. Secretary, Seamen's Union of A'sia.
T. Wright, Fed. President, Sheet Metal Workers' Union.
A. McNulty, Fed. Secretary, Sheet Metal Workers' Union.
Colin Tannock, Secretary, Fed. Ironworkers' Assn., N.S.W. Branch.
W. J. Hargreaves, Fed. Secretary, Fed. Moulders' Union.
J. Reddie, Fed. President, Fed. Moulders' Union.
E. Thornton, Gen. Secretary, Fed. Ironworkers' Assn.

Authorised by:— J. Healy, Gen. Secretary, Waterside Workers' Federation.
J. F. Chapple, Gen. Secretary, Australian Railways' Union.
Don. Thompson, Secretary, Building Trades' Federation, Victoria.
F. Weigel, Queensland State Secretary, Fed. Moulders' Union.
E. J. Hanson, Secretary, Op. Painters' and Decorators' Union, Queensland.
T. Garland, Secretary, Gas Employees' Union, Adelaide Branch.
Neil Maclean, Sth. Australian State Secretary, Fed. Ironworkers' Assn.
C. Nelson, General President, Miners' Federation.

Those who signed the letter had only one aim—to unite the Labor Movement against Fascism. With all other sections of the Labor Movement they urged the Labor Party to defeat the Fadden Government and take office. They proposed a discussion on the 7 points set out in the letter as the basis for working class unity around a Labor Government.

Mr. Curtin, who is afraid of taking office, and who is opposed to working class unity, and does nothing to strengthen Australia's relations with Soviet Russia, described the approach of the Left Wing Trade Union Officials as "blackmail."

To urge Labor to take office is "blackmail"! To try and unite the working class is "blackmail"!

We must protest against the attitude of the Labor Leaders!

FIGHT FOR WORKING CLASS UNITY!

Demand that Labor Defeat the Fadden Govt. and Take Office.

