

"We shall emerge more definitely to the status of a nation when the Federal Parliament has the additional powers. . . ."

"Whatever controversies may be engaged in . . . those controversies will, I hope, be animated by the desire to serve the people of Australia. That is the whole motive that the Government has in bringing the legislation forward."—**JOHN CURTIN**, Prime Minister of Australia, and leader of the Australian Labor Party.



The Referendum policy of the Australian Communist Party and the tasks of the Communists may be summed up as follows:

Unity between all who stand for more powers for the National Parliament to secure a Yes majority nationally and in all States.

United action by all organisations of the Labor Movement is specially important; it is the core of a people's unity.

More Federal powers and people's vigilance and unity are one whole, for reconstruction in the interest of working people and for safeguards against misuse of the added powers.—**J. B. MILES**, General Secretary, Australian Communist Party.

Mastercraft Print, 790 and 796 George Street, Sydney.



**VOTE  
YES**

*for homes  
and jobs!*

By Len Fox

Price Threepence

AUSTRALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY

***This pamphlet should appeal to all those who want to see Australia a land of happiness and plenty, of security and good homes and jobs for all.***

***It should appeal to men and women of every Party. The case for a Yes vote in the coming Federal Powers Referendum has been supported not only by the Australian Labor Party and the Australian Communist Party, but by many other groups, newspapers and individuals—for instance, Mr. W. M. Hughes and Mr. P. C. Spender of the U.A.P.***

***Whatever our political or religious beliefs, we can all unite in preventing the mistakes of the last post-war period, and in ensuring that this time Australia shall in reality be a land fit for heroes to live in.***

***We united to win the war. Let us unite to win the peace!***

## I. THREE MEN IN NEW GUINEA

At a lonely outpost in New Guinea, in March, 1944, three Australian soldiers were sitting in a cleared spot near the beach.

The oldest of the three Diggers took a folded newspaper from his pocket, and carefully unfolded it.

"Look at this heading," he said. "It sounds good. '*Invasion of Europe Expected Soon. Victory This Year Possible.*' How's that, lads?"

"Victory this year, eh?" The young fair-haired lad gave a grin. "It sounds good all right."

"Almost too good to be true," added the third Digger, a thoughtful-looking chap who looked about thirty.

The three of them sat there in silence. A lonely U.S. plane droned overhead. A few shouts came from down on the beach, where some of the Diggers were throwing a football about. Then there was quiet again.

"What are you thinking of, Alan?" The query came from the Digger with the newspaper.

"Gee, Bill, lots of things. Victory, eh? And peace? Sydney again . . . Bondi Beach on a Sunday . . . Yachts on the Harbor . . . Cricket . . ."

"And that girl you're always talking about in your sleep?"

Bill and Mac laughed. "Two years in New Guinea and he still blushes like a kid . . ."

There was silence again. It was Mac, the quiet, thoughtful one, who spoke next. "The idea of peace makes you think of a lot of things. The wife and kiddies, the home, the garden, taking up my accountancy again. . . . But I want it to be more than that. Not just the old world again. I want to help somehow to make it a better world. It's only fair to . . . to those who have died."

They were silent again. The others knew that Bill had lost a brother in Greece.

"Don't worry, Mac." It was Alan speaking. "There'll be a better world all right. There's no need to worry about that."

"Listen, Alan," said Bill. "After the last war we thought there was no need to worry. I was like you then—just a kid. We'd won the war, and we thought winning the peace would be easy. Well—it wasn't."

"But didn't they have plans?"

"There were plenty of plans, Alan. Plans here and plans

there. But there was no plan big enough. That was why so many of us found ourselves in unemployed queues. Tom Johnson, who had been one of my pals in France, dropped dead in a sand-pit at Port Melbourne. He'd been unemployed for five years. It's a long time, five years . . ."

"It mustn't happen again," said Mac. "This time, when we've won the war, we've got to see that we win the peace, too."

## II. THE GUILTY MEN AGAIN

While the three men in New Guinea were sitting dreaming of a better Australia, with jobs and homes and happiness for all, down in Canberra the Parliament of Australia was discussing a Bill.

The aim of the Bill is to give the Federal Parliament more power for Post-War Reconstruction.

In other words, the aim of the Bill is to make it possible for the dreams of the men in New Guinea to come true.

The principles of the Bill have already been unanimously agreed on in full detail at a Conference of Premiers and Opposition Leaders of every State and of the Commonwealth (in November, 1942).

The Labor Movement is unanimously supporting the Bill. Two leading members of the U.A.P. have also supported the case for greater Federal Powers as outlined in the Bill.

One of them, Mr. W. M. Hughes, has said:

*"I believe that additional powers are essential if the Parliament is to deal adequately with post-war problems."* (HANSARD, March 7, 1944.)

And yet four men, supported by a handful of followers, are bitterly fighting against the Bill. Why? Who are they?

The first of them is Mr. R. G. Menzies—the man who was thanked by the Japanese war lords for forcing our wharves to load iron for Japan, the man who in 1938 returned from Europe and praised German and Italian fascism, the man who boasted in Parliament that he enjoyed hearing a list of B.H.P. shareholders, "because I hear so many names of my friends read out." (See "Australia's Guilty Men" for fuller details.)

The second of the three men is Mr. Menzies' second-in-command, Captain Harrison, who was challenged in the House on November 14, 1934, as to his having been a member of the fascist New Guard. Captain Harrison did not deny the charge, but on the contrary showed his complete sympathy with the New Guard

outlook and methods by replying that the New Guard had "placed the Communist movement in Australia in its proper place."



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*The Guilty Men are brewing something bad for Australia! This cartoon is from the pages of the weekly paper "Progress," popular in all States.*

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The third of the three men is Major Archibald Cameron, who in August, 1941, arose in Parliament and said:

*"I deprecate every word that has been said in public to-day about the necessity for sending assistance to Russia. . . . From our point of view it does not matter who wins the Russian-German war, because the British Empire is committed to fight the winner."*

The last of the four, Mr. Fadden, is the man who was reported in the "Adelaide News" of February 10, 1941, by the headlines: "SOONER HITLER THAN UNION LEFTISTS—Mr. Fadden Speaks Mind."

The fact that these Guilty Men are opposing the Bill is a tremendous argument for the Bill, for their whole record is one of

opposition to everything progressive, to every move that will benefit the common people of Australia.

However, this pamphlet does not ask you to vote in the referendum on any mere Party lines. It is going to put the whole facts before you, so that you can judge impartially.

### III. WHY A REFERENDUM?

Some of the opponents of the Referendum say that it is unnecessary, while other opponents agree that a Referendum is necessary, but say that it should not be held in war-time.

Both these objections can be completely answered, and in doing so we will see something of the history of the Referendum.

Firstly, the Australian Constitution was framed nearly fifty years ago. It served its purpose at the time—but the world has changed a lot since then, and Australia has become a nation, facing up to new problems that no one could have foreseen fifty years ago.

*The result is that sections of the Constitution have become shackles on our democracy; they are hampering and holding back Australia's march to full nationhood.*

Secondly, the Federal Labor Government did everything possible to avoid holding a referendum in war time.

Dr. Evatt introduced his first Bill for Greater Federal Powers in October, 1942, but the debate was allowed to lapse. The Curtin Government called a Convention at Canberra in November, 1942, of Premiers and Opposition Leaders of all States, together with representatives of the Federal Government and Federal Opposition.

This Convention unanimously agreed that the States should delegate to the Commonwealth Parliament adequate powers for post-war reconstruction.

A Committee was set up to draft a list of suitable powers, and the Premiers promised, after the draft had been unanimously adopted by the Convention, to do their utmost to have it ratified by the State Parliaments.

But only N.S.W. and Queensland approved the plan completely. Victoria, South Australia and West Australia approved with certain modifications. The Upper House in Tasmania blocked all chance of agreement by saying No.

Dr. Evatt made a special journey to Tasmania to try to secure a settlement, but the Upper House would not agree.

*A referendum therefore became necessary because every other avenue had been tried without success.*

(It is not true that Australians have always voted No in the past. On three occasions—in 1906, 1910 and 1928—they have altered the Constitution, making it clear that they recognise that *the Constitution is not a piece of cast-iron, but a living thing that needs to change to meet the new demands of history.*)

### IV. POWERS FOR WAR—WHAT OF THE PEACE?

Back in New Guinea the three Diggers were talking again.

"But what's the Government growling about?" It was Alan speaking. "Surely they've got enough power. Why, look at all the things they've done in the last few years. They've fixed prices, they've fixed rents, they've prosecuted black market agents, they've granted subsidies to farmers, they've rationed foods— Well, all that is good; I guess we needed it to win the war. But what more do they want?"

"They don't want more," Mac replied.

"Then why the referendum we've been talking about?"

"Because the constitution gives the Government all these powers in war-time, but not in peace-time."

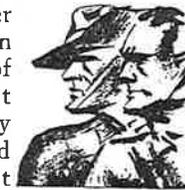
"Then the Government is not really asking for anything new?"

"No, Alan, it has used certain powers to win the war. All that it asks is that it should have the same powers to enable it to win the peace."



"Mac's right," chipped in Bill.

"Imagine what would happen after the war if the referendum had been defeated. The present powers of the Government would end. It would not have power to pass any new laws controlling prices and rents and subsidies to farmers. It would have no power to embark



on big national works to create employment. What would happen? Why, there'd be absolute chaos."

"It would be a paradise for profiteers," commented Mac.

"But a terrible depression for the workers—and that would include us, too."

"Well, now that's explained," said Alan, "I can't see how anyone can oppose the referendum. Surely everyone admits that winning the peace is as important as winning the war, and therefore needs the same powers."

"Everyone should admit it," said Mac.

"Don't forget," Bill answered, "that there is always a wealthy minority who oppose every progressive step. They have opposed the measures that Curtin has taken to win the war. They have attacked the Trade Unions and tried to split the Labor Movement. They oppose everything that's good."

"Then if they oppose the referendum, it merely proves the referendum's good?"

Bill laughed. "I guess you've said it. Why, there's more sound sense in that one sentence of yours than in all the politics I've talked for the last twenty years."

## V. WORKERS AND FARMERS, TOO

The men in New Guinea were not the only ones discussing the post-war world. It was a topic for Australians everywhere—on the factory and food fronts as well as on the fighting front.

Listen to these scraps of conversation at a factory gate in a country town "somewhere in Australia."

"But isn't this Referendum a matter for the soldiers? I don't see how it concerns us so much."

"Listen, Jim. What happened in America the other day? Didn't you read about that case where the Navy cut out orders and a firm tried to close down suddenly and sack thousands of workers on the spot?"

"Yeah, that's so. And they had to strike to keep the factory going."

"Well, that happened while the war's still on. Imagine what could happen when the war ends. There won't be only soldiers looking for jobs. There'll be you and me, too, unless there's a Government strong enough to stop it."

"Yes, perhaps you're right. But can we trust this Government?"

"Listen, Jim. No one pretends this Government is perfect. No one claims that it has never made a mistake. But the thing that matters is that it has made a good job of the war effort."

"Yes, I guess that's true."

"True? Why, when General MacArthur came here, do you know what he said?"

"No, what did he say?"

"He said that no nation in the world is making a more supreme war effort than Australia."

*"And after all, we put Governments in to do a job. If they don't do the job, then we can put them out, and elect men who will do the job."*

A third worker butts in. "Listen, I want to go back to the farm after the war. How is it going to affect me?"

"Well, things aren't perfect with the farmers, and I guess they never will be under capitalism. But in this war period, in spite of all the market upsets and droughts and bushfires, the debts of the farmers have actually been reduced."

"Is that a fact? I wouldn't have thought it possible."

"It surprised me too, but the figures were in the paper yesterday. Mortgages and bank drafts of primary producers have been reduced by sixty million pounds since the war began. And the reason is simply that war-time has meant greater Federal Powers, and therefore more planning on the food front. And more planning has meant less poverty—for farmer as well as worker."

## VI. THE FOURTEEN POINTS

Let us look at the referendum in detail now, so that we can decide whether it really will give the Australian people extra power to win the peace.

In the referendum, you will vote Yes or No as to whether you approve the Constitution Alteration Act (Post-War Reconstruction and Democratic Rights) passed by Parliament in March, 1944.

The Act provides that, for the first time, definite safeguards for three basic liberties shall be written into our Constitution. They are:—

*Freedom of speech and expression.*

*Freedom of religious worship.*

*Freedom from government by regulation.* (Regulations will still be able to be passed where necessary, but they will be subject to a close control by Parliament.)

The Act also provides that 14 definite powers be granted to the Parliament of Australia for a trial period of five years after the end of the war.

At a later date, the people can decide whether these powers shall become permanent.

The fourteen powers, in brief, are:—

1. *Repatriation and advancement of servicemen and service-women, and the dependants of those killed or disabled in the war.*
2. *Employment and unemployment.*
3. *Organised marketing of commodities.*
4. *Uniform company laws.*
5. *Trusts, combines and monopolies.*
6. *Profiteering and prices.*
7. *Production and distribution of goods.*
8. *Overseas exchange and overseas investment, and the regulation of the raising of money in accordance with plans approved by the Australian Loan Council.*
9. *Air transport.*
10. *Uniformity of railway gauges.*
11. *National works (in co-operation with the States.)*
12. *National health (in co-operation with the States).*
13. *Family allowances.*
14. *People of the Aboriginal race.*

(Provisos to Points 6 and 7 ensure that there shall be no control over prices charged by State or Local governing bodies, and that the power in Point 7 shall not discriminate between States or parts of States, and shall be approved by a State if it refers to primary production.)

These Three Freedoms and Fourteen Points are simple and easily understood. Let us see exactly what they will mean.

## VII. THE FOURTEEN POINTS IN DETAIL

### I. REPATRIATION

This problem will be many times greater than it was in 1918. It will be one of the biggest tasks Australia has ever faced. *But it is extremely doubtful whether the Federal Government has the power to tackle it.*

After the First World War, the extreme doubt about the Federal Government's powers led to soldier settlement and other matters being left to the States. This means lack of a national plan. It also means that any State plan has to face the opposition of an Upper House representing wealthy and landed interests (except, of course, in Queensland, where there is no Upper House).

*Is it fair to our soldiers to leave their welfare to the separate States and the whims of wealthy Upper Houses?*

## 2. EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT

This is going to be a key matter for Australia after the war. *Jobs for all*—that will be the crux of the whole position. And surely our fighters and workers have earned the right to employment and security!

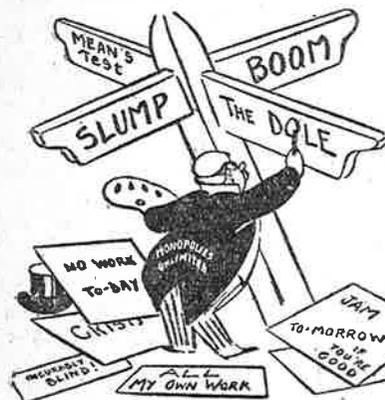
But the powers of the Commonwealth here are totally inadequate. It can deal with unemployment only by indirect methods, such as grants to the States.

*It cannot train men, place men, organise jobs for them. How can Australia win the peace without this power?*

This power will not mean the continuance of the present manpower control, for in peace time there is not the same need for drastic and harsh measures. The present war-time manpower regulations will go, as the Acting Prime Minister, Mr. Forde, has said.

But in their place we need an organisation which can launch national works, and set up offices which will help men and women to find jobs quickly and efficiently.

The alternative will be a return to the depression tragedy of men tramping the streets day after day vainly seeking jobs.



### 3. MARKETING

The Commonwealth at present has limited marketing powers only. It cannot deal with marketing inside a State boundary.

This means that the Commonwealth cannot organise a whole industry.

The Man  
who wants  
you  
to vote NO.

But in the post-war world, there will be disturbed markets with rapid changes. Some commodities will be in short supply, others will be released in huge quantity. There will also be the problem of helping the starved and suffering people of war-torn countries.

Under these conditions, quick decisions will be needed on a number of marketing matters such as pooling, zoning, quotas, grading, packing and advertising. These quick decisions can only come if there is unified control by the Federal Parliament.

#### 4. UNIFORM COMPANY LAW

When the present constitution was drafted, it was thought that it gave the Commonwealth power to pass a uniform Companies Act for the whole of Australia. But when the matter came to the High Court in 1909, it was found that this was not so.

The result is that a company incorporated in one State is regarded as a foreign company in all others. This has caused a lot of inconvenience.

#### 5. TRUSTS, COMBINES, MONOPOLIES

In any period of rapid reconstruction there is an acute danger from trusts and combines. Recent revelations in America have stressed the danger of these trusts, both in the economic and political fields.

The reality of the danger in Australia has even been admitted by Mr. R. W. D. Weaver, leader of the U.A.P. (now called the Democratic Party) in New South Wales:—

*"The tentacles of monopolies were so widespread that they have got the law and have complete control," Mr. Weaver (U.A.P., Neutral Bay) said to-day in the Legislative Assembly. "Never before in the history of Australia had the country been so dominated by the power of finance," Mr. Weaver said. "There were about 80 men representing £200,000,000 worth of capital, and about 20 of them dominated the financial interests of Australia. The fighting forces of this country," Mr. Weaver said, "would come back to discover Australia in the grip of monopolistic hands."*

—SYDNEY SUN, 31/7/41.

This is a very significant statement from a man who is on the side of the monopolies against the Labor Movement.

And yet the present Constitution gives no direct power to the Commonwealth to tackle this problem, while the States are helpless to face up to it.

#### 6. PROFITEERING AND PRICES

After the last war, prices rose rapidly in 1919 and 1920. Profiteering reached a high level. Some of the States attempted to check it, but found that the problem needed tackling on a national scale.

Are we to have profiteering and chaos again? Are we satisfied to let prices soar rapidly in a mad inflation so that profiteers may flourish while children starve?

Or are prices and profits to be controlled?



#### 7. PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION OF GOODS

When the war is over, there will be a rush on the part of private enterprise to manufacture goods and build homes. But private enterprise will not manufacture the goods most needed; it will manufacture where there is the highest rate of profit.

The result will tend to be a glut of luxury goods, but a shortage of essential supplies. There will be houses for the rich, but not for those who need them most. Uneven and unbalanced

production will cause a tendency to rising prices and a boom that will break into a depression.

The remedy is government control to direct manufacturing energies where they are most needed, and to see that goods in short supply go where they are most useful.

## 8. OVERSEAS EXCHANGE AND INVESTMENT

There is doubt at present as to the exact extent of the Commonwealth's powers in regard to these matters, which are important and can affect the whole economy, resulting in either security or insecurity.

It is therefore advisable to make certain that the Commonwealth has the power to act in these matters.

## 9. AIR TRANSPORT

One of the big features of the post-war world will be the big developments in air transport. Everyone agrees that there should be uniform regulation of air transport, but at present the State Governments have granted this only after many years of pressure, and at any time any State could withdraw its permission.

The result would be chaos in this extremely important field of transport, and no one has advanced any serious argument against the Commonwealth being given paramount power over this national matter.

## 10. UNIFORMITY OF RAILWAY GAUGES

The lack of uniformity of railway gauges in Australia is something that we all want to see ended, and it is an obvious step to give the Commonwealth as much power as possible to bring this about. Obviously the co-operation of the States will be important in solving the problem.

## 11. NATIONAL WORKS

The carrying out of national works is a vital factor in the modern world for the building of homes and roads, for town planning, for national development, and for the prevention of unemployment.

Yet at present the Commonwealth has very little power at all in the matter. The High Court has even held that the Commonwealth could not validly keep in employment its naval dockyard staff and equipment by making machinery for civilian purposes.

The clause states that the consent and co-operation of the State concerned must be obtained.

## 12. NATIONAL HEALTH

The present Commonwealth power applies only to quarantine. The States have passed considerable legislation on such matters as pure foods control, sanitation, and health services. But there is a growing feeling that health must be given more importance, that it must become a national matter, a foremost factor in post-war reconstruction. The clause states that the Commonwealth shall use this power in co-operation with the States.

## 13. FAMILY ALLOWANCES

The present Constitution gives indisputable power to the Commonwealth on invalid and old-age pensions, but the more recent advances—family endowment and widows' pensions—rest on an insecure basis.

The additional powers would make these advances secure, and make new advances possible.

## 14. PEOPLE OF THE ABORIGINAL RACE

The present Constitution gives the Commonwealth power to make laws with respect to the people of any race for whom special laws are considered necessary, but the Aborigines were expressly excluded from this law.

In the post-war world, the question of relations between white and colored peoples in the Pacific will be of extreme importance, and the Commonwealth clearly needs the power to develop a national policy that will ensure a new deal for the Aborigines, and set an example to the other Pacific nations.

## VIII. THOSE TERRIBLE BOGEYS!

The arguments against a YES vote are so weak that it is difficult to take them seriously. Even the "Sydney Morning Herald" admitted this in its editorial of November 27, 1942, when it wrote:

*"It is difficult to follow, much less agree with, Mr. Fadden's argument that the revised Bill is a party measure."*

As for Mr. Menzies, he began by admitting the need for greater Federal powers:—

*"Mr. Menzies said he believed that full nationhood required great power at the centre. He would have wished, however, that the Government's proposals had been deferred. . . ."—SYDNEY MORNING HERALD, October 3, 1942.*

Then he varied his objection by saying that the language of the Draft Bill was not "appropriate" ("S.M. Herald," 17/11/42). Challenged to state what was wrong with the language of the Bill, he complained that the term "post-war reconstruction" was "indefinable." Can such objections be taken seriously?

He has since shifted his ground again, trying to suggest that the Commonwealth Government already has sufficient power.



*"If only I could think of one good argument against the Referendum!"*

The silliness of some of the arguments against the Referendum is reminiscent of fifty years ago, when opponents of Federal Power at the 1897 Convention tried to prevent the Federal Government from having the power to impose income tax, while one debater solemnly warned against giving the Commonwealth power over lunacy matters, *because of the frightful danger that the Federal Government might take over the lunatic asylums!*

The real nature of the reasons behind the No campaign was indicated by Mr. Menzies in the Parliamentary debate of February 23. Mr. Menzies was speaking against the Referendum, and a Labor member heckled him, suggesting he was afraid that undisclosed company profits would be brought to light by the new powers.

Mr. Menzies made no denial at all, merely replying boastfully: *"The honorable member need not fear that he will ever have any undisclosed profits to be affected."*

This makes it clear that much of the opposition to the Referendum comes from people who put profit first, and the welfare of Australia last.

These people more and more are dropping all pretence at serious argument against the Referendum, and are relying on bogeys aimed at scaring the Australian people.

These bogeys failed at the Federal and State Elections, and they will fail again.

They will fail again because the Australian people have enough sense to see that greater Federal Power means greater power FOR

THE PEOPLE—that is, GREATER DEMOCRACY. This is therefore a guarantee against fascists or against any other undemocratic minority.

Menzies and the other Guilty Men try to suggest that a YES vote means giving something away. But it means the opposite.

*A YES vote doesn't mean giving anything away; it means that the Australian people are taking something for themselves—by giving their Central Government more power to deal with post-war problems.*

The only groups who will lose by a YES vote are the big monopolies, the profiteers, the pro-fascists, and the wealthy and privileged Upper Houses. That is why they oppose the Referendum.

*And these are some of the reasons why the Labor Movement and the great mass of the Australian people will support it!*

## IX. BOGEYS—AND REAL DANGERS

In wealthy and exclusive clubs, and in the Inner Offices of the Big Monopolies, the Guilty Men are raising their bogeys one after the other.

The workers in the factories, the men and women in offices and farms or little suburban homes, are not frightened. Neither are the men in uniform. Listen to what Bill and Alan and Mac are saying up there in New Guinea:—

"But isn't there really a danger of bureaucracy and regimentation and serfdom and all that?"

"Listen, Alan. The Governments of Britain and New Zealand, to name two countries only, already have all these powers that the Australian Government is now asking. In fact, they have far wider powers. And is there serfdom or slavery in Britain? Or in New Zealand?"

"Well, this talk of 'Industrial Conscription' has got a few of the men frightened."

"Listen. The Labor Government has given a pledge that there won't be industrial conscription after the war, and the Trade Union Movement will see that the pledge is kept. The real danger isn't going to be industrial conscription, lad."

"What do you mean?"

"I mean that on this issue of employment there is a danger all right. But it's not a danger that we may be forced to work. The danger is that we may be forced to starve, to tramp the streets

looking for work. That's the real danger, and I know, because I've had to do it. And I don't want to do it again. And I don't want any of the lads to have to do it. But if this Referendum is lost, then they'll have to do it. There's nothing surer under the sun than that."

There was a silence, and then Mac spoke. "*Bill's right. There's a big danger in this Referendum—a big danger of what would happen if Australia voted NO.*"

"Don't worry," replied Bill. "I've got a feeling we can trust the Australian people to vote YES."

Whether Bill is right depends to a great extent on you who read this pamphlet. But remember that in voting YES you are not voting for anyone else, for any particular group or party or organisation.

In voting YES, you are voting for more power for yourself, by giving your Central Government more power to plan for Australia.

*As Prime Minister John Curtin has said: "It is absolutely unsafe to leave the Commonwealth without powers to deal with post-war problems."*

Don't let us enter the vital post-war period crippled and hampered and divided and insecure. Let us enter it with full power and confidence, determined that Australia shall take a proud place among the nations of the world in the march towards a better future.

Let us spread the message everywhere that a NO vote is a vote for poverty, insecurity, slums and unemployment, but that a YES vote, while of course it will not automatically solve these problems, will open the way for a fuller democracy and greater nationhood that will make possible real post-war reconstruction—*an Australia with jobs and homes and a fair deal for all!*

June, 1944.

(Published by the Australian Communist Party, Daking House, Sydney.)

*"Whatever powers the people grant to the Commonwealth Parliament are granted to themselves, to be exercised by their own chosen agents, and controlled by themselves. They are not powers handed to a foreign body, or to a party, or a clique. . . .*

*"They are not powers which would, as in the case of the States, enable a minority of the population, specially privileged politically, to have a double share of government, not only to oppose measures in one House of the Parliament, where all are represented, but also, if unsuccessful there, to alter or veto the decision in the second House which they exclusively for the most part control."*

—SIR ISAAC ISAACS, prominent Australian democrat, and former Governor-General.

## NOTE ON POWER 2 (Employment & Unemployment)

The need for this power was admitted by Mr. T. Playford (Premier of South Australia and U.A.P. leader in that State) during the committee stages of the debate on the Commonwealth Powers Bill in the House of Assembly. He said:

*"I ask members to retain the paragraph as printed. I know that the provision is wide, and contains extensive emergency powers, but I think those powers are required. In the past we know of instances where drastic action was necessary in an emergency."*

The fact that Mr. Playford is now opposing the Referendum makes this admission of his all the more significant. *It is an admission from the opponents of the Referendum that the Referendum is necessary.*