CHAPTER 13
Australian Labor Party,
New South Wales Branch
Annual Conference, 19 April 1935

Report in *The Sydney Morning Herald*

With some pride, Lang and his assistants proclaimed this as the shortest Conference ever, lasting barely one day. The excuse was that many MPs were already involved in the campaign for the State election due on 11 May. However, given some of the stormy debates of previous Conferences, the main reason was to suppress any show of dissent that would be taken up eagerly by the press.

The Executive Report goes into considerable detail about the negotiations between the Federal Executive and three members of Lang’s State Executive, convened after the 1934 Federal election and anticipating the State election of May 1935. The terms of a settlement were agreed, except for one detail that was the sticking point – the acceptance back into the State party of EG Theodore. Otherwise the Lang party had made significant concessions. Sadly, negotiations were doomed as long as the two main combatants were Scullin and Lang. It would require the resignation of Scullin as leader in 1935, and the electoral failure of Lang in the coming NSW election, before a deal could be done to heal that split.
Executive Report of NSW ALP for 1934-35


The Central Executive, in reviewing the work of the Movement during the period since the last Annual General Conference, wish to express their appreciation for the goodwill shown by all sections of the Movement.

The assistance and cooperation rendered towards the carrying out of the policy and platform have been encouraging and inspiring.

We have to particularly thank the Labor Daily for its continuity of effort in placing before the community Labor’s policy, and the publication of the Movement views on current political events. By means of our newspaper all sections have been able to keep in direct contact with our Movement in general, and have thus prevented the misunderstanding that occasionally leads to sectional strife within our Movement.

Because of the almost entire absence of disputes within the Movement during the period under review, the Central Executive have been able to concentrate upon organisational and propaganda work, and because of this our Organisation has not only been strengthened, but it also allows of a state of preparedness to face any sudden election or the necessity for quick mass action.

Federal Campaign

During the term the Movement as a whole took part in a Federal election campaign, and in this State we achieved a fair measure of success; increasing our representation in the Commonwealth Parliament from five to nine members. Had the other States been equally successful, a Labor Government would now be in office in the Commonwealth Parliament.

Municipal Campaign

In the Municipal and Shire elections within the State we were able to wage a fairly extensive campaign, and, despite the property franchise, we were successful on this occasion in having elected a greater number of Municipal and Shire Councillors than in any other period in our existence. Appended to this report are the names of the Labor Aldermen throughout the State, in addition to the names of our representatives in the Federal and State Parliaments.

The Stevens Government, by its amendment to the City Corporation Act, in removing the lodger vote, aimed at preventing Labor having representatives on the City Council. Labor accepted the challenge and
concentrated upon winning two of the Wards in the City Council, and succeeded in returning eight endorsed Labor Aldermen in the new Council; and, with the assistance of our eight Labor Aldermen, the Stevens Government nominee for the Lord Mayorship was defeated, and Labor in the new City Council is a strong balancing power.

Unity

The Central Executive had been in almost continuous negotiations since the last Annual General Conference with the various sections of the Movement throughout the Commonwealth for the purpose of bringing about Unity within our ranks, and as a result of these negotiations four States demanded a Unity Conference being convened during the month of January, and if the Federal Executive had observed the Constitution of their Party the Unity Conference would have been held with full representation from each State, but the Federal Executive defied the constitutional demand of their constituent branches by neglecting to convene a Unity Conference, and have generally sabotaged the efforts of the Movement throughout the Commonwealth to consolidate Labor’s forces.

In place of convening a Special Conference, as demanded by their own organisation, the Federal Executive met in Sydney, and invited three representatives from our Party to discuss with them terms of unity. We accepted the invitation.

The General President (Mr PJ Keller), the General Secretary (Mr JJ Graves), and the Organising Secretary (Mr JB Martin) acted as your representatives before the Federal Executive. After discussing the matter for some days, the following terms were accepted by your representatives:

The New South Wales State Party Executive will agree to recommend to the next State Conference that the Conference:

1. (a) Unreservedly accepts the Federal Conference as the supreme authority on all matters relating to Federal policy, and the interpretation thereof as provided in the Constitution, Platform and Rules of the Federal Conference.
   (b) Automatically admits as members, with full continuity of membership and without necessity of application, all persons who are members of the NSW Federal Branch of the ALP and who-
   (i) Were not previously members of the State Labor Party;
   (ii) Though previously members of the State Labor Party have not since January, 1931, been specifically expelled for association with other political organisations, or for corrupt practices or for disruptive tactics, not associated with the differences between Federal and State Labor Parties;
   (iii) Were excluded or expelled since January, 1931 because of differences between the Federal and State Labor Parties;
(iv) Were excluded or expelled for joining the Federal Labor Branch or for opposing State Labor Party candidates at Federal, State, or Municipal Elections.

(Nothing in the foregoing shall be taken to annul or alter expulsions which took place prior to January, 1931.)

Each such member admitted shall, on production of the current year’s ticket of membership of the Federal ALP – subject to the right of renewal as set out in the rules of the respective parties – become a member of the proper local branch without the necessity of rejoining.

(c) It is hereby agreed that the following question be submitted to the Federal Executive of the ALP for final decision: “Whether, in the interests of Unity, those who ceased to be members of the State Labor Party as the result of their actions in the Bulli by-election should be re-admitted with full continuity of membership”.

2. (a) Upon these recommendations being agreed to by the Annual General Conference of the State Labor Party, the Federal Executive will convene an Interstate Conference at the earliest practicable moment, and will recommend to it that the State Party be re-admitted as a Branch of the Party, and that contingently upon the acceptance of that recommendation the delegates selected as provided for in paragraph (b) of this Clause shall be accepted as delegates to the Interstate Conference instead of the delegates to Conference from the previous Federal ALP Branch of NSW.

(b) The basis of representation at the reconstituted Interstate Conference consequent upon the acceptance of this recommendation shall be two representatives elected by the NSW Federal Branch and four from the State Labor Party, provided that on all constitutional items on the agenda paper or on questions arising from such items the said representatives shall vote in such manner as may be determined by a majority vote of the six representatives of the State.

(c) The Federal Executive will place upon the agenda paper for this Conference any item submitted in accordance with Federal Conference Rule 3 or by the NSW State Labor Party. The date of the Federal Conference shall be fixed at a time which will permit of items on the agenda paper being considered by the State authorities.

3. The foregoing items shall be placed before the State Executive of the NSW Labor Party, and also the Metropolitan Conference, and, if endorsed, the State Executive of the NSW Labor Party undertakes to inform the Annual General Conference of the State Labor Party that, in the interests of Unity, the State Executive had pledged the NSW State Labor Party to the acceptance of these provisions.
In order to expedite finality, the State Executive of the NSW Labor Party also agrees to bring the Annual General Conference forward to March 23, 1935. As the Conference of the NSW Federal Labor Branch will take place on February 23, 1935, it is mutually agreed that if the foregoing is accepted by the parties concerned, the Federal Labor Party candidates will be withdrawn not later than February 25, 1935.

Unfortunately, at the very last moment, when all matters had been agreed upon and the terms were being reduced to writing for ratification, Messrs Kenneally and Chifley introduced and insisted upon the automatic readmission of Mr EG Theodore without permitting the Conference that expelled him having the right to consider the matter. The Federal President (Mr JJ Kenneally) said that no Unity would be complete that did not automatically include Mr EG Theodore. He stated that he would not inscribe his name to any document that did not allow of Mr Theodore being automatically readmitted to the Movement with full continuity.

As your representatives could not agree to ignoring the unanimous decisions of the Annual General Conference which expelled Mr Theodore we requested that this matter be referred to our Annual General Conference.

The Federal President (Mr Kenneally) stated that if we did not there and then agree to the automatic readmission of Mr Theodore, the Unity negotiations would be broken off immediately. Further, he stated that the whole of the terms as set out above must be agreed to by our Central Executive and the Metropolitan Provincial Conference without amendment or modification, otherwise there would be no Unity. As the parties would not come to an agreement with regard to the automatic readmission of Mr Theodore, Mr Kenneally declared the proceedings at an end. Your representatives retired, and submitted a full report to the Metropolitan Conference.

The terms as accepted by your representatives were agreed to by the Metropolitan Conference, with the exclusion of the automatic readmission of Mr Theodore.

The Metropolitan Conference, in adopting the report of its representatives, carried the resolution as follows:

“Having heard the report of our representatives who attended the recent Unity negotiations, this Conference compliments their representatives on the forbearance, pertinacity and sincerity that they exercised throughout the discussions, and regrets that the extremely generous terms of settlement offered by them did not succeed in overcoming the prejudice against Unity on the part of certain interstate representatives which has for so long kept the Labor Organisations of the Commonwealth divided.
“Being convinced of the necessity of achieving unity throughout the Commonwealth at the present juncture, we make the following declaration:

“All former members of the ALP, State of NSW, who, because of the dispute which occurred between the Federal and State bodies in 1931, incurred automatic exclusion from the ALP, State of NSW, because of this action, and who have since joined the NSW Branch of the Federal ALP, are hereby invited to renew membership of the ALP, State of NSW, with continuity from the date they became members of the NSW Branch of the Federal ALP.

“Any person who has been expelled or excluded by a specific resolution of Conference is invited to apply to Conference for readmission.

“Members of the NSW Branch of the Federal ALP who were not formerly members of any political party will be granted continuity from the date they joined the Federal ALP.”

Since the Metropolitan Conference the Federal Secretary (Mr DL McNamara) visited our office in furtherance of the Unity proposals, and to particularly press the claims for the re-admission of Mr Theodore. The Federal Secretary (Mr DL McNamara), after reviewing the whole position, suggested that we consider the referring the matter of Mr Theodore to an Interstate Conference. We then pointed out to Mr McNamara that apparently the only point at issue at the moment was as to which Conference should consider the matter of the readmission of Mr Theodore, our Annual General Conference or an Interstate Conference, and we told him we were prepared to again confer with the parties on this matter if we had a reasonable guarantee from the Federal Party that arrangements would be made immediately for the withdrawal of their candidates in the coming State elections.

Mr McNamara left with these proposals, and we have not heard from, or seen, him since.

The matter of Unity is now having the consideration of the Emergency Committee of the ACTU.

Organisational Work
Considerable attention has been given by the Organising Secretary and the Organising Committee to organisational work. A good deal of the Organising Secretary’s time has had to be diverted from his ordinary work to permit of his services being utilised on other work of particular importance.

It was necessary for him to visit South Australia and Victoria, where he addressed many meetings throughout these States on matters affecting Unity in our endeavors to effect a reconciliation.

During the Federal Elections the greater part of his time was devoted to the mapping out of itineraries throughout the State, so as to assure a fair distribution of speakers in as many electorates as possible, in view of
our limited facilities, and his work in this direction had material result in
the gain of four seats, nearly doubling our “small in number but power-
ful in judgment” representatives in the Commonwealth Parliament, and
the almost complete annihilation of one of our opposing parties.

Following upon the Federal Elections, he was obliged to concentrate
the whole of his services on the Leichhardt by-election, and again the
Movement was successful in returning Labor’s candidate by an increased
majority.

He participated in the formation of a number of Branches and many
others that were resuscitated, the principal of which are: Kanwal, Cooma,
Picton, Muswellbrook, Girraween, Brewarrina, Newbridge, Glenreagh,
Orford, Tingha, Etalalong Beach, Dulwich Hill, Bendick Murrell, May-
field, New Lambton, Kincumber, Wallsend, Wauchepe, Rankin Springs,
Glen Innes, Wyong, Richmond, West Wyalong, Barellan, Speers Point,
Cambridge Park-Kingswood, Boggabri, Lugarno, Sidebottom, Etalalong,
Springwood, Albert, Charlestown, Bellbird, Wallendbeen, Berry, Dun-
gog, Wentworth, Gwabegar, Minto, Boorowa, Lansdowne, Lindfield,
Rydalmere, Casino.

During the latter part of last year a ‘Campaign Educational Class’
was formed for the purpose of instructing members of the Movement in
all matters affecting the campaign work, but particularly instructions and
explanations of the Electoral Act, and the powers and duties of
scrutineers.

These classes have been very well attended by representatives from
Councils and Branches, the information given by the Organising
Secretary to these classes being both interesting and instructive, and the
students attending have expressed their gratitude for the establishment
of such a useful and much-needed method of training our people in all
branches of campaigning work. It is anticipated that the work of the
Organising Secretary in this direction will be the training of a number of
competent tutors in campaign work that they may in turn set up classes
in their own electorates.

The Organising Committee is now arranging for continuous visits by
Executive members to the various Branches, and it is hoped by this
means to further the efficiency of our organisations, and to allow our
Branches to at all times be in direct contact with the work of the Central
Executive.

The new Boundaries Committee, which is an adjunct of the Orga-
nising Committee, is now endeavoring to compile a record of all Branch
Boundaries, and Branch Secretaries are requested to forward their
defined boundaries to Head Office at the earliest possible moment.

**Commonwealth Parliament**

Because of the failure to finalise the Unity negotiations, our nine mem-
bers in the Commonwealth Parliament are accepted as a separate party,
and have separate accommodation both at Parliament House and the Federal Members’ Rooms at the Commonwealth Bank Chambers. When the Parliament is not in session the whole of the nine members are in attendance at the Federal Members’ Rooms, Commonwealth Bank Chambers, Sydney, and are kept particularly busy attending to matters brought under their notice by their constituents. Complete satisfaction is expressed by the very large number of callers they have during the day for the prompt attention given to their requirements.

In Parliament they are respected for the capable and courageous manner in which they deal with all matters submitted by the Government.

They are to be commended for their successful attacks on the attempt made by the Lyons Government to repeal the Industrial Peace Act. Had it not been for their efforts in this direction the way would have been made clear for mine owners to attack the wages and conditions of the miners; because of the tactics of our representatives the Bill has been withdrawn, and has not since been reintroduced.

Every opportunity was taken by our representatives on the adjournment of the House to direct attention to many important matters, including the high rates of overseas conversions and introducing loans, the monopoly of transfer upon the Treasury Bill issue, export of stud sheep from Australia, etc., and they were particularly successful in their attacks upon the political bias of the Australian Broadcasting Commission in their attempt to give the High Commissioner (SM Bruce) and other anti-Labor speakers the sole right to lecture over the ‘A’ Class Stations on the UAP policy, their efforts in this direction resulting in Labor’s speakers being allowed the right to also lecture on ‘A’ Class Stations.

Our Party was also successful in influencing the amendment of the Navigation Act, which will undoubtedly result in the installation of wireless on all ships trading on the Australian coasts.

Their repeated efforts to have the Government equipment manufactured in this country, so as to increase employment, are now bearing fruit. They have been consistent in their efforts to have the industry for extracting oil from coal shale established in this country. They have been untiring in their endeavors in demanding justice for pensioners and the cessation of the harassing tactics employed by the Government against the occupiers of war service homes. It was because of their efforts in the interests of the citrus growers that the Mandarin Growers Relief Act was passed.

Our representatives have displayed a very wide and intimate knowledge upon matters concerning both primary and secondary industries, as well as international affairs, and have been singularly successful in compelling a Nationalist Government to adopt many amendments to their legislation that are consistent with Labor.
Women’s Central Organising Committee

The Women’s Organising Committee have been associated with the Labor Movement for the past twenty-eight years, and have displayed their usual activities during the period under review. The work rendered by the WCOC in their Federal and Municipal campaigns was of material assistance in the success achieved.

This Committee, in its quiet and unobtrusive manner, gave particular attention to the social welfare of the members of the Movement, and have taken part in many deputations to the Ministers, with considerable success, and in this way have been able to deal with very many matters referred to them in connection with the children that are wards of the State, and obtaining special relief concessions for the unemployed. They also have succeeded in raising funds to relieve acute distress caused by unemployment, and have aided the homeless women and girls by the establishment of their hostel. This hostel has sheltered 1960 unemployed women, and has provided for 6840 meals. The hostel is now situated in Sussex Street, having been removed from Elizabeth Street to permit of the street-widening operations.

Nurse Francis, the Secretary of the WCOC, is the honorary secretary of this hostel, and is assisted by a number of members of the committee in its management.

Similar work is being performed at the Men’s Hostel at Redfern by another member of the WCOC, Mrs Caffrey, and under her capable management a very large number of men have not only been provided with meals, but have also been provided with lodgings.

This hostel continually shelters eighty men, and has provisions for twenty casual visitors. It also provides approximately 300 meals per day, in addition to which they purchased boots and clothing for quite a large number of the men for whom relief has been afforded.

The Women’s Organising Committee are now proposing to centre their activities on the forthcoming State elections.

Younger Set Movement

The various competitions arranged in connection with the Sports Section of the Movement has again demonstrated the very high standard achieved by the members of the Movement, particularly in football, tennis and vigoro.

In the football competition there were two grades, ‘B’ and ‘C’. Ten teams were entered, six in the ‘B’ Grade and four in the ‘C’ Grade. The competition commenced in May, and was finalised in August, and resulted in St Peters being the winners of the ‘B’ Grade and Camdenville being the winning team in the ‘C’ Grade.
The Winter Vigoro Competition commenced on 25th March, and terminated on 15th July. Thirteen teams competed, five in ‘A’ Grade and eight in ‘D’ Grade.

The ‘A’ Grade teams were Alexandria, Camperdown, Beaconsfield, Phillip, and Darling Harbor. The ‘B’ Grade teams were Daceyville, Phillip, Paddington, Rozelle, Summer Hill, Surry Hills, and Waverley. Arrangements are now being made for the forthcoming Winter Competition.

An interchange of visits from teams in the country and metropolitan areas was arranged for during the term, the most important of which was the visit by the team from Kurri Kurri, who played two very interesting games at Moore Park.

The Tennis Association is handicapped by the fact that many of the clubs have players registered with the NSW Hardcourt Tennis Association, and if they were to take part in the ALP Competition they are liable to incur the penalty of disqualification for two years from the Hardcourt Association.

Application was made by the ALP Tennis Association for affiliation with the Hardcourt Association, but the application was dismissed. They are now seeking affiliation with the NSW Lawn Tennis Association, and if successful in this direction the progress of our Association will be very much improved.

During 1934 the Association conducted two competitions – Summer and Winter. The winners of the Winter Competitions were Ashbury, Alexandria, Marrickville, and Arncliffe’s Nos. 1 and 2 teams; and the winners of the Summer Competition were Marrickville, Clovelly, Ashbury, and Waverley.

During the year the Association held two very successful social functions, which took the form of presentation dances.

The Association is now arranging for its Winter Competition.

These sporting sections are part of the Younger Set Movement, which continues to meet with a fair measure of success.

The Younger Sets, with the assistance of all sporting sections, conducted very successfully Labor’s Annual Ball in September. This ball was not only a social success, but, on the perusal of the balance-sheet, will show that the Younger Sets were able to materially assist the funds of the Party.

In addition, our Younger Set Movement conducted a ‘Popular Lady’ Competition, resulting in a substantial amount being raised for the Party funds. Younger Set Movements in conjunction with the sporting sections have inaugurated the ALP Sports Federation, which will supervise and direct the whole of the social and sporting activities of the Younger Set Movement.

The executive officers and members of the Executive extend the grateful appreciation of the Movement to the office staff for the very
efficient manner in which they carry out the multitudinous duties pertaining to their positions.

All members of the staff have been regular and punctual in their attendance. Their attentive interest in the Movement’s work has given complete satisfaction, and has materially assisted in all the successes achieved by the Movement during the term.

PJ Keller, President. Jas J Graves, Secretary

**Federal Members**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Constituency</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Constituency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A Beasley</td>
<td>West Sydney</td>
<td>HP Lazzarini</td>
<td>Werriwa.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JJ Clark</td>
<td>Darling</td>
<td>D Mulcahy</td>
<td>Lang.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JH Gander</td>
<td>Reid</td>
<td>JS Rosevar</td>
<td>Dalley.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JS Garden</td>
<td>Cook</td>
<td>E Ward</td>
<td>East Sydney.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B James</td>
<td>Hunter</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Members of Legislative Assembly**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Constituency</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Constituency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JM Baddeley</td>
<td>Cessnock.</td>
<td>H Knight</td>
<td>Hartley.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H Booth</td>
<td>Kurri.</td>
<td>JT Lang</td>
<td>Auburn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E Brennan</td>
<td>Hamilton.</td>
<td>CC Lazzarini</td>
<td>Marrickville.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D Clyne</td>
<td>King.</td>
<td>WJ McKell</td>
<td>Redfern.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P Connolly</td>
<td>Newcastle.</td>
<td>CH Matthews</td>
<td>Leichhardt.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MA Davidson</td>
<td>Cobar.</td>
<td>M O’Sullivan</td>
<td>Paddington.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W Davies</td>
<td>Illawarra.</td>
<td>J Quirk</td>
<td>Balmain.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RD Gorman</td>
<td>Annandale.</td>
<td>TJ Shannon</td>
<td>Phillip.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M Horsington</td>
<td>Sturt.</td>
<td>JT Sweeney</td>
<td>Bulli.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TM Keegan</td>
<td>Glebe.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Labor Aldermen**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Constituency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ALEXANDRIA (Labor)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S Chennall.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Righton.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R Power.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Perry.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J Fox.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G Harding.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JS Bowden.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S Alexander.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F Green.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Constituency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ERSKINVILLE (Labor Continued)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H Wright.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TJ McGrath.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AP Henry.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D Morrissey.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JW Elliott.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JP McCarthy.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N Martin.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Constituency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NEWCASTLE (Cont.)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FA Newnham.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RS Goddard.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J Solomon.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F Roberts.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H Dunshea.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S Fleming.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J Porter.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AUBURN (Labor)</td>
<td>CITY (9 Labor)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WH Lamb.</td>
<td>EC O’Dea.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J Conway.</td>
<td>W Dean.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FB Wade.</td>
<td>PJ Stokes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J Upton.</td>
<td>TJ Shannon.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WSF Bond.</td>
<td>D Grant.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BANKSTOWN (2).</td>
<td>FAIRFIELD (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SK Amour</td>
<td>S Money.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P Coleman.</td>
<td>T O’Sullivan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>E Jewell.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOTANY (2).</td>
<td>GLEBE (Labor).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C Wall.</td>
<td>HJ Foley.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A McDowell.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BALMAIN (Labor)</td>
<td>HA Ward.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R Brownlee.</td>
<td>S McCormack</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H Angelini.</td>
<td>W Carlton.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M Cashman.</td>
<td>Mrs M Dunn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C Stapleton.</td>
<td>JJ Shannon.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CANTERBURY (2).</td>
<td>GRANVILLE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CABRAMATTA-</td>
<td>HURSTVILLE.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CANLEY VALE (3).</td>
<td>FJ Smedley.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WM Broome.</td>
<td>MASCOT.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F Hill.</td>
<td>F Joyce.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HG Firth.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

440
DRUMMOYNE.  MARRICKVILLE (5).  ADAMSTOWN (Labor).
CR Halliday.  WC Richardson.  JA Williams.
D Cochrane.  AR Cameron.
GW Thompson.  PJ Guerin.

ERSKINEVILLE (Labor).
WN Davies.  NEWTOWN  BULLI SHIRE (Labor).
Mrs L Fowler.  E McCarter.
HILLSTON (Labor)  AJ Collyer.  A Fackender.
WJ Mitchell.  LB Kelly.

WC Latham.  CESSNOCK (Labor).  R Sutcliffe.
H Curry.  A Collins.
HE Ireland.  W Mitchell,

HAMILTON  GOULBURN  LAKE MACQUARIE.


BROKEN HILL (Labor).  LITHGOW (Labor).  G Perce.
R Denis.  W Ashley.
H Cleland.  C Roy.  CENTRAL ILLAWARRA
AC Crowhurst.  WJ Tougher.  G McAuliffe.
Sj Brooks.  WJ O'Connor.
TE Hynes  HB Chandler.

WE Rowe.  A Gray.  ILLAWARRA NORTH (Labor)
J Reardon.  F Aldridge.
W Riddiford.  MOREE (Labor).  A Wonson.
E Wilcox.  HT McElhone.  F Davies.

A Kayne.

COBAR (Labor)  D McGroder.  WOLLONGONG (2).
TJ Maidens.  E Madgewick.  R Heininger
H Fransisco.  PARKES
JJ Josephson.  WJ Keast.  ORANGE
T Murray.  JJaeger
H Rankin.
Annual Conference of NSW ALP, 1935
(The Sydney Morning Herald, 20 April 1935)

Single Day, Friday, 19 April 1935

State ALP Conference. Shortest on Record. Caucus not to elect Leader. Mr Lang’s Dictatorship.

The annual Easter conference of the State Labour party, which was held at the Trades Hall yesterday, unanimously carried a resolution which abolishes the right of the Parliamentary Labour Caucus to elect its own leader and agreed that Mr Lang, alone, should select the members of his Ministry.

The agenda paper of the conference was rushed through with unprecedented rapidity yesterday, it being argued that the gathering should be terminated quickly in view of the approach of the State elections. The conference adjourned sine die at 9.30 o’clock last night.

Labour leaders stated last night that although the elections were given as an excuse for the speedy termination of the conference, party managers had been anxious to conclude the proceedings to ensure that no awkward or embarrassing statements were made. It was recalled that at a previous Easter conference, Mr Garden, MP, made his celebrated “Lang is greater that Lenin” utterance and it was considered imperative, in official Lang party circles, that no similar indiscreet declaration should be made on this occasion.

One of the chief decisions reached last night was that the next Labour Government should license starting-price bookmakers throughout the State.
Leader’s Powers

It was pointed out last night that the right of the selection of a Parliamentary leader by the caucus was one of the oldest democratic rules of the ALP, and that the practice was still followed by the Labour parties in every other State.

The decisions of the conference went further than those of any previous gathering in conferring dictatorial powers on Mr Lang. It was stated at the Trades Hall that until the establishment of Inner Group domination, the right of the caucus to select its own leader had never been questioned.

The decisions of the conference caused a sensation in Labour circles, and the opinion was freely expressed that the move was made for the purpose of preventing the caucus from electing a new leader in the event of the party losing the next State elections. The position now is that the Parliamentary party cannot have a new leader unless an annual conference, which is under the control of Mr Lang, agrees to the proposal.

The motion dealing with the leadership occasioned practically no debate, and was carried unanimously. It was brought before the conference as a recommendation from the metropolitan conference, and was as follows: “That the annual general conference shall elect the leader of the State Parliamentary Labour party”.

The motion was moved by Mrs Richards (Newtown), and seconded by Mrs Houla han (Newtown). The addendum which authorises Mr Lang to select his Ministry instead of allowing the caucus to do so was sponsored by Mr J Pullin (Amalgamated Printers). It was suggested during the brief discussion that, while members of Mr Lang’s last Ministry had been loyal to him, the conference should take steps to ensure that “future Ministers” would be faithful to him. Speakers asserted that Mr Lang was the greatest leader they had ever had, and his position should be consolidated. Members of the party should remember what had happened in 1927, when a section of the caucus had attempted to remove him, and to guard against the recurrence of such a move in the future.

The motion was carried amidst cheers.

The Proceedings

The conference opened at 10.30 am, and delegates were present from all parts of the State.

Mr Keller announced that he would not delay proceedings with his customary presidential address. “It is in our interests that the conference should be the shortest on record”, he said. “I will consequently ask the agenda committee to expedite the business”.

The election of the conference officials indicated that the gathering was completely under the control of the Inner Group. Their nominees
were returned to all positions without opposition. Mr J Payne was elected time-keeper, and Mr R Downing minute secretary. The Press was again excluded.

Only non-controversial notices of motion were dealt with during the morning session.

**Coastal Shipping Trade**

Motions carried included the following:

- That the next Federal Labour Government should place on the Statute Book an Act to provide that ships flying the Australian flag should not be allowed to trade on the Australian coast unless such ships had been built in Australia.
- That the Labour Governments, Federal and State, should be requested to amend the Electoral Act to include on the ballot paper, beside the candidate’s name, the name of the party he represented in all Parliamentary and municipal elections, and that municipal candidates should be grouped.
- That the next Labour Government should review the Superannuation Act, after consultation with the Public Service.
- That the Arbitration Act should be amended to abolish all systems of overtime, bonus, and piecework, and task systems.

The conference also decided, by a large majority, to adopt a policy that, until such times as oil was produced commercially in Australia, existing protection should be withdrawn and no further tariff protection should be afforded to Australian manufacturers using foreign oil for power purposes. It was also agreed that a prohibitive duty should be imposed on all foreign coal brought into Australian waters.

**Tramway Espionage**

Delegates unanimously adopted a proposal that a competent committee should be appointed by the Government, with full representation from the Tramway Union, to investigate the system of espionage and other objectionable conditions said to prevail in the tramway service. It was also agreed that the department should be directed to produce all files and documents applicable to service conditions which were required by the committee for its information. The opinion was expressed that previously victimised men should be reinstated.

Another resolution carried was that in cases where a garnishee order was issued by the Court, it should operate only in those cases where the net weekly wage was above the ruling basic wage, and that such order in any circumstances could not take into consideration child endowment or any form of pension in the computation of the net weekly wage.
Delegates claimed that at present the families of the poor were often left destitute because of garnishee orders.

A motion from the country conference, which advocated that the planks of the State platform should provide for the extension of educational facilities in rural districts, and should include elementary agriculture and gardening in the primary courses, was carried.

**Rural Policy**

Many matters which will probably be included in the rural policy speech of Mr Lang were discussed by the conference. They emanated as recommendations from the recent country Labour conference, and were adopted.

One proposal was that power should be vested in the Minister for Lands to permit Crown tenants to pay interest only in lieu of instalments of purchase money for limited periods. Another suggestion was that in the case of forfeiture or abandonment of Crown settlers’ lands, the Lands Department should make such holdings available for purchase or lease only to those holding less than a home maintenance area. The conference also agreed that the possibilities for the establishment of a producer controlled marketing scheme for the handling and disposal of citrus fruits should be investigated by an incoming Labour Government, and that where a practical scheme could be evolved, legislative effect should be given. Delegates also decided that the interest paid on mortgages under the Government Assistance to Homes Act should be reduced to the maximum paid on Crown settlers’ holdings.

On the question of large estates, the conference decided that the next Labour Government should investigate restricted title holdings leased to large pastoralists with a view to having them made available to new settlers. Dealing with mortgage debts, delegates resolved that there should be a reduction of the debts on a basis that would achieve for private debtors a similar measure of concessions to those given to Crown tenants by reappraisal under the Crown Lands Amendment Act, 1931.

It was also decided that Crown settlers whose payments of instalments and interest were in arrear should not be called upon to pay more than one-third of their net income in any year to the Lands Department.

The last recommendation of the country conference adopted was that the Western Lands Act of 1934 should be repealed.

During the afternoon session the suspension of standing orders was granted to deal with a suggestion that the Labour party should press for amendments to the Lunacy Act to curtail the powers of the Master in Lunacy. Speakers alleged that at present it was possible for the authorities to take the furniture out of a poor man’s home, leaving his wife and children destitute. A motion was carried that on Parliamentary ballot
papers the name of the political party should be placed after the name of each candidate.

**Mr Lang’s Address**

Mr Lang made a short address to the conference during the afternoon. Departing from his usual practice, he did not speak from notes, and described his address as a friendly chat. He suggested that the delegates should terminate the proceedings expeditiously, as much work had to be done in the electorates. The party was confronted with a difficult fight, and every effort should be made to ensure success.

Mr Lang said he was glad that the conference had been held, because the enemies of the Labour party would have attempted to make much capital out of any postponement or abandonment of the gathering. He had made extensive tours through the country, and was confident of success at the polls.

The leader of the Lang party in the Federal House (Mr Beasley) declared that it was the duty of every delegate to fight wholeheartedly for the return of the Lang Government.

The people in the country had demonstrated their dissatisfaction with the present Government, and would strongly support the Lang party. He was confident that Mr Lang would be returned.

**Miners’ Dispute**

There was a spirited discussion on the long-standing dispute between the Miners’ Federation and the Lang Labour party, regarding the repayment of the £3250 allegedly loaned by the Federation to the party to assist in defraying the expenses in connection with the sliding panel ballot box case.

Mr W Crooks (Miners) moved a long motion to the effect that the conference should instruct the State executive to formulate a definite proposal for the early repayment of the money.

Mr Graves, MLC, general secretary, declared that no official of the party had ever received the miners’ money, which had never been paid direct to the party. The miners had already received £750 in repayment of the loan, which had been raised through levies and donations. The party had made every effort to repay the loan. It had to be remembered that about 50 per cent of the membership of the party were unemployed, and could pay no fees at all.

The chairman (Mr Keller) suggested that the question of repayment should be postponed until after the elections.

Mr W Crooks (Miners) read a letter allegedly written by Mr Graves to the secretary of the Miners’ Federation (Mr D Davies) in which he enclosed a cheque for £500, and promised that £200 a week would be
forwarded until the money was repaid, and that the last repayment would be made on August 8, 1931.

In the course of a bitter attack on the miners, Mr Gould (Glebe) declared that the miners had contributed only a “dollar” to the fighting fund for the Federal elections.

A voice: That was a dollar too much. (Uproar.)

Dealing with the position of the miners generally, Mr Gould said that the miners would never get oil from coal.

A voice: They will get oil from coal before the miners get their £3250 from the party.

Mr S Bonar (Miners) said that it was the responsibility of the ALP to repay the money.

Mr G Hindmarsh (Western Miners) submitted an amendment that the agreement reached recently between the miners, the Lang party, and the Labour Council should be adopted. This agreement, it was asserted, provided that a levy should be struck for the repayment of the money and that membership fees should be doubled for the purpose.

Mr Crooks caused a stir by alleging that the miners had always been “a good milking cow” for Mr Lang’s paper.

Later in the debate Mr Keller gave an assurance that any undertaking given by the party would be honoured, and the amendment was then withdrawn and the motion carried.

**Unity Position**

The conference endorsed a long declaration of unity policy formulated at the last metropolitan conference with regard to negotiations with the Federal Labour party for the restoration of Labour unity. Regret was expressed in the declaration at the failure of the unity negotiations. The general secretary (Mr Graves) indicated that the All-Australian Council of Trade Unions was still endeavouring to bring about a settlement, and “that South Australia and Tasmania had already supported the Lang party”.

Mr W McNamara (North Sydney) attempted to speak on the subject of unity, but a motion that the question should be put was carried, and he had to resume his seat amidst uproar.

**Decisions Rushed Through**

When the afternoon session had concluded more than half the agenda paper had been disposed of.

Notices of motion were discussed and adopted or rejected with record speed. There was little or no discussion on the majority of them. When dissentient voices were raised the ‘gag’ was promptly applied.

Among the many decisions of the conference were the following:
That a committee of inquiry should be set up to investigate the speeding-up system by the transport authorities with regard to the running of trams and trains which, in the opinion of the conference, was dangerous to the public and the employees.

That the Industrial Arbitration Act should be amended to provide that increased powers of inspection should be given to union secretaries.

That the Federal Government should be requested to issue a proclamation under the Customs Act declaring that it was harmful for sheepskins to be exported unless they were first offered to fellmongers in Australia at current market rates based on world’s parity.

That moneys deducted under the Salaries Reduction Act from single and married men in the tramway service should be restored as from July 1, 1934.

That no member of Parliament shall be eligible to contest any selection ballot for municipal honours or for any other semigovernmental body.

**Control of Police**

The police force was subjected to some criticism when a motion was discussed from the country conference, dealing with the control of the police. The view was expressed in the motion, which was carried, that by taking the control of the police out of the hands of Parliament “a military dictatorship was being established by constitutional means in New South Wales”.

“As the franchise of the people has been nullified by the establishment of a permanent anti-Labour Legislative Council, the conference considers, as a matter of urgency, that ways and means should be devised of restoring the franchise and democratic Government to the people of New South Wales”, the resolution added.

Mr AW Thompson (Milk and Ice Carters) claimed that the measure was designed to give the police Fascist control.

**Starting-Price Betting**

After a short debate, the conference decided that the next Labour Government should license all starting-price bookmakers operating away from racecourses throughout the State.

Mr Ryan (Dubbo) submitted a notice of motion from the country conference which stated that the conference urged upon the next Labour Government to license starting-price bookmaking in the country centres.
Mrs Carver (Darlinghurst) moved an amendment to make the proposed legalisation apply to the whole of the State.

During the debate, delegates advocated that the legislation should be based on the regulations operating in South Australia.

One delegate declared that the present regulations in New South Wales had failed to prevent newspapers from publishing pre-post betting.

Another member said that the present system provided for the persecution of the small starting-price bookmakers by the police, while the men operating in exclusive clubs were given immunity.

The amendment was carried.

**Final Decisions**

Before the conference concluded, a resolution was carried protesting against “the monopolistic development of huge city stores”, which, it was asserted, was tending to make country towns a “string of sample rooms”.

“This party declares that this development is economically unfair and socially dangerous to those who must exist in the country districts”, the resolution read. “We further declare definitely in favour of zone freights to allow country districts an equal wage benefit with those nearest the cities”.

Another decision was that reproductive works should be started and the unemployed should be placed in constant work at award rates and conditions.

Other motions agreed to were:

- That the State Labour members of Parliament should cooperate with Federal Labour members in a demand for an open inquiry regarding the enormous cost of explosives to the miners of Australia.
- That the next Labour Government should be instructed to place on the Statute Book the Land Boiler and Machinery Inspection Bill.
- That the age limit for old-age and invalid pensions should be reduced by five years so that women can receive the pension at 55 years and men at 60 years of age.
- That the nationalisation of the Sydney Industrial Blind Institute be a plank of the Labour party’s platform.
- That a law be placed on the Statute book compelling the Transport Commissioners to instal wind-screen wipers and tail lights on all tram cars.
- That the Protection Act should be amended to provide that children should not be permitted to give evidence in divorce court proceedings.
That the Immigration Act should be amended to provide for the elimination of the dictation test.
That all employees working on outside Government works should be paid full time for wet weather providing they turn up for work.
The conference then adjourned.