CHAPTER 11
Australian Labor Party,
New South Wales Branch
Annual Conference, 14 – 16 April 1933

Report in The Sydney Morning Herald

This is the occasion when Jock Garden made his famous comment that “Lang is greater than Lenin”. The Herald correspondent does not quote the exact words, but the meaning is clear, and the phrase has come down in Labor mythology. It was part of the Inner Group’s attempt to undermine the growing influence of the militants in the Socialisation Units, closely allied with the Communist Party. Garden, an ex-Communist himself, was trying to portray Lang as more effectively radical than his enemies on the left. “Our leader is ahead of the god they bow the knee to. Our report goes further than the policy advocated by Lenin. Mr Lang is the greatest leader the country has ever produced.” The militants do not seem to have been convinced by the argument.

The Conference was a rowdy affair, with the chairman gagging most debate except for Lang’s address. For his part, Lang did not appeal to Marx or Lenin, but rather to the newly elected American President, FD Roosevelt. He was on firm ground there as Roosevelt’s New Deal had some elements in common with the Lang Plan. However, the New Deal was probably closer to the policies put forward unsuccessfully by the former Federal Treasurer, Ted Theodore – an irony that Lang would certainly not have appreciated, since Theodore (a promoter of Federal Labor) was an even more immediate threat to Lang than the militants of the Socialisation Units.
Executive Report of NSW ALP for 1932-33

(Mitchell Library Manuscripts, 329.3106/3)

Australian Labor Party, State of New South Wales, Annual Report 1932-1933

The last annual report referred to the disruptive tactics of the Theodore-Bailey faction and how the Movement was successfully combating the attempts of the T-B faction to divide Labor’s forces. This T-B faction had the backing of that one-time powerful organisation, the AWU, supported by their daily paper, The World, and the cooperation of the anti-Labor organisations.

The cooperative efforts of these factors in the dispute resulted in almost wrecking the AWU, and completely smashing The World newspaper.

The ALP remains the greatest mass organisation of the Commonwealth.

These attacks will continue from time to time upon every successful working class movement.

During the period under review, 1932-33, a more subtle effort was made to destroy our movement. The people responsible for this later disruptive campaign, realising the futility of the methods adopted by the now defunct T-B faction, attempted to organise their forces within our movement. For this purpose they utilised the movement’s enthusiasm for the Party’s Objective, and assisted in the formation of Socialisation Groups to such an extent that these groups were fast becoming a separate organisation within the movement, and, because of the cunning way this organisation was being used, great difficulty was experienced in combating their subtlety.

This sectional disruptive element, through the channels of the Socialisation Units, engineered numerous resolutions through our branches of a harassing and disruptive character.

Their lecturers, under the guise of propagating the socialisation of industry, addressed many branches, but their lectures were mainly concerned in abusing all official organs of the party, ie, Executive, Labor Daily, and Parliamentary Party. This method was purposely designed to destroy the confidence in the leadership of the movement.

Because of the grip that these disruptionists had on the movement, it was necessary for the Executive to take drastic action in their branches at Glebe and Paddington, and it involved the expelling of a number of members of the Glebe Branch. The result has been that harmony now prevails in these branches, the members having again recovered the right to control their affairs.
The work of these disruptionists came to fruition at the Metropolitan Conference, when this small coterie capitalised the enthusiasm of the delegates on Socialisation, and endeavored to complete their work of splitting the Movement.

The investigation of your Executive proved conclusively that the Socialisation Units were dominated by Communist influence, whose avowed purpose is to destroy the Australian Labor Party.

The Communist Party, unable to make any material advance with the Australian masses, seized the advantage opened up by Socialisation Units, and in a manifesto published in the official organ of the Communists, Workers’ Weekly, on the 14th August, 1931, stated:

“The Communist Party must everywhere get the utmost contact with the ALP rank and file, must approach them for the purpose of drawing them into the various everyday struggles. Particular attention to be paid to the Socialisation Units and those bodies of workers to be won for the revolutionary policy of the Communist international.”

Advice contained in this statement was given effect to, as indicated by reports reaching Head Office of renewed activity in the Socialisation Movement. Investigations revealed that members of the Communist auxiliary bodies were joining in large numbers. It was also learned that, although such people were theoretically not entitled to vote, they overwhelmed many of the meetings with members and virtually took control. Suspicious change in organisation methods were noted, there was an atmosphere of exclusiveness; and the liaison between branches and Socialisation Units weakened, with units attempting to function as separate organisations; the result being friction and bitterness within branches.

The Socialisation Units, surrounded by a parrot cry of Socialisation, organised “voting ticket” running committees, with the object of capturing all official positions in the Movement. Regular secret meetings of delegates of Socialisation Units were held on Friday evenings in the Trades Hall. It was from these meetings that the inspired resolutions mentioned previously were engineered through the branches, and the “voting tickets” prepared.

Another disturbing factor throughout this long period was the continuous neglect of the Socialisation Section to provide the Movement with a financial statement. The numerous unsuccessful attempts made by your Executive to obtain such a statement, the unsatisfactory financial position resulting from the Socialisation Theatre, the apparent freedom of expenditure in certain quarters, and the inability of the Labor Daily to obtain payment of its accounts suggest to your Executive the need for investigation. The obvious amount of money now being spent by disruptionists since the Metropolitan Conference, and in the light of their alleged inability to reduce their account with the Labor Daily, appears to support this recommendation. The Socialisation Section is the only
section of our Movement who have neglected to provide annual audited financial statements, and so its financial resources remain hidden, its disbursements are still secret, and the Movement’s liabilities in this regard are unknown.

The unpleasant task of exposing motives for disruptive activities was forced upon your Central Executive, and they accepted the responsibility, and it remains for the Annual Conference to determine whether your Executive’s actions during the term are worthy of endorsement.

**Commonwealth Parliament**

During the past year the people of Australia have had full opportunity of realising the effects of the adverse vote which Labor received at their hands on the 19th December, 1931.

The result of the conflict between the anti-Labor Commonwealth Government and the New South Wales Labor Government of 1930-32 should have demonstrated to members of our Movement that we must concentrate our efforts upon gaining absolute control of the Commonwealth Parliament.

The year was marked by the passing of many class-biased legislative enactments. The Bruce-Lyons [sic] Government have certainly carried out the wishes of their masters, i.e., the financial interests; the only real opposition came from the small but energetic band of Labor representatives from this State.

Among the Acts mentioned was the Australian Broadcasting Commission Act, and the appointments made by the Government under the provisions of this Act were in keeping with the past practice of anti-Labor Governments of seeing that wherever possible avenues of publicity are controlled by men and women who are known to be distinctly biased against the viewpoint of the Labor Movement.

Amendments to the Immigration Act, the Crimes Act, and the Commonwealth Arbitration and Conciliation Act were carried in spite of the strenuous efforts of our members, and as these measures are definitely aimed at the right of assembly and free speech, the Labor Party, when given the opportunity, should unhesitatingly remove from this legislation all provisions that have for their purpose the penalising of organisations and persons for offences of a political or industrial character.

The Commonwealth Bank Act was amended to permit the Commonwealth Bank Board to “hold the note issue reserve in either gold or sterling”. Since the passing of the amendments to the Act great quantities of gold have been transferred overseas to meet pressing demands, without any difference being apparent to the public, thereby proving that “Lang was Right” when he said Australia would be compelled to go off the gold standard.
The attacks upon the old-age and invalid pensioners commenced by the last Scullin-Theodore Government were continued by the present Government. The basis of the Act has been altered and the pension ceases to be claimed as a right and is now given as a charitable grant. In assessing the income into the home of applicants for pensions, the State food relief is taken into account by the Federal Government, and the State Government, vice versa, counts the pension payments when determining applications for food relief. The pensioners are alive to the situation, and are organising for the next Federal elections so as to ensure the return of a real Labor Government, realising that this is the only way in which they may obtain justice.

An Old Age and Invalid Pensioners’ Association has been formed, and has extended its operations into other States. Labor’s five in the House of Representatives and their two representatives in the Senate have worked hard, but in vain, to prevent any further inroads being made upon the rights of this unfortunate section of our community.

Delegations were sent from Australia to the Conferences at Geneva and Lausanne, which discussed principally the questions of disarmament and war reparations. The results proved that our Federal representatives were right when they referred to these Conferences as futile gatherings of hypocrites and humbugs. The Labor Party can do most to prevent future wars by explaining to the masses of the workers the causes of wars and urging them not to allow themselves to be used to settle disputes of international financial interests.

Delegates were also sent to the much-discussed Ottawa Conference, which was dominated by the British diplomats, and which was designed for the purpose of organising the British Empire into an economic unit so that British Imperialism may be more favorably placed in its efforts to control and exploit world markets. Part of this scheme entails the sacrificing of Australia’s secondary industries. The decisions arrived at are tantamount to a declaration of economic warfare against the world, and failure to settle differences by negotiation must inevitably lead to armed conflict, and the Labor Party must use every endeavor to see that no more Australian workers are sacrificed in future Imperialistic wars.

Our representatives rendered signal service to the naval ratings in their fight for better conditions aboard ship, and hundreds of letters have been received thanking them and promising support to the party in its future efforts on behalf of the Australian workers.

The Commonwealth finances showed marked improvement as the result of the pensions grab, etc., and the Government, regardless of many and repeated promises to the pensioners, brought down a measure called the Financial Relief Bill, which disposed of the surplus revenue by making enormous financial gifts to its friends and supporters by way of remission of land tax, sales tax, etc.
The members of our party in the Commonwealth Parliament were particularly active during the year, assisting by addressing meetings in every corner of the State during the State election campaign, meetings arranged by the Old Age and Invalid Pensioners’ Association, and the Socialisation Committee and the Returned Soldiers’ and Sailors’ Labor Club, besides giving attention to the duties consequent upon a very strenuous parliamentary session.

**State Parliament**

The earlier months of the period under review witnessed the most momentous events that have occurred to a Parliamentary Labor Party in this State.

The attack upon the Labor Government, commenced the previous year, assumed its most ruthless aspect at the beginning of 1932. In January, when Messrs Bruce and Lyons set out upon the campaign which culminated in the Governor’s illegal dismissal of the Government, the Labor Government of New South Wales was still refusing to follow the other States in legislating away the rights of the people to social services and decent standards of living. It is still in the recollection of most people how every ruse and subterfuge was resorted to to bring the Labor Government under the bankers’ heels. When every other form of persuasion and intimidation, including offers of bribery, had failed, the abuse of the Governor’s prerogative brought about the downfall of the Government.

The loyalty of the 55 members of that historic party constitutes one of the brightest pages in Labor’s history. The party comprised men whose only means of livelihood was their parliamentary salary, men holding seats which they knew would be lost to them unless the phenomenal swing to Labor, evident in the 1930 election, was repeated. Many of these men knew that an election for them meant political and economic annihilation, but they were prepared to accept that fate rather than a Labor Government should betray the people who elected it or defame the reputation of the Movement which they served.

No Government in the history of the State has ever been called upon to govern in such adverse circumstances. Notwithstanding the hostility of the Federal Government, the Press, the bankers, and the Upper House, the Labor Government, during its short life, reintroduced the 44-hour week, preserved the basic wage, reduced interest, brought in a Moratorium, increased the food allowance to the unemployed, and widened its scope, remitted £3,000,000 of Government dues to the farming community, and achieved other legislative and administrative acts, any one of which, in normal times, would be considered a major advancement.

The manner in which the seats were gerrymandered by the Bavin Government was clearly demonstrated at the general elections last year, and the Labor Party had only 24 members elected in a House of 90, notwithstanding that it polled nearly half of the aggregate votes recorded.
In November, 1932, the death of our colleague, Mr BC Olde, was reported. Members lost a true friend, and the Movement a loyal and able worker in his death.

Life of JT Lang
The Movement is interested in a book entitled the Life of JT Lang by John HC Sleeman. This work not only deals with the life of our Leader from boyhood to the end of the second Lang administration, but the foreword traces the history of the Labor Movement over the last two thousand years.

Ever the quest of Labor has been the same. Ever the obstacle, the barricades erected to stop the advance of Labor, has been similar in design.

The book has our recommendation as one of the big biographical works of the world, and for Australians it carries the added significance of showing what position in the world the Great Australian Leader really occupies.

Municipal
During the year the Labor aldermen in the City Council, although in the minority, have assisted the workers engaged in municipal work.

The Civic Reform Party endeavored, during the year, to reduce the wages of the workers by 12/6 per week, as decided by the Commission. The Labor aldermen strenuously opposed such being accomplished, and because of their efforts municipal employees have not suffered that reduction.

The extension of Martin Place and the widening of Elizabeth Street was obtained by the Labor aldermen, with the assistance of three Civic Reform aldermen, in addition to the erection of a new incinerator.

The Labor aldermen were able to prevent contracts going overseas, especially the large electrical contract for transformers, which, after weeks of fighting, was obtained for a Sydney firm. These four big jobs will entail employment for our people, and the unity of the Labor aldermen alone was the factor which made it possible to gain this work.

The Stevens Government legislated against the holding of the city municipal elections last December. The Movement is now looking forward to the city municipal elections being held in December next, and anticipate a victory which will give Labor a majority in the City Council of Sydney.

Younger Sets
The Annual General Conference of 1932 instructed the Executive to, in its organisational work, pay particular attention to organising a Younger Set Movement.
The Executive have been very successful in their efforts in this direction, and approximately 100 Younger Sets are actively functioning in various portions of the State. The average membership of each set is now well over 100.

In furtherance of the organising of the Younger Sets your Executive have given particular attention to the setting up of sporting competitions, four of which were held during the year – cricket, tennis, swimming, and vigoro. A football competition is now being arranged.

Cricket – The cricket competition was played on Sunday mornings at Moore Park, 19 teams competing for a silver cup donated by Mr Sam Lands, which was won by the Surry Hills team. Though this branch of sport was arranged late in the season, the wonderful success attained in our initial efforts is an encouragement to go further afield, and it is proposed to continue these competitions on a greater scale next season.

The play in this competition attained a very high standard, there were many notable performances with the bat and the ball by individual players, the brilliant fielding of our players was applauded by the immense concourse of spectators who attended these matches each Sunday.

Vigoro – The Vigoro Association organised under the aegis of the Younger Sets has completed its first competition, which commenced on the 4th December last, seven districts taking part, and it proved very interesting to the crowds that watched the play every Sunday at Moore Park. The trophy was a silver cup presented by Mrs Louden to be competed for annually. The Vigoro Association is now arranging for its winter competition.

Tennis – The Tennis Association was formed in conjunction with the Younger Set Movement, and a competition was inaugurated in October last, and has just been completed. This was the first of its kind, and was known as a summer competition. A silver cup for the winning team was donated by Mrs Louden, and won by Mortdale No. 1. Three districts with a total of 18 teams competed. The Tennis Association are now arranging for the second competition, to be run during the winter months.

Swimming – The Younger Set have also carried on their activities in the aquatic section of sport, but were not able to commence operations until close upon the end of the swimming season, which ends in March of each year. The ALP Swimming Club is affiliated with the NSW Amateur Swimming Association. A successful swimming carnival was held at the Coogee Aquarium on Saturday evening, March 11, and an interesting programme was carried out. The principal event was for the challenge cup donated by the Hon JT Lang, to be competed for annually. In this carnival we had the wholehearted assistance and cooperation of the NSW Amateur Swimming Association, and secured the services of a number of their members to carry out official positions at the carnival, and we desire to extend our appreciation to the association and also to
the officials who so efficiently carried out their duties. We also extend our thanks to the Diving Troup, and particularly the Roberts Brothers for their very attractive display, and also the two polo teams for helping to make our programme a success.

Valuable trophies were also donated by Ald D Mulcahy, Mr T Trautwein, Mr S Currotta, and Mr F Kay for competition in the events for the past season, and the Movement gratefully appreciates the practical assistance rendered by these donors.

Football—Keen interest is being displayed in the coming football competition. At the initial meeting between 50 and 60 delegates were present. A committee was appointed, who have drafted a comprehensive constitution to govern the ALP Football Association and its competitions. The competition, commencing on Sunday, May 7, will play Rugby League football in A, B, and C grades. To date 42 teams have submitted entries for this competition.

Organisation

The organising work during the term is very satisfactory. Our Organising Secretary, Mr JB Martin, has at times been diverted from his organising work to attend to the very many other duties imposed upon him from time to time, and in his report he mentions that during election and by-election campaigns he has devoted the whole of his time to securing the return of Labor candidates. He mentions the coincidence in East Sydney of a by-election taking place at similar periods in 1931 and 1932, upon each occasion Mr EJ Ward was returned. The whole of the Organising Secretary’s time was occupied in both of these elections. Again, Mr Martin’s services had to be utilised in the “Lang is Right” campaign, in the throes of which the Movement was confronted with a general State election, caused by the dismissal of the Lang Government by an imported Governor, almost at the moment that our leader had achieved his objective.

The Organising Secretary, in addition to giving attention to metropolitan branches and addressing public meetings, has travelled over 30,000 miles in this State during the year, visiting and forming branches and Socialisation Units, addressing public meetings, and hearing unemployed deputations. On every tour as many as three meetings a day have been attended.

The list of new branches printed herein will give some indication of the areas visited in addition to Scarboroue, Grenfell, Cowra, Dubbo, Nepean Dam, Campbelltown, Griffith, Leeton, Temora, Ardlethan, Barel lan, Narrandera, Wagga, Orange, Cargo, Millthorpe, Parkes, Molong, Werris Creek, Boggabri, Gunnedah, Muswellbrook, Scone, Taree, Wauchope, Port Macquarie, Kempsey, Lismore, Inverell, Glen Innes, Coffs Harbor, Wellington, Bargo, and Penrith.
In addition to visiting Queensland, he made extensive tours to Victoria and South Australia, travelling some 8500 miles, in which he organised and addressed many large gatherings, and at which he was enthusiastically received.

The objective and policy of the Party was on every occasion explained by him in our endeavors to make the objective a Commonwealth one.

The Organising Secretary, Mr J B Martin, extends his greatest appreciation for the valuable assistance received during his tours from branch officials and those members of the Party who accompanied him on his many tours.

New Branches

Clifton  Wallerawang  Dapto  Canowindra
Abbotsford  Comboyne  Wongarbon  Byron Bay
Thornton  Kerr's Creek  Merrygoen  Nevertire
Adelong  St Marys  Gundagai  Oakey Park
Mt Keira  Scarborough  Sunnyside  Burrimuck
Woronora Dam  Sawtell  Bellingen  Broadmeadow
Wyong  Araluen  Holbrook  Narooma
Balgownie  Mayfield  Campbells Town  Casino
Windleyer  Mt Pritchard  Harcout East  Kembla Heights
Woolaliba  Coledale  Bateman's Bay  Cargo
Cullen Bullen  Corrimal  Coramba  Helensburgh
Kyogle  Murrumburrah  Kandos  Nambucca Heads
North Ryde  Yass  Uralla  Walla Walla
Tumbarumba  Humula  Tarcutta  Rosewood
Tarago  Cooyal  Manndurama  Harden
Davistown  Bingara  Millthorpe  Arlneath
Mount Hope  Gunning  Asquith  Ivanhoe
Gulgativa  Unanderra  Oberon  Newnes
Caninda  Coolatai  Curlewis  Moss Vale
Howlong  Goolagong  Gulargambone  Lightning Ridge
Yeadon  Berrigan  Mulwala  Rooty Hill
Kentville  North Bexley  East Hills  Hoxton Park
Robertson K'loo  Daysdale  Brocklesby  Oaklands
Bowning  Mullumbimby  Mai Maru  Bussley Park
Blackheath  Capertee  Pride of Mortdale  Vale of Clwydd

Unemployment

The Organising Secretary devoted particular attention to unemployment relief, and the experience gained by him on his many tours was instrumental in having set up a number of Labor agencies at Tarcutta, Grafton, Jindabyne, Adaminaby, Berrima, Bega, Comboyne, Cobargo, Kelso, Merimbula, Mogo, Moruya, St Marys, Tuggerah Lakes, Boggabilla, where grievances can be properly and immediately attended to.

The loss of our Government has hampered his work in this regard. The cutting down of relief has resulted in very many distressing cases as outlined by him in his address to the Legislative Council on October 26.
last. This address caused concern to the Minister administering relief, and was the means of relieving some of the hardships imposed by the stringent relief conditions of the Stevens Government. Arising out of this matter, an Unemployment Conference was convened during the term, and the decisions of this conference were printed and circulated amongst our branches.

Almost the whole of our branches now have Unemployment Relief Committees effectively functioning, and are rendering material assistance in the way of food and clothing, and paying particular attention to eviction cases. A number of these committees have been in operation for the past three years.

During the term a Men’s Hostel was established at Redfern to supplement the valuable assistance rendered by the Women’s Hostel. Both these hostels are under the capable management of members of the WCOC.

The Men’s Hostel, under the direction of Mrs Caffrey, was originally established to provide a home for the men who were being evicted from the Sydney Domain. These men suffered all kinds of petty annoyances from the authorities in an endeavor to force them from their camping ground in the Domain, even to the destroying of their tents.

These campers, 75 in all, were provided, by means of this hostel, with reasonably comfortable quarters and a properly equipped dining room enabling them to obtain regular well-cooked meals.

The hygienic arrangements for this hostel include hot and cold baths which are keenly appreciated by those who are obliged to make use of the hostel.

Entertainment is provided in both hostels as far as their limited means will allow, the chief of which are a radio and gramophone. There are at present 130 men housed in the hostel and upward of 150 have been supplied with meals daily.

As with the Women’s Hostel, no deserving case in neglected.

These two hostels depend almost entirely upon donations received from sympathisers.

Parcels of clothing and groceries, gifts of tobacco, gramophone records, wood and coal, and similar donations will be gratefully appreciated at both these hostels.

The Movement gratefully appreciates the noble work of these women in supplementing the work of our Unemployed Committees by providing this very necessary assistance.

Women's Central Organising Committee

The WCOC has been a very active factor in our Movement for the past 27 years and its activities during the year ended Easter, 1932, were of material assistance to the Movement in the Federal, State, and Municipal Campaigns and in the by-election for East Sydney and again the
Leichhardt by-election, WCOC rendered valuable assistance in securing the return of Messrs E Ward and J Lamaro.

This Committee, in attending to matters affecting the welfare of the Movement, took part in many deputations to the Ministers, dealing particularly with Unemployed Relief, Evictions, and matters affecting the boarding out of State children.

The Committee also performed valuable work in raising funds and generally helping to relieve acute distress caused by unemployment, and has aided homeless women and girls by the establishment of their hostel. During the term, they took over from the ALP the Lang Hostel and amalgamated the functions of these two hostels in the one now being administered by them in Elizabeth Street near Hunter Street.

Many members of this Committee took part in the protest meeting that they organised against reduction in Old Age and Invalid and Widows Pensions, and also the curtailment of family endowment. These meetings were held in the Sydney Domain.

The WCOC held their triennial Conference at the latter end of 1932. Mrs Stapleton, President of the Committee, opened Conference with a stirring address, and welcomed the 250 delegates from the metropolitan and country branches. Mr Keller, general president of the ALP, addressed the assembled delegates and conveyed to them the Movement’s appreciation for the work they had performed. A number of interesting papers were submitted and discussed dealing with the following subjects:

Socialisation.
Influence of Capitalist Press.
The March of the Machine.
Conditions of the Blind Workers.
Old Age and Invalid Pensions.
Domestic Service legislation.
Election of Women to Municipal and Shire Councils.
The Harm of Communism in Home Life.
Birth Control.
Sex Training.
Family Courts.
Attack on Social Services.

Among the newer representation at Conference were delegates from Narremburn, Ashbury, Willoughby, Granville, Merrylands, Guildford, Punchbowl, Campsie, Canterbury, Hurlstone Park, and Hurstville.

Conference, before concluding, expressed their appreciation for the wonderful work performed by the Labor Daily.

It is regrettable that, despite the wonderful political work performed by women, they can only claim one representative in our legislative halls,
Hon Mrs Webster, MLC, and one Lady Alderman, Mrs Dunn, of the Glebe Municipal Council.

The WCOC extend their deepest sympathy to the relatives and friends of the late Harry Stewart and Mrs W Hazel in the sad loss occasioned by their death.

**Executive**

The Central Executive, which is elected each year by the plebiscite votes of members, is composed, with one or two exceptions, of people employed in industry who give almost the whole of their spare time for the work of the Movement. The Committee is subdivided into Disputes Committee, Organising Committee, and Finance Committee.

The meetings of the Central Executive and sub-committees are always well attended.

It is with regret we have to report that during the term Mr Martin Manion passed away. His death was a shock to the Movement. He has been the miners’ representative on the Executive and Conference for very many years and we express our heartfelt sympathy in the loss occasioned by his family and large circle of friends.

Most of the members of our Executive regularly attend the various Branch meetings in the metropolitan area and occasional meetings of our country Branches, and though, in this way a large number of Branches are visited by our Executive, it is impracticable for the whole of them to be visited.

Among the many rulings delivered by the Executive during the year, the following four are of particular importance.

**Expiration of Tickets**

Membership tickets expire on the 31st December each year, but hold good until the conclusion of the first meeting of the Branch subsequent to the 31st December. This was necessary to permit of a first meeting of the year being held in accordance with our Constitution.

**Termination of Meetings**

The Executive interpreted Standing Order Q to mean:

(a) That the aggregate time for extending meetings beyond 10 pm shall not exceed the total of 30 minutes.

(b) That such meetings shall be definitely closed not later than 10.30 pm, and all business transacted after that hour will be null and void.
Attendance at Branch Meetings
The only persons eligible to attend Branch meetings are members of Branches. Applicants for membership in Metropolitan Branches may attend the meeting only whilst their application is being submitted. Lecturers and persons proposing to address Branch meetings may be invited by resolution of the Branch, providing such persons are not members of any other political organisations.

Attendance at EC Meetings
The only persons having the right of attendance at Council meetings are:
(a) Delegates appointed by the constituent Branches and in their absence, alternate delegates.
(b) Members of Central Executive or their representatives.
(c) Persons invited by resolution of Council for a particular meeting, providing such persons are not members of any other political organisations.

The Central Executive is very grateful to the officials and members of the Movement who supported and assisted them during a very critical and trying period. The helpful cooperation of these officials and members was keenly appreciated by your Executive as it materially lightened their burden and made possible the many successes achieved by the Movement during the term.

The Labor Daily
The Movement has been fortunate in the cooperation and ready assistance received at all times through the year from the Labor Daily.

The year has been a strenuous one for the paper as it has for every other section of the Movement, but it will be conceded that the splendid fight put up by the Labor Daily during the election campaign was one of the most inspiring impulses given to the Movement for many years. And even when so many of our people, grossly intimidated and misled as they were, deserted the Party in the crisis, the Labor Daily maintained the splendid fighting spirit that rallied the Movement after its disappointing defeat.

The incessant attack and continued exposure that it has directed at both the Federal and State Governments have gone a long way to restrain those vindictive administrations from carrying their desperate policies to the lengths they had intended. It must also be mentioned that our splendid paper has so far conducted a magnificent fight against the monstrous Referendum proposals. Its timely exposure of the scrutineer scandal has put the Movement on its guard and, if the branches have followed the lead given by the paper, Labor will have a 100 per cent enrolment.
Another feature of the Labor Daily’s services that should be mentioned is the attention given to reporting branch activities and Executive meetings, while its columns have always been thrown open to us for any appeal we desired to make.

In its official organ the Movement has a weapon that is the envy of Labor in every other State of the Commonwealth and every effort should be exerted by the branches to make it the strongest paper in Australia. This can be done overnight if, by organisation, the business houses of the city were taught that they need not seek the business of the workers unless they seek it through their own paper.

Before leaving this matter conference should be reminded of the kind of loyalty the Labor Daily requires in the words used recently by our Leader: “When you fight the Labor Daily you fight me”.

**Labor Daily Year Book**

One of the most splendid innovations in the work of the Party during the year was the publication of the first volume of The Labor Daily Year Book.

This compact little handbook has already proved a valuable adjunct to our work in many ways, while its value for platform speakers and branch members is incalculable.

The management of the paper should be complimented on the enterprise they have displayed in such a depressed period, and all those concerned in the compilation of the volume congratulated upon the excellence of the matter contained. The instant success of the publication was a tribute to its worth.

We are informed that the Labor Daily proposes next year to considerably expand the Year Book, and the best way to encourage this endeavor is for the Movement to see that every member is provided with a copy. We would commend the volume to all affiliated unions and branches.

**2KY Broadcasting Station**

One of the most important adjuncts of our Movement is the 2KY Broadcasting Station, whose new and powerful station was recently opened by Hon JT Lang at French’s Forest.

This Station was established at the Trades Hall, Sydney, by the New South Wales Labor Council following upon the report of the Director of the Labor and Research Information Bureau, ER Voigt, on his return from USA in 1925.

The report dealt with the anti-Labor political and industrial uses to which broadcasting was being put in America, and urged the Labor Movement of New South Wales to secure a place on the air, before the air was closed for further broadcasting.

2KY first went on the air in November, 1925. It constituted the world’s first Labor Broadcasting Station, the first high-power D class
station and the first B Class Station to run a daily programme. Prior to its advent, B Class stations were experimental only, and were of low power from 50 to 100 watts.

2KY has always been closely associated with the Australian Labor Party, State of New South Wales. There is consequently a joint trusteeship of the Labor Council and the Australian Labor Party over 2KY. There is not one penny of outside capital in Labor’s Broadcasting Station. It belongs wholly and completely to the Labor Movement of New South Wales and the joint trusteeship is a guarantee that the control will always remain with the Labor Movement.

Every general election in recent years has emphasised the growing importance and influence of this Station. Labor’s campaign over the air is one of the most effective means of conveying Labor’s policy to the public, and at such times the Station is placed freely at the disposal of the Movement.

At times of industrial crisis, such as the Miners’, the Timber Workers’ lockouts, and the disputes of the Engine-drivers, Postal Workers, etc., 2KY Broadcasting Station is devoted to the cause of the workers, and is one of the most effective and rapid means of conveying to the public the working class side of all major industrial struggles.

When the anti-Labor press boycotted the last Lang Government it was 2KY which came to the rescue.

For the first time in broadcasting in any part of the world, the full sessions of all parliamentary debates and procedure were broadcast direct from the Legislative Chamber to the great listening-in public.

Our Station has always devoted a substantial portion of its time and energies to the assistance of the unemployed both by direct appeals and also through the organisation of community concerts, the whole proceeds of which are devoted to the relief of unemployment. Several thousand pounds have already been collected through these means for the unemployed in various districts of the Metropolitan area.

The new 2KY transmitting Station erected at French’s Forest, when fully tuned up, will be one of the most powerful broadcasting Stations in the Commonwealth and will constitute the greatest medium for carrying Labor’s message to the people of the Commonwealth.

**Finance**

We have had a number of motions forwarded by various Branches for inclusion on the Conference Agenda for a copy of a financial statement and balance sheet to be forwarded to all affiliated organisations. These matters were not placed on the Agenda because this is already provided for in the Rules, and copies of the Balance Sheet and Statement are forwarded as demanded by the Rules.

The financial statement and balance sheet as published in this report is for the 12 months ended 31st December last, and it is self explanatory.
Any further enlightenment required will be given at the Annual General Conference.

It will be seen by this statement that our Movement has severely felt the financial stringency, due to the big falling off in the revenue from our Branches and Unions caused by unemployment, but we appreciate the wonderful response that an appeal to the organisations always receives in our election campaigns. Without this financial backing Labor would never hope to govern in the Federal or State Parliaments.

A debt of gratitude is owing to the girls employed at Head Office for the very willing and efficient manner in which they have at all times assisted your officials, and for their patient courtesy in replying to the immense number of inquiries made to Head Office throughout the year.

Their duties are of an arduous and exacting nature, being of a most confidential character requiring the exercise of more than ordinary discretion and discernment.

For the very capable and cheerful way in which they have performed their duties the Movement congratulates them and proffers its grateful appreciation.

PJ Keller, President.
Jas. J Graves, Gen. Secretary.

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**Annual Conference of NSW ALP, 1933**

*The Sydney Morning Herald, 15, 17 April 1933*

**Day 1, Friday, 14 April 1933**

**Socialisation of Credit. Policy for Federal Elections. “Modelled on Lenin’s Doctrines”. Easter Conference Decisions.***

The Easter conference of the State Labour party, which opened at the Trades Hall yesterday, decided that unification and the socialisation of credit should be the foremost plank of the Labour party’s platform at the next Federal elections.

The decisions were reached after Alderman JS Garden had explained that the policy was in strict accordance with the teachings of Lenin, whom he quoted at length.
He dramatically declared that Mr JT Lang, in his recent financial declarations, had gone even further than what had been advocated by Lenin.

The inner group was in complete control of the conference, and the nominees of the socialisation section were decisively defeated.

During the afternoon session the business was suspended for several minutes while a free fight took place at the rear of the hall.

**The Conference**

There was a full attendance of delegates when the annual general conference of the State Labour party opened at the Trades Hall yesterday morning. Mr PJ Keller, president, occupied the chair and several Labour Parliamentarians had seats on the platform.

The president, in opening the conference, said that the delegates would be asked to decide what measure of support they were prepared to give to Mr Lang, and whether that support would be commensurate with the support they had always claimed they would give “a man who was prepared to go out and espouse the cause of the workers”.  

“As I have said, your mission is an important one”, continued Mr Keller, “and I feel sure you will approach your task in the spirit of true Labour members. It has been said that pigmies may destroy, but it takes giants to build. Let us emerge from the conference leaving behind us a record worthy of the great old pioneers who brought the movement into being.”

The chairman of the disputes committee reported that disputes had occurred with regard to the election of delegates from Ashfield, Ships Painters and Dockers, and Glebe. The disputes were referred to the appeals committee for consideration.

The first vote taken for the election of tellers resulted in an overwhelming majority for the nominees of the inner group as forecasted in the *Herald*. Delegates from the socialisation section were in a hopeless minority, one socialisation candidate being defeated by 73 to 19.

The election of an agenda committee resulted: Messrs JS Garden, J Cahill, GE Callin, EJ Harrison, E Cummins.  

The following members were appointed to the appeals committee: Messrs A McNamara, MLC, G Byrne, F Kelly, J Stewart, and J Kilmartin. All the successful candidates were members of the inner group.

**Presidential Address**

In delivering his presidential address Mr Keller said that since the last conference the Labour party had lost control of the Treasury Benches. The Lang Government had gone out of office with its colours flying. If it was prepared to sacrifice the interests of the basic wage earners and the
women and children it could have been in office today. He was glad that the Lang Government was not prepared to accept the dictates of vested interests. (Applause) In the two by-elections since the last general elections the Labour party had increased its majorities and he believed that if there were a general election at the present the party would be returned to the Treasury Benches.

A voice: If we had scrutineers.

"Some of our erstwhile friends chide us for what they term hero worship", said Mr Keller referring to the activities of the executive during the year. "They say we support Lang too much, and that this is a rank-and-file movement. We must give Lang 100 per cent support or no support at all. If there is a little domestic trouble in the Labour movement I believe the conference will adjust it. If, however, we are to have a division in our ranks, then I declare that I am whole-heartedly behind Mr Lang. (Applause) As long as he continues as he is doing I will continue to support him." (Applause)

The Referendum

Referring to the referendum Mr Keller suggested that the conference should recommend to Labour leagues and unions that they should suspend their usual business and concentrate on the campaign The Minister for Education (Mr Drummond) had declared that if the referendum was carried Langism would be strangled.

"Langism is an obsession of our opponents", Mr Keller continued. "I consider that Langism is synonymous with statesmanship. I do not think the measure will be carried although there is a possibility that disciples of Hitler will hand us ballot papers at the poll. If the referendum is to be defeated it must be done by an overwhelming majority. There is a possibility that if the Reform Bill becomes law there will be no Legislative Assembly in a few years".

Question of Recall

"It will give the party an opportunity for getting rid of opportunists", said Mr Hennessy (South Coast), moving a motion that an Act should be placed on the Statute Book constituting the right of recall. "The recall is vital if we are to give expression to the wishes of the rank and file", he said. "It tends to clean government. At present Labour members can tell us to go to the devil. They have a ridiculous security of office. We are their bosses and when we give them work to do they should do it".

"Who is going to recall the members?", asked Mr TV Ryan (Dubbo), opposing the motion. "When we work for a candidate we do not want him recalled. The right place to defeat undesirable members is in the selection ballot."
In his reply Mr Hennessy amid laughter referred to the system prevailing in Germany. The motion was defeated.

**Country Questions**

Eight notices of motion from the country provincial conference dealing with land and agricultural questions were adopted without discussion. One motion was designed to empower the responsible Minister to override any decision of the local land board where the question of home maintenance area was involved. Another motion urged that legislation should be passed to provide for adequate maintenance of the occupant farmer and his family and that the first call on property should be devoted to the education and payment of not less than the declared living wage to such farmer and his family.

Another proposal was that all arrears in instalments, interest, and Crown debts of land settlers should be added to the unpaid value of the land and called a consolidated debt, and made payable over the same period of years as the remaining instalments. The conference decided that the periods allowed for payments for improvements on lands due to the Crown under section 216 of the Crown Lands Act should be extended and that simple land tenures should be introduced in place of existing complicated Crown land tenures.

Other decisions were that reserves when not necessary for travelling stock should be made available for settlement by small holders or unemployed; that the direct marketing of fruit should be introduced to eliminate unnecessary waste; assure a permanent supply of fruit to the people and a better return for the producer; that a department of veterinary science should be established; to control stock reserves and watering places; and the slaughtering of meat in the State.

A motion was also carried favouring the appointment of a board to control the marketing of wheat “to prevent the exploitation of farmers and their employees”.

**Inner Group Attacked**

When the conference assembled delegates received copies of the *Socialisation Call*, which is the official organ of the central socialisation committee. There were several attacks in the issue on leaders of the inner group. One extract was – “This *Call* goes to press amid the din of recent party disputes and rumours of portending attempts to undermine the party’s socialisation objective and to muzzle the party’s splendid socialisation workers. It is even said somewhat sinisterly that there may be no more *Socialisation Call*”.

“We deeply regret that the annual executive report should be issued by the secretary Mr JJ Graves, containing most bitter and unjust
insinuations against members of the party who have apparently been guilty of carrying out previous conference decisions by actively supporting socialisation. An inaccurate and grossly exaggerated emphasis has been placed on a few comparatively isolated incidents inseparable from any live Labour movement.”

**Beer Boycott**

Mr G Bass (Newcastle) moved the suspension of standing orders to discuss the beer boycott in Newcastle, and the ban imposed on the Newcastle and Hunter River Company because of the employment of non-members of the Waterside Workers’ Federation and the Seamen’s Union. Mr Bass said that most of the beer consumed in Newcastle was carried by the company’s vessels.

The chairman ruled the matter out of order.

Is this conference competent to deal with industrial matters? asked Mr JE Pullen (Amalgamated Printers).

The Chairman: Yes. The motion proposed by Mr Bass was premature.

Mr J McNamara: (Fire Brigades) Have there been any applications for readmission to the party?

The Chairman: Yes. They have been referred to the appeals committee.

**Socialisation Discussed**

The conference then discussed the report of the general secretary (Mr JJ Graves, MLC) in which he referred to the activities of certain socialisation leaders and their alleged domination by Communist influences.

The adoption of the report was moved by Mr HC Matthews (vice president).

At this stage Alderman JS Garden (chairman of the agenda committee) suggested the appointment of a committee of seven to submit a report on socialisation for the guidance of the Labour movement. The socialisation issue should be cleared up, he said. We do not want a Donnybrook as dished by the capitalistic Press. We have had a spirit of dissension following the metropolitan conference. We must have unity.

Mr E Cummins (Gwydir), supporting Alderman Garden, said that there should be room for all classes of thought in the Labour movement which should be as wide as the oceans and as high as the canopy of the heavens.

The secretary of the central socialisation committee, Mr W McNamara, should be allowed to submit a report, said Mr EA Barker (ARU) opposing the proposal of Alderman Garden.

Amid cheers Mr Lynch (Saddlers) said that certain delegates were under a cloud regarding statements that had been made in reference to
Mr McNamara, and he should be given in all fairness an opportunity of addressing the conference.

The Chairman: It is a matter for the conference to decide.

Mr Lynch: Then I am reluctantly compelled to move an amendment giving Mr McNamara the right to address the conference.

Mr Lang then entered the hall and was given a round of applause.

There was uproar when a delegate referred to alleged disloyal propaganda sent out by Mr McNamara and Mr J Kilburn, MLC.

Mr Keller: If the public wish to remain in the hall they will have to be silent. Champions of free speech cannot come in and disrupt this conference.

Mr Jones (Corowa) produced a circular, which he said asserted that followers of Mr Lang were leading the Labour movement out of existence. When he quoted a circular from the Communist party Mr EA Barker objected but the chairman allowed Mr Jones to continue. “The circular sent me by the socialisation committee was identical with the circular sent by the Communist party”, said Mr Jones.

Voices: Rubbish.

Alderman Garden in reply said that matters had been introduced which had nothing to do with the subject.

Mr Barker: Hear, hear.

Alderman Garden: You were the first to do it. (Laughter)

“You must get away from personalities”, Alderman Garden continued.

Amendments allowing Mr McNamara to address the conference and referring the question of socialisation to the central socialisation committee were rejected and Alderman Garden’s proposal for the appointment of a committee to report on socialisation was carried.

A Parrot Cry

The following members were appointed to the committee to report on socialisation: Alderman JS Garden and Messrs S Gould, J Stewart, F Kelly, G Bass, EJ Harrison, and F Hickman.

One socialisation candidate withdrew before the ballot was taken and another received only eight votes.

The debate was then continued on the secretary’s report. Mr Barker submitted an amendment deleting from the report references to the disruptive activities of certain socialisation leaders and substituting instead a vote of congratulation to members who had loyally carried out the work of propagating socialisation.

“We do not want vituperation”, said Mr Barker. “If there have been mistakes then all members of the central committee must take their blame. The same remarks are contained in the secretary’s report as were published in the Labour Daily and caused all the trouble. References were unjustly made to cliques at the metropolitan conference. The secretary
has placed a stigma on all members of the committee. There can be only one way to remedy the troubles of the workers.

A voice: Revolution.

Mr Barker: By the achievement of our objective – socialisation. Is it fair that the secretary should refer to socialisation as a ‘parrot cry’?

A Free Fight

Business was suspended at this stage while doorkeeper Kelly attempted to remove a member of the public who had demanded a seat. Put him out, shouted the president.

“Who will put me out?” the member in the public gallery retorted.

A free fight then ensued. Delegates jumped to their feet. Some rushed to the assistance of the doorkeeper who was attacked by several in the rear of the hall. Others congested the doorways. Women scurried for safety to the platform. The bells clanged incessantly and the president appealed vainly for order. The interrupter was finally ejected and after some minutes of wild disorder the doors were closed and the conference proceeded. Several delegates received blows and bruises.

The chairman then warned the public present that police assistance would be sought if there was a recurrence of the incident.

Disrupters

Alderman Garden, amid uproar, referred to disrupters in the Labour movement. The executive would not be worth its salt, he declared, if it did not attack those disrupters. He alleged that the Nationalists had given disrupters within the ranks of the Labour party the free use of the Procult Hall in Glebe. The best of the movement were almost crucified at the metropolitan conference.

Mr S Gould (Glebe) alleged that the ‘disrupters’ at Glebe had been given the free use of a hall known as the Procult Hall, which was owned by Mrs Voltaire Molesworth, wife of Mr Voltaire Molesworth, publicity officer to the Premier (Mr Stevens). For the past twelve months the Communist party had been propagating its principles from ALP platforms.

Mr Maloney (Boot Trades) said that the report was a condemnation of the socialisation work. It was not justified. ‘Comrade Gould’ had once been a bitter critic of Mr Kilburn at socialisation meetings.

Mr Gould: It is a lie.

Mr Maloney: There is a possibility of a selection ballot. That is why Mr Gould has changed his views. (Uproar)

“The strength of the dispute at Glebe”, he continued, “is that we had Comrade Campbell, the revolutionary; Comrade Gould, a semi revolutionary attempting to catch votes both ways; and Comrade Carlton, a reactionary, all after Comrade Keegan’s seat. (Uproar)
Secretary’s Report Adopted

Mr J Graves, MLC, quoted a decision reached at a conference of socialisation units from Lakemba to Newtown, refusing to participate in the referendum campaign because “it was a reformist measure”.

Mr Lynch caused a stir by asking whether the section of the report dealing with socialisation had been written by a former publicity officer to the ALP.

“The secretary and myself wrote the report”, the chairman replied.

“I have never contested a selection ballot, and never will”, said Mr Gould, in reply to a delegate.

“Can you furnish us with the name of the official who supplied a verbatim copy of the secretary’s report to the capitalistic Press?” one delegate asked.

Mr Graves: All secretaries of leagues have received copies. We do not know who supplied the information.

Mr Matthews, who moved the motion for the adoption of the secretary’s report, said that prominent Communists had addressed meetings of the socialisation units. Socialisation leaders were at variance with regard to the policy of the party concerning the socialisation of industry.

By 81 votes to 18 the amendment was defeated, and the motion approving the secretary’s report carried.

Eleven motions from the country conference were then adopted, urging, among other things, that the Government Insurance Office should have exclusive rights to the business on all crops held under lien to the rural industries branch; that the principal on all mortgages, including the Crown, should be substantially reduced; that the embargo should be replaced on Fiji bananas, tobacco, and all products that could be sufficiently produced in Australia; that the constitution of the Water Conservation and Irrigation Commission should be altered to provide for effective decentralised administration; that Pastures Protection Boards should be abolished; that interest rates should be reduced; that third party insurance risks applying to motor vehicles should be made compulsory; that a fixed price for the local consumption of wheat should be guaranteed, conditional upon the restoration of rural awards, and after taking into consideration the cost of production.

“Come on Hitler”

Socialisation was again revived at the evening session. Mr T Ryan (Dubbo) moved the suspension of standing orders to allow Mr W McNamara, secretary of the socialisation committee, to address the conference.

“Vile charges have been made against Mr McNamara”, said Mr E Cummins (Gwydir), seconding the motion. “Do not let it be said that we will not let him put his case”.
“I oppose the motion because of the spectacle we witnessed this afternoon”, said Mr E Boland (Metal Trades), amidst murmurs of dissent from the public gallery.

Mr Capper (Hurstville) complained that the conference had heard only one side of the question.

The motion for the suspension was again defeated by 62 to 27.

“Come on Hitler”, shouted a member of the audience when Alderman JS Garden submitted his report on socialisation.

Alderman Garden said that the committee had decided to recommend that Mr W McNamara should be allowed to submit his report.

There was a storm of protest from the rear of the hall when Alderman Garden said that the Communists did not want a unified Labour party. One delegate attempted to speak in opposition to Alderman Garden, but was howled down. Alderman Garden recommended that the conference should elect a committee of nine to act as a socialisation committee during the year. The recommendations of Alderman Garden were adopted.

Mr W McNamara, secretary of the socialisation committee, was given a thundering reception when he entered the hall to submit his report.

Mr McNamara said that there had been various references to secret funds and secret meetings. Unless there was good evidence to substantiate such inferences they should never be made. It was a fact that some socialisation speakers had indulged in criticism of the party and its leaders. The central committee had warned such speakers that they would have to discontinue, otherwise they would not be allowed to represent the committee. It was a gross exaggeration to say that the socialisation units were under the domination of the Communist party. The work of the committee had been eulogised by the country members. He would not attack other sections of the party which had lacked vital interest in the socialisation campaign.

Mr McNamara then gave a long outline of the work done by the socialisation committee and units during the year, which, he said, was a record of constructive achievement.

Next Federal Elections

“Are you in favour of a ‘no’ vote in the referendum, and are you solidly behind our leader, Mr Lang?” one lady delegate asked Mr McNamara.

Mr McNamara replied in the affirmative. “I am behind the leader of our party as long as he carries out the decisions of this party”, he added.

Mr McNamara stated that he had received 100 resolutions supporting his view that the Labor Daily had done a grievous wrong in the way it had represented the decisions of the metropolitan conference.

The report of the socialisation committee appointed by the conference urged that at the next Federal elections the Labour party must
declare as its main issues the immediate socialisation of credit, together with the necessary steps to achieve unification in Australia. “There has emerged”, the report added, “a clear and definite demand that the platform should be reconstructed to provide practical measures for enabling the Labour party, through the exercise of power in the one Parliament and the control of the credit resources of industry, to proceed with the extension of social ownership. For this purpose the transference of the control of public credit from private ownership to the people themselves must become the immediate step in the achievement of our objective.”

**Lenin Quoted**

Alderman Garden said that revolutions in the past, including the French and Italian revolutions, had failed because workers had failed to realise that finance was the nerve centre of the system. They must attack the financial institutions to be successful. Nationalisation of banking presented no difficulties. “These are not my views, but the views of Lenin”, said Alderman Garden amidst uproar.

A voice: He will haunt you tonight.

Alderman Garden: Lenin made these statements five months before the Russian revolution. He then proceeded to show that the report of the committee regarding the control of finance was in accordance with Lenin’s policy.

In reply to a lady delegate, Alderman Garden read more quotations from a book by Lenin, showing that it was impossible to nationalise banking without first taking steps towards the creation of State monopolies.

“That does not go as far as socialisation”, he added, “Our leader is ahead of the god they bow the knee to. Our report goes further than the policy advocated by Lenin. Mr Lang is the greatest leader the country has ever produced.”

A voice: What about the 1/ in the £?

Mr Sweeney (University Labour Club) said that if Lenin had realised what a leader Alderman Garden was he would never have allowed Alderman Garden to leave Russia. (Laughter.) What did the socialisation of credit mean? If it was a specious attempt to gull the less intelligent sections of the community it should be rejected.

**Religious Freedom**

Mr E Cummins (Gwydir) said that Lenin had warned the workers that they must not be wrecked on the sands on the right or the rocks on the left. Many delegates were already up to their ankles in the sands on the right. He moved an addendum to the socialisation objective securing to the people of complete religious and cultural freedom in accordance with
the ideals of the Australian people. “I am a socialist, but I will be attending church tomorrow”, said Mr T Ryan (Dubbo).

The addendum urging religious and social freedom was rejected and the report of the committee favouring unification and socialisation of credit was adopted.

Delegates rejected a proposal earlier in the session giving full autonomy to local bodies to control selection ballots instead of allowing the executive to conduct the ballots.

At 10.30 pm the conference adjourned until 10 am today.

Day 2, Saturday, 15 April 1933


The Easter conference of the State Labour party yesterday decided to present a petition for signature to ‘No’ voters at the booths on the referendum polling day.

The object of the petition, it was stated, was to provide a check on the official count of the ‘No’ vote cast by the electors. Mr Lang, in an address to the conference, made another attack on the banks and the Courts.

He said that the Upper House, if reformed, would become a permanent barrier that would bar the way to any constitutional attempt to legislate for the people against private finance.

“Should it be successful more brazen steps will be taken in other States and in the Commonwealth”, he said.

The conference also carried a motion for State aid for denominational schools.

The Conference

Mr S Gould (Glebe) secured the suspension of standing orders to move that the ALP of New South Wales stands for complete political, religious, industrial, and cultural freedom for the Australian people.

An amendment was submitted by Mr EA Barker (ARU) that the policy and tactics of the socialisation committee are not based on the doctrines of Lenin or any Communist party policy but on the peaceful and orderly realisation through Parliamentary procedure of social ownership and democratic control of production as already adopted by the party.

The chairman (Mr P Keller) ruled the amendment out of order because it had already been dealt with at the previous session. The ruling was dissented from but was upheld.
Mr Gould stated that Mr Barker was evidently concerned with what the Sydney Morning Herald was going to say. The conference should not be concerned at what the Herald said. The socialisation committee was fully alive to the question which definitely came under the heading of educational work. The motion was carried.

At this stage another fight occurred in the rear of the hall. “Keep your seats”, cried the chairman, as the combatants were pushed out of the door. There was a general exodus from the hall to the lane at the rear to witness the combat which lasted five minutes.

A heated debate took place on the application of a former organising secretary Mr AJ Mcpherson for readmission to the party. The appeals committee recommended that the application should be rejected but several delegates urged that Mr Mcpherson should be given a hearing.

“You are afraid”, shouted Mr Mcpherson when Mr J Payne (Coogee) was speaking from the platform in opposition to the proposal that he should be given a hearing.

A stir was caused when Mr F Roels (Land Transport) alleged that one of the delegates was a former UAP candidate.

The conference refused to allow Mr Mcpherson to address the delegates and his application for readmission was rejected.

“I know too much about your crook ballots”, said Mr Mcpherson as he left the hall.

Because there were 150 dairy farmers and 300 poultry farmers in the district Mr W McCallion claimed that the Bankstown electorate should be regarded as a country electorate for purposes of representation at the country Labour conference. A motion excluding Bankstown from representation at the country conference was rejected.

Referendum Campaign

The suspension of standing orders was carried to discuss a motion instructing branches to suspend ordinary business and concentrate on the referendum campaign.

“The issue is unique”, said Mr J Payne (Coogee). “We are asked on May 13 to surrender voluntarily our rights for which our forefathers fought”.

Mr D Kilmarton said that there was no sinister or ulterior motive behind the motion. Whatever their differences regarding domestic affairs they should be united in the referendum campaign. They had the sorry spectacle of certain alleged members of the party refusing to participate in the campaign. Mr Barker (Public Service) said that any member of the party who refused to support the campaign was not a sincere Labour man.

“The resolution is based on hypocrisy and sham”, said Mr O’Keefe (Painters and Dockers). It is merely a limelighting motion.

The resolution was carried.
Disruptive Tactics

The conference decided that any member adjudged guilty of disruptive tactics towards the party might be suspended from office or membership, or expelled from the movement by the central executive or the branch.

Mr C Matthews (vice president) said that the object of the decision was to have less severe forms of punishment than expulsion. It had been found that in some cases the penalty of expulsion for failure to observe the discipline of the party was too drastic.

Mr M Connaghan (Clothing Trades) supporting the decision said that in the past members had had their heads chopped off because they did not see eye to eye with the executive.

“Who are the people who will decide the question of disruptive tactics?” asked one member.

“We do not go round the branches looking for disruption”, said Mr Matthews.

A long motion was submitted from the metropolitan conference urging the Government to foster rubber farming among other proposals by assisting farmers as private companies did in America by land grants sufficient to cultivate a living area, supplying plants for transplanting, loans for the first five years, erection of factories, and the establishment of experimental rubber tree farms on the coastal areas.

At the instance of miners’ delegates an addendum was accepted to the motion providing for Government support for establishing plant for the extraction of oil from shale and coal.

Mr Todd (Miners) said that something must be done to relieve the pitiful plight of the miners on the northern field. At present of 28,000 miners only 11,000 were working. Another delegate said that only a third of the miners on the South Coast were working and they were endea-vouring to assist the two-thirds who were out of work.

The motion to foster rubber farming was carried.

That all citizens be eligible for the jury and that special jurors lists be abolished, was moved by Mr T Ryan (Dubbo). The motion was carried.

A motion lapsed that members of the ALP should refrain from allowing their children to join any Imperialistic junior organisation such as boy scouts, wolf cubs, girl guides, and Red Cross.

“You are providing opportunities for back-door methods”, said Mr O’Keefe (Painters and Dockers) opposing a motion to allow members to renew their membership tickets at special meetings. “We had the sorry spectacle in Balmain some years ago”, he added, “of tennis and cricket club members marching in mass formation to join the Labour league which had held a special meeting to meet the convenience of the new members”. The motion was carried.
**Marxian Economics**

By a large majority the conference carried a motion advocating the teaching of Marxian economics in the schools. Amidst roars of disapproval Mr Barker (ARU) declared that Alderman Garden the previous night had produced a book by Lenin for the guidance of the Labour movement. “I say it is quite true”, said Mr Barker. Alderman Garden quoted very extensively from Lenin on the nationalisation of banking. He went even further and said that the work that would be performed by the ALP would be even better than that done by Lenin.

Voices: No.

Mr Barker: Delegates have watered down our objective which has been in the rule book for years for something they know nothing about. There has been no speaker who could intelligently discuss the socialisation of credit. It is petty and narrow for certain delegates to suggest that they cannot learn anything from Marx.

A voice: Or Mr Stevens.

Mr Barker: Yes. If Mr Stevens was enunciating working-class principles I would support him.

An interjector: You are now.

Another delegate: A lot of the workers did.

Mr E Boland (Boilermakers) moved that Labour Governments should establish colleges for adult day students. The motion was carried. A deputation of seven was appointed to protest to the Government against the practice of subjecting widows to a medical examination. It was alleged that if the widows were found to be medically fit they were put on the dole.

Mr McGovern (ALP executive) opposed the proposal stating that they should put their trust in socialisation instead of going on their knees to Mr Stevens or any other capitalist. A resolution was carried that Labour Governments should subsidise denominational schools and institutions. Another decision was that all school children should receive instruction in first aid.

**Mr Lang’s Speech**

Mr Lang, who was given an enthusiastic reception, said that in the years to come members of the Labour movement and the people of Australia generally would regard this year as the most momentous in the history of the Labour party.

A voice: The same old story.

Mr Lang: “If anybody has come to this conference to interrupt I invite him to do so now and at once. (Cheers)

“We are commencing a new period in which we are going to achieve for the people many of those things which the founders of our movement
foresaw would be necessary and which could only be achieved by a political party such as ours”, Mr Lang continued. “Up to 1925 the Labour party in politics was tolerated and often patronised by vested interests. There were others who feared that the very use of the word socialism would prevent the Labour party from winning an election and so render it incapable of helping the people of Australia in this great crisis.”

A voice: Nobody suggested it.
Mr Lang: There is nothing to be ashamed of about it.
Another voice: What price Ebenezer?
Mr Lang: If he were handy there would be no price you (Laughter)

Continuing, Mr Lang said: “Occurrences in Australia from 1929 onwards demonstrated to the people in a manner that all could understand that constitutional Government was in fact a sham (applause), the real Government being vested in those who control the private financial system. The three years following 1929 found the Labour movement throughout Australia and particularly in our State searching for the most effective method by which Government could be taken from the financial institutions and restored to the people. There were those who wanted the immediate and complete demolition of the existing order of society and an overnight substitution of socialism. The policy of our Governments was devoted always towards minimising the effects resulting from the privileged position occupied by vested interests, without any serious attempt to attack the root cause. The inevitable result was that, whenever Labour Governments attacked vested interests with the power of Parliament their efforts were nullified by the power of private finance which neither Parliament nor the people control.

A Settled Policy

“The conference this year announces to the people that the Labour movement has arrived at a settled policy (Hear, hear). It announces its determination to ask the people at the next Federal election to elect a Labour Government which is pledged to concentrate upon the problem of taking the control of the financial system out of private hands and test it in the people themselves and to achieve, within the life of one Parliament, socialisation of the public credit of Australia. The effect of Labour’s determination to attack this vital problem is to cause the political parties of the vested interests to reverse their former policy towards the Parliamentary institutions. They no longer preach lip service to democracy; they no longer patronisingly refer to the sanctity of adult franchise. Their most recent discovery is that checks and curbs must be placed upon the people’s Parliament. Since there is a determination among the people to use the Parliaments to attack private finance everything will be done to make it difficult, if not impossible, for
Parliament to be used in such a way. There is no better instance of this than in the referendum upon the Constitution of the Upper House. The Nationalist party has stated the case for the referendum. The principal points which emerge from the argument set out in their speeches and the leaders of the *Sydney Morning Herald* are these: 1. That whenever the next election is held, whether it be two months or two years hence, the Labour party is certain to be returned as a Government of New South Wales. (Hear, hear) 2. That the present Upper House, which now has 22 more Nationalist members than it had 12 months ago, would pass Labour legislation which 12 months ago it rejected. 3. Because of this £70,000 must be wasted on an immediate referendum which if carried would set up an Upper House that would prevent a Labour Government carrying out the mandate it would receive at the general election. These people know that a Labour party’s policy would be a request for a mandate for debt adjustment, a wages adjustment, an unemployment programme, and an improvement in social services.

**American President Quoted**

“Labour’s policy of debt adjustment, when it was announced two years ago, aroused the hostility of the financial power throughout the whole world. Since then we have the newly elected President of the United States of America declaring that a writing-down of public indebtedness, particularly as applied to the farming community and a 30-hour working week for all industries, is essential for the reconstruction of his country. The money powers know quite well that one of the principal mandates that Labour will ask for at the next elections is the power to write down private indebtedness particularly as it applies to farm mortgages. The bankers’ party knows quite well that when Labour asks the people for such a mandate it will be given, and their scheme is to create an Upper House which will prevent that mandate ever being given effect to. This Upper House, if it were ever assented to by the people, would become a permanent barrier which would bar the way to any constitutional attempt to legislate for the people against private finance. Another trick which forms part of the general constitutional deceit which is practised by the Nationalist party is the habit of loosely drafting their constitutional laws so that in almost every case the final decision rests with the Court.

**Attack on Courts**

“It has often been our experience that the Nationalists have drafted a law leaving Parliament and the people with an impression that it has a certain meaning. When Labour attempts to employ these laws it finds that the people who drafted them take them to the Court where an entirely opposite interpretation is given to the legislation. The bill relating to the
proposed Upper House contains many of these indefinite expressions which would result in many appeals to the Court. A country should derive its Constitution from its people – not from its Judges. (Hear, hear.) In no other way can democracy be served. These laws are not the result of any carelessness on the part of our political opponents; it is all done by design. An immovable Upper House buttressed by frequent appeals to the Court is sufficient obstruction to prevent any elected democratic government from carrying out the mandates which it has received from the people. It is not only in Australia that these things are manifesting themselves. All over the world private finance is marshalling all its forces to make a last stand against the onslaught of the people. For many years Australia enjoyed the proud position of being the most democratically governed country in the world. In recent years, however, she has received much eulogy for being the first to submit completely to the dictation of the power of private finance. That period too is approaching its end. There is a new spirit among the people right throughout the Continent; there is a determination to throw off this servility and suffering which it entails.

“The people of Australia are going to fight; they will fight behind the banner you have raised for them – the destruction of the power of private finance by the socialisation of the public credit.” (Applause.)

**A Nation-Wide Question**

“It is true that this is a nation-wide question; and it is true that to achieve it the constitutional machinery must be free of any barriers that would obstruct the legislation incorporating the will of the people. For these reasons a ‘No’ vote at the referendum is of tremendous importance to the whole of the people of Australia. It is the first direct attempt at asking the people to vote deliberately for the placing permanently of shackles upon themselves and their Parliament. Should it be successful, more brazen steps will be taken in other States and in the Commonwealth. The financial power can no longer rely upon its ability to hoodwink the people. These wealthy interests realise that the people are determined to fight for their rights and liberty, and at the first opportunity will use the Parliamentary institutions for this purpose. That is why there is such urgent haste on the part of the Nationalist Government to have these constitutional shackles placed upon the people. This conference has done good work for the Labour movement and for Australia. There is no better way to increase that good than by securing an overwhelming ‘No’ vote at the referendum next month. Labour is again about to take the definite leadership of Australia, and at the next elections our country will resume its former position – that is, the most democratic country in the world. Let our first achievement in this new dawn that is breaking for us be the complete routing of the political enemies of the people on May 13. (Applause.)
Talk of Revolution

"It is my belief and I do not care whom it offends", said Mr Lang in conclusion, “that those who live by the sword shall perish by the sword. What you can gain by revolution you can only maintain so long as you remain in that position. The only good you can achieve is by constitutional methods. What sort of mad people are they who would close the doorway that would secure for you redress by constitutional means?" (Applause.)

Mr Beasley’s speech

Mr Beasley, MP, leader of the Lang group in the Federal Parliament, said that the elections in South Australia had been fought on issues that had been decided in New South Wales two years ago. It indicated how backward the other States were. Mr Scullin, who was leader of the Opposition, still boasted about his allegiance to the Premiers’ plan. Having decided their policy, it was necessary for them to get busy with the propaganda work. There was an immense amount of work to be done. The Federal Government had decided to take still further the control of the Commonwealth Bank out of the hands of the people because they feared the return of a Labour Government. They had also decided to restrict exports. Now that the people in Western Australia had decided in favour of secession it would be interesting to see whether they would take their next logical step in withdrawing their revenue from the Commonwealth, and whether the Federal Government would apply the Enforcement Act in the same way as it had been applied in New South Wales. He could not prophesy an early Federal election, because the Country party had shirked the issue.

On the motion of the vice-president, Mr C Matthews, seconded by Alderman JS Garden, a vote of confidence in Mr Lang and Mr Beasley was carried.

Industrial Commission

A motion was submitted urging that the Industrial Commission and the Industrial Arbitration Courts should be abolished. One delegate referred to ‘an individual’ receiving £40 or £50 a week deciding whether a family could live on £3/5/ or £3/10/=. Mr J Payne (Coogee) claimed that the present Government used the Industrial Commission as a shield to evade their responsibilities to the public for reductions in the basic wage. The onus for such reductions, he contended, should be placed on the politicians. Contending that the abolition of the courts would only leave the alternative of direct action, Mr Greenup (Newtown) moved an amendment that the Industrial Commission should be reconstituted on the basis
laid down by the Lang Government, that the basic wage should be fixed by Parliament, and that labour-saving devices should be taken into consideration with regard to the readjustment of hours of labour. After a heated discussion the motion and amendment were rejected.

**Political Morality**

Some amusement was occasioned when the following motion was submitted for discussion: “That no member be eligible for any position whose political, moral, and industrial character is not clean”.

“I would like to know whether the detective force will be engaged to sit in judgment on members”, said Mr M Connaghan (Clothing Trades).

Mr J Payne (Coogee): The motion has been misquoted. It should read “political morality”.

Mr Connaghan: I would like to know what political morality means?

Mr Payne: I was not responsible for the motion.

The motion was then dropped, but was further discussed at the concluding session. Mr J Payne (Coogee) moved the motion, with the deletion of the word ‘morality’. “It does not concern me what a man’s morals are”, Mr Payne continued. “There is another sphere in which a man’s morals can be dealt with”.

Mr Maloney: I will support the deletion of the word ‘morality’. “We do not want our movement disrupted”. (Laughter.) The motion was then carried, reading as follows: “No member to be eligible for any position whose political and industrial character is not clean”.

**Blind Workers**

At the instance of Mr C Newsome (Croydon) a series of motions were carried seeking an improvement in the conditions of the blind workers. Proposals on the subject which were adopted included the abolition of rationing, the appointment of representatives from Labour bodies on the board of management of the Sydney Industrial Institution, the payment of the basic wage to blind workers, and the right of access by blind workers to the Arbitration Court.

**Factories Act**

In moving a motion that the Factories Act should be amended to provide that the minimum wages to be paid should not be less than the basic wage or the award wage for the industry, Mr Lynch (Saddlers) alleged that, under section 65 of the Act, employers were not under any obligation to pay even the basic wage in industries not covered by awards. The motion was carried.
With the expressed intention of discouraging private enterprise from accepting any offers for the purchase of the trams, a long resolution was moved by tramway delegates that it should be an instruction to the next Labour Government to cancel any agreements entered into by the present Government and private interests for the disposal of the trams. “We further demand”, the resolution added, “that on the return of a Labour Government to the Treasury benches, both Federal and State, that the terms of sale or lease of any State enterprise be reviewed”. The resolution was carried.

A number of motions were then carried urging, among other things, that public servants with two or more years’ service should be appointed to the permanent staff, that there should be uniform conditions and privileges among all employees of the Transport Commissioners, that temporary Government employees should be given their holiday pay in advance, that public servants should be allowed to contest Parliamentary and municipal seats without jeopardising their positions, that the employees’ representatives on all boards, commissions, etc., should be the nominees of the union covering the industry with the greatest number of members, and that all lost privileges and conditions should be restored to tramway and railway unionists.

At this stage a section of the delegates mostly from the country heatedly protested against what they described as “the unholy haste” with which attempts were being made to conclude the conference.

Mr Hittman declared that the conference had developed into a farce. The president promptly ended the discussion by adjourning the conference until Sunday morning.

Day 3, Sunday, 16 April 1933

Sunday Session

Mr G Bass (Newcastle) moved the suspension of standing orders to discuss the arrest of Noel Lyons in connection with the Tighe’s Hill eviction case. Mr Bass said that although Lyons was formerly a member of the IWW he was now a member of the Labour party.

Mr Cummins (Gwydir) seconded the motion and said that by certain decisions of the conference the broad working-class outlook of the movement was being endangered. He hoped that they would be unanimous on the question. Some delegates had travelled 500 miles to discuss working class problems, and had only listened to talk about splits and faction fights. He wished to protest against the ‘disgusting’ manner in which attempts were made to rush business through the previous session. “The conference developed into a sausage machine for turning out motions”, Mr Cummins added.
Mr J Cahill (Engineers) admitted that the gag had been applied during the conference, but he considered that rural questions had been fully discussed. The suspension was granted, and Mr Bass moved that the appeal issued in support of Mr Lyons by the Labour Council should be given the utmost support by the conference and every member of the party.

The motion was carried.

Mr Kinsella (George’s River) attempted to discuss a request from the Arncliffe leagues that Mr CL Thompson should be asked to appear before the disputes committee to answer charges regarding his activities on election day. The conference refused to discuss the matter.

The Unemployed

Unemployment problems were discussed at both the Saturday and Sunday sessions. On Saturday a long discussion took place on a motion from the metropolitan conference that the unemployed should be organised within the ALP movement along the lines adopted at the recent unemployment conference.

Mr Quinton said that the ALP had disorganised the unemployed within its ranks.

“Passiveness and inactivity have got you into the mess you are in today”, said Mr Cummins (Gwydir). “A number of leagues and unions have fallen down on the job”.

Mr Crowther (South Coast) said that if the Labour movement was big enough for Mr Lang, it was big enough for the unemployed.

The motion was carried with an addendum that quarterly reports on the activities of the unemployed should be supplied to the ALP.

On Sunday, the unemployment question was recommitted to enable Mr Crowther (Illawarra) to move that legislation should be enacted so that the payments received for child endowment should not be taken into consideration when determining the amount of food relief for those unemployed. “Mere words are useless”, said Mr Crowther. “We lost seats in the last elections because the unemployed were not organised. The ALP relief committees on the South Coast have even assisted Nationalists and won their support. We have dealt with 141 evictions and we have not had one family put on to the street. The police have offered cells as shelter for children of the unemployed. There is enough building materials not being used by the Government to house the unemployed throughout the State. We have broken the Communist auxiliary bodies. The very men who had advocated the burning of the dole questionnaires on the South Coast when searched in the police station, had in their possession their own dole questionnaires duly signed. The boycott is the only weapon to force business people to assist us. The Nationalist Relief Council on the South Coast has done great work.
“Nothing pleases me more than to extract money from the enemy to assist the unemployed”, said Mrs Croft (Wollongong). Nurse Francis said that certain questions on the questionnaire were a disgrace, and would have to be removed by the next Labour Government. “Steal for your children, if you cannot get the food any other way”, said Nurse Francis.

Alderman JS Garden said that every case placed before the Australian Gas Company had been favourably considered. “They have not assisted one case, but hundreds of cases”, he said. “I must give credit where credit is due. No unemployed who seeks assistance from the ALP is unable to get free legal assistance. It is a standing disgrace that people who are not married should be compelled to say so in the dole questionnaire for the benefit of young departmental clerks.”

Mr Garden gave the names of firms assisting the unemployed, and suggested that the Government should be asked to increase the dole allowance or decrease the unemployment tax.

Mr F Roels (Land Transport), who said that he was unemployed, caused a stir by declaring that when he attempted to organise the unemployed he was accused of being an agent of Alderman Garden. “My efforts have been sabotaged because I was associated with Alderman Garden”, he continued. “Evidently Alderman Garden is not popular with the unemployed ALP. Officialdom has sabotaged us. They told us: ‘Leave it to Jack, let Lang do it’. If the ALP cannot do better than put the unemployed on a vegetable diet and send them to Happy Valley, they had better leave the work to the unemployed.”

Mr JB Martin, MLC, said that there was nothing more effective than the boycott. The unemployed in the country should find it easy to organise the small shopkeepers on to their side.

Mr Capper (Hurstville) said that the party was not adopting the right tactics concerning the unemployed.

Mr Maloney (Boot Trades) said that they should remember that unemployment could not be solved under the present system. When they reached the stage when the basic wage was paid to unemployed then there would be no unemployed.

After further debate the conference adopted: (1) Mr Crowther’s motion, that child endowment payments should be disregarded in connection with food relief allowance; and (2) the decisions of the ALP unemployment conference held on November 6, which provided for the organisation of the unemployed into a body known as the Unemployed Labour Workers, members of which would be required to support the objective, policy, and platform of the ALP. The policy of the Unemployed Labour Workers provided that full work or sustenance should be given to every unemployed, including single men and women; the sustenance rates should be increased until the basic wage was paid to the unemployed; that the unemployed should be given an adequate supply of new boots, medical, dental, and optical attention; free transportation of the
sick; and that there should be a complete moratorium protecting tenants, mortgagors, and home purchasers against evictions.

**Conference Reports**

Amidst much excitement, Mr Todd (Northern Miners) sought the suspension of standing orders to discuss the attitude of the directors of the *Labour Daily* in failing to reply to the delegates of the Metropolitan Conference concerning published reports of the conference. “The *Labour Daily* attacked the delegation at the metropolitan conference”, Mr Todd said. The motion for the suspension was defeated by 54 votes to 28.

The suspension was then granted to discuss the following motion: “That this conference realises that a world war is a possibility in the near future, and we pledge ourselves not to take part in any capitalistic bloodbath, and refuse to be used as tools for murdering our fellow workers overseas”. An addendum was accepted that the scope of the motion should be enlarged to include cooperation with the national anti-war committee. Mr McSweeney (Clerks), who suggested the addendum, said that Senator Rae and Mr Ward, MP, were members of the committee. The addendum was struck out, and the motion carried.

**Election of Officers**

The following officials were re-elected unopposed: President, Mr PJ Keller; vice presidents, Mr J Howell and Mr CH Matthews; organising secretary, Mr JB Martin, MLC.

Derisive laughter greeted a report by the returning officer, Mr H O’Regan, showing that opponents of the inner group had been defeated for every position on the new central socialisation committee. Every successful candidate was a nominee of the ruling faction. The result of the election was: JS Garden 87, S Gould 83, A McNamara, MLC, 83, J Payne 82, AE Lewry 82, J Stewart 80, J Connaghan 79, J Burnett 78, EM Boland 78. Alternate delegates: Messrs JE Pullen 24, W McNamara, J Kilburn, MLC, AW Thomson, 20; EA Barker, 19; T Sheehan, 18; Nurse Francis, 14; JH Sydney, 14; J Maloney, 12.

**A Rowdy Scene**

There was a rowdy scene in the public gallery when a motion was under discussion to congratulate Mr J Kilburn, president, Mr W McNamara, secretary, and the members of the retiring central socialisation committee for the work they had done.

Mr Maloney (Boot Trades), moving the motion, said that nobody could point the finger of scorn at Messrs Kilburn and McNamara. They had done their work well.
A voice: Too well.

Mr Maloney: “They did not receive the support they should have received. If we have had disrupters it has been through no fault of Messrs Kilburn and McNamara. I believe that their methods were right and that the truth will out.”

Mr E Boland (Boilermakers), in protesting against the special mention of names in the motion, said that no finger of scorn could be pointed at Alderman Garden. (Uproar.)

Mr Keller: “If that happens again I will clear the gallery”.

Check on Voters

Mr CH Matthews, vice-president, moved that a petition should be drafted with the object of organising Labour supporters. He pointed out that the UAP was making a thorough canvass of electors in connection with the referendum, and that the Labour party should do likewise. Alderman JS Garden submitted as an amendment that each branch should have a ballot box at each booth, so that a record could be kept of electors who voted ‘No’. “If the New Guard get up to their tricks we will know about it”, said Alderman Garden.

A lady delegate, opposing the proposals, pointed out that petitions were used extensively in the ‘Lang Is Right’ campaign, but they were not a true reflex of the opinions of the electors. “Are we to be put to the same expense again?” she added.

Nurse Francis supported the proposal for a petition, declaring that UAP organisers were already in the field, and that the ALP would have to do something.

Mr F Kelly asked Alderman Garden to include a petition as well as a ballot box at the polling booths. “We will then have a check on Mr Stevens”, he added. “Heaven help us if we have no check. In America, it has been suggested, political parties are more concerned about who counts the votes than who votes. The same may happen here. Let us have the ballot box and the petition both. We cannot be too careful.”

Alderman Garden agreed to the inclusion of a petition in the amendment.

“I hope the amendment will be defeated”, said Mr Matthews in reply. “I am not prepared to support Alderman Garden’s proposals until I am sure that they are legal. Such proposals may react on us and bring about defeat, when victory is in sight.”

Alderman Garden and Mr Kelly agreed to drop the proposal regarding the ballot boxes.

The amendment providing for a petition at the polling booths was carried by 48 votes to 27.
Miscellaneous Motions

Other motions carried were:

That the collection of rolls and the system of voting in future elections be such as to prevent double voting.

That for the purposes of all elections, Federal, State, and municipal, the one roll be used.

That a clause be inserted in future policy speeches that a Labour Government will enact retrospective law imposing confiscatory penalties on employers attempting to influence the votes of employees and that such employees should be compensated by the employers.

That Local Government elections and ballots in the ALP be conducted on the proportional system.

That magistrates be appointed by the Government in the same way as judges.

That the Government should compensate any accused person who proves his innocence.

That legislation should be introduced to compel newspapers to give the right of reply to persons attacked in their columns.

That in the sales of all goods and merchandise to the public of New South Wales the cost prices of all such goods should be marked in plain English.

Shortly before the conference concluded Mr Maloney (Boot Trades) demanded that the conference should consider the report of Mr W McNamara on socialisation.

The chairman ruled that the matter had already been dealt with. “I have seen moves at this conference and have said nothing”, stated Mr Maloney, in moving dissent from the ruling. “We have done things in the interests of unity, but there is a limit to everything. With the chairman’s ruling we have reached that limit. The attacks on Mr McNamara have been ruthless and unwarranted.” By 60 votes to 23 the motion of dissent was defeated, and at 5.30 pm the conference adjourned sine die – the shortest Easter conference within the memory of Labour officials.