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A.L.P. BROADCAST 9TH DECEMBER, 1963

BY DON DUNSTAN M.P.

Good Evening,

Some of the political propaganda we have recently seen in the Federal elections was purposely misleading, untruthful and slanderous. Dr. Goebbels would have been proud of it. Its authors knew what they were doing, and that what they were saying was baseless; that their innuendoes were without logic or scruple. No wonder, since they profess to be Christians, that they should have come under bitter attack from the Church of England newspaper "The Anglican" this last week. "The Anglican" is not a political paper, but it does believe that moral standards of truth and honesty in our public life are the concern of the Church.

The leaders of the self-styled Democratic Labor Party (and this is a joke, for it is neither Democratic nor Labor, and with most of its candidates losing their deposits regularly, and with only one member in the Federal Parliament it can hardly be called a party), these leaders have set out with funds obviously supplied by the supporters of the L.C.L. which stood next to benefit by their activities, to brand the A.L.P. as under Communist control.

Now here are the things they say, let's examine them.

- (1) The Labor Party is controlled by the trades unions. In some unions there are Communist officials. Therefore, the Communists dictate Labor Party policy and Mr. Calwell is not free to do as he thinks right - the Communists give him his orders.

This is nonsense and they knew it. There are some trades unions affiliated to the Labor Party in which there are some union officials who are Communists. These Communists are not permitted to take part in discussions of motions sent to the A.L.P. by the affiliates. They may not represent the Union on Labor Party councils or conferences.

In no case do they control the unions affiliated to the A.L.P. The majority of the rank and file and of the arrangement of committees of each union affiliated are loyal Labor Party men. The Communists cannot control the political activities of the Unions in which they have positions, and to say that there is Communist influence upon the Labor Party or upon Mr. Calwell is a foul lie. The D.L.P. carefully do not point out that the A.L.P. has expelled members who even held a private discussion with Communists in their own union about political resolutions to be proposed at a Union meeting.

(2) They say that since the A.L.P. advocates the recognition of Red China and its admission to the U.N. and the Communists advocate the same course, therefore the A.L.P. supports Communism. Now this is a childish fallacy and they know it. The Communists advocate many things which everybody else subscribes to. Have a look at the Marx and Engels Communist Manifesto. The specific programs set forth include a system of free compulsory and secular education and a program of re-afforestation. By the reasoning of the D.L.P. Sir Thomas Playford's Government, since it supports these things, must be the tools of the Communists. Sir Alexander Douglas-Home and his Conservative Government in Great Britain must be Communists since they have recognised Red China for years.

The A.L.P. has said that it believes that the Governments which are in fact governing, must be recognised. It is absurd to trade with China and to pretend that its Government doesn't exist. The recognition of the Chinese Government does not imply approval any more than our recognition of the dictatorships of ~~Dr. Salazar~~ Salazar in Portugal or Franco in Spain imply approval. What is more, to make the U.N. effective, all nations who might be affected by its decisions should be members, friend and foe alike. What is pro-Communist about that proposition? The D.L.P. carefully do not retail to their T.V. listeners these planks in the A. L.P.'s foreign policy (set them out)

Do they sound like the utterings of pre-Communists?

(3) They show pictures of A.L.P. men who are union officials attending union meetings or union marches where Communists are present. It is quite inevitable when members of different political parties are members of trades unions that that should occur. Similar pictures of D.L.P. leaders are available. If a union marches on Labor Day an official cannot withdraw from the march because some other officials have differing political views. The D.L.P. leaders, where they exist in trades unions have not done so. There is a Communist on a city council in South Australia. If a picture were taken of the councillors coming out of a meeting would it be fair to say that since the other councillors were present at a meeting with a Communist they ^{too} must be Communists. What kind of McCarthyism is this?

In order for democracy to be maintained, we must preserve proper standards of political conduct. Slander, accusations of guilt by association, deliberate distortion of opponents programs to try to prove agreement with a hated cause where no such agreement exists, can put an end to democracy.

Goodnight.