CHAPTER 16
Australian Labor Party,
New South Wales Branch
Annual Conference,
26 – 27 March 1937

Report in The Sydney Morning Herald

By 1937 one great split (between State and Federal Labor) had been healed, while another (between Lang and the Socialisation Units) was gathering force. This was the opportunity for Lang and his Inner Group to make some concessions to bring the Labor Council back into at least passive support. It was an opportunity lost. The Herald correspondent was probably correct in suggesting that the public manifestations of agreement at this Conference between Lang and Federal Leader John Curtin convinced Lang that he was in a position of strength and that there was no need to make any deals with the left. Time was to prove him wrong if that was the case. The Executive Report provides a useful summary of the situation with regard to both divisions in the party.

Other than major speeches of the Federal and State leaders, and discussion of the expulsions of supporters of the Labor Council, very little business was conducted in the two days of this Conference.
Executive Report of NSW ALP for 1936-37

(Mitchell Library Manuscripts, 329.3106/3)

Australian Labor Party, State Of New South Wales
Executive Report, 1936-1937

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Since the Annual General Conference of last year many momentous matters engaged the attention of the officers and members of the Movement; the most important achievement was the consummating of the Unity terms and the coordination of the forces of the Movement.

Immediately upon the finalisation and acceptance of the terms of Unity by the Special Federal Conference of 1936, leaders and officials of the Movement in this State met and considered plans for the coordination of their various departments, for the purpose of propaganda and organisation in furtherance with the policy of the Movement, and ensure the return of Labor Governments in both Federal and State Parliaments.

The plan agreed upon by the representatives of the Federal and State Parliamentary Parties, the Central Executive and the Trades and Labor Council, as the first step in the coordination proposals was the control of 2KY by representatives of the Trades and Labor Council, Labor Daily, and ALP. In this way three important sections of the Movement — Industrial, Political, and the Press would be directly associated for propaganda purposes and the establishing of a chain of Labor stations throughout the State; the second step agreed upon was the launching of a Sunday newspaper.

These plans, on being made public, were seized upon as the battle-ground for disruptionists both inside and outside the Movement. Leading Communists in this State were the leaders of the forces opposed to these methods of coordination and they had allied with them a number of very prominent members of our Movement. This opposition seriously interfered with the agreed-upon plans.

An alternate method of strengthening the propaganda section of our Movement was therefore put into operation, hence the reason for the new Sunday Express Newspaper Company, and the obtaining of radio stations throughout the State, by other organised efforts, so that Labor will be able to radiocast its policy at the coming elections.

The disruptionists, in furtherance of their policy to control the Movement for the purpose of destroying it, came out into the open and arranged for a Conference to be held on August 1, 1936.

This Conference was called for the purpose of compulsorily altering the Constitution of the ALP, and was attended by delegates of Unions,
irrespective as to whether they were members of the ALP, quite a number of them being avowed and leading Communists.

**Executive Statement**

On July 3, 1936, one month prior to the Conference, the following statement was issued by the Central Executive, which clearly set out the decision of the Movement:

"In connection with the decision of the Trades and Labor Council of June 25 last, to call a Conference of Unions, to draw up a constitution for the ALP, the Central Executive regards the proposal with the same degree of derision as it is generally regarded throughout the Movement, were it not for the fact that the Labor Council is being used by certain politically disappointed individuals as the spearhead of a campaign of disruption throughout the Movement.

The Labor Council embraces members of various political parties, and it is unthinkable that such an organisation should be allowed to interfere with the control of the ALP.

The ostensible reason given for the move made by the Labor Council is that the existing ALP rules do not permit free expression of opinion by the rank and file, and that rules in operation before 1926 should be restored.

The real reason, however, is that the basis of rank and file control existing in the present rules does not permit the small coterie of disgruntled persons to seize control of the Movement.

A cardinal point in the Rules drafted in 1927 was that they made specific provision for the calling of special conferences to discuss any grievances that may arise between Annual General Conference. If these who are disgruntled had any reasonable amount of support behind them, there is ample machinery under the present rules to obtain a Conference.

It is remarkable that the very people who are now suggesting more representation for the Unions are those who threw themselves last year behind the agitation for greater representation for the branches.

This fact alone indicates that not only is there no sincerity in this new move, but that its purpose is purely disruptive and designed to split the Movement, on the eve of the forthcoming Federal elections.

It is the same coterie which is directing all the disruptive moves that are being aimed at the Party, but the Central Executive is determined that all disruptive moves, whether they are organised by Communists or Capitalists, or both in conjunction, will be rigorously destroyed.

The attempt by the Trades and Labor Council to call a Conference is a direct attempt to disrupt the Labor Movement.

The Central Executive therefore determined:
That the alleged Conference called by the Trades and Labor Council to deal with the Rules and other matters affecting the ALP is hereby declared “bogus”.

That any Union affiliated with the ALP which accredits delegates to such “bogus” Conference will become automatically disaffiliated with the ALP.

That any member of the ALP who attends such “bogus” Conference will become automatically expelled from the ALP.

Following the holding of the “bogus” Conference on August 1, 1936, the Central Executive on August 7, issued the following statement:

“In approaching the question of the ‘bogus’ Conference held under the auspices of the Trades and Labor Council on Saturday last, the Central Executive are mindful, not only of their duty, but their responsibility as custodians of the Movement between Conferences.

“The Central Executive represents the entire Movement and not any one section of it, and it is obliged under the Rules and Constitution to fearlessly take whatever steps it considers necessary to protect the interest of the whole of the Movement against the intrigues and machinations of any section that for the time being might believe itself to be stronger than the Movement as a whole.

“A point that is important to remember is that this ‘bogus’ Conference was assembled when the Executive Officers and other members of the Central Executive were absent in Adelaide working for the consolidation of the Unity Agreement that was effected at the Melbourne Conference in February last, and that insistent capitalist press propaganda, fed by the organisers of ‘bogus’ Conference, made the task of the NSW delegates more difficult and arduous than it need have been.

“There is no doubt that the Conference was organised deliberately to try and embarrass the NSW delegates to Adelaide.

“It will be found that the ‘bogus’ Conference was dominated by a group of officials who have been carrying on a guerilla warfare against the Movement for some years, under the label of ‘Industrialists’, despite the fact that it is many years since most of them have ever worked in industry. In recent months these individuals have been working in close collaboration with self-acclaimed members of the Communist Party to build a minority organisation within the ALP to combat every constructive move that is made by the Central Executive or any other section of the Movement.

“It must be remembered that the ‘bogus’ Conference was only convened when those responsible for the present disruption discovered that they were unable to obtain the support of sufficient Unions and Branches to have a Special Conference convened under the Rules.”
Special Conference

The Central Executive then determined to convene a Special Conference to consider the action to be taken in connection with those members or organisations who took part in the 'bogus' Conference.

This Special Conference was held in the Trades Hall, Sydney, on Saturday, August 22, 1936, and as time would not permit of the election of fresh delegates from all over the State to this Conference, delegates to the Annual General Conference held four months earlier, and who had been elected by the rank and file throughout the State, were the delegates summoned to attend this Special Conference.

The Special Conference took advantage of the opportunity afforded, and dealt with matters of urgent and public importance associated with the policy and organisational work of the Movement, after which it considered matters for which it had been convened, viz., disruption within the Movement.

Conference, after a very critical and analytical examination of the whole of the facts surrounding the attempted disruption, found that some of the leaders of the disruptionists were prominent officials of the Communist Party and were associated with prominent members of the Movement who, apparently, had some interest to serve and had become disgruntled and hostile and readily fell in with the organised attempt by the Communist Party to disrupt the Movement.

The Special Conference therefore decided not to enforce the automatic expulsions of the individuals and organisations who were associated with the 'bogus' Conference, but determined to expel from the ALP the following persons:—

Messrs NW Burke; F Connors, ex-MLA; MA Davidson, MLA; WE Dickson, ex-MLC; J Duffin; A Ewin; T Falkingham, ex-MLC; HA Fountain; RJ Heffron, MLA; EM Horsington, MLA; J Kilburn, ex-MLC; RA King, MLC; CC Lazzarini, MLA; J Moloney; E Mara; AS McAlpine; O Schreiber; G Sinclair, ex-MLC; JE Pullan; JF Wilson; S Wyatt.

Sunday Express Newspaper

The Central Executive are actively co-operating with the establishing of a Sunday Labor newspaper, to be known as the Sunday Express.

The original proposal was for the Labor Daily to be published on Sundays as well as week days, but this necessitated altering the Articles of Association to permit the necessary capital being raised for the publication of the Sunday paper. Influences opposed to Labor’s progress immediately set out to prevent this advancement, and in cooperation with disgruntled individuals within our Movement and Communist organisation, were successful in preventing this step.

It was therefore necessary to set up another organisation to obtain the essential machinery and funds to publish the Sunday Express, and Mr
F Kelly, who had been a member of the Central Executive for many years, was appointed organiser, and the drive for funds throughout the Movement for this purpose has been most successful.

The Central Executive decided to take 250 shares, and for the raising of funds for these shares a very successful Motor Drive and Picnic was held at the Playground on December 6, 1936. Some three thousand people attended, being conveyed by a huge fleet of cars and double-decker buses. Socially and financially the picnic was a wonderful success, the amount of £100 being cleared. An interesting sports programme was arranged, and the children were specially catered for. Many requests have been received for a function of a similar character.

**Federal Conference**

The triennial Federal Conference of 1936, held in Adelaide, was fully represented from all States, and was one of far-reaching importance. It not only completed the terms of Unity, having for its purpose the consolidating of Labor forces throughout the Commonwealth, but also brought prominently before notice the methods to be adopted for the purpose of returning Labor to the Treasury benches at the next Federal election.

A very comprehensive policy in regard to Defence, Anti-War, Unemployment, Finance, Tariff, Education and Immigration was adopted; the details are to be found in the official report obtained from the Federal Secretary, Mr DL McNamara.

Matters determined at Conference included:

“That Conference requests the Governments of Australia to introduce legislation to implement a forty-hour working week, and, further, that the representatives of the Labor Governments referred to who will be present at the forthcoming Premiers’ Conference be requested to urge the adoption of the forty-hour working week at such Conference.”

“That Conference expresses its opposition to any scheme of contributory payment in connection with Invalid and Old Age Pensions.”

“Owing to the mechanisation of industry and the inevitable result of the dismissal of men at an early age, Conference recommends a reduction in the age of eligibility for old-age pensions.”

“Old Age and Invalid Pensions be increased to not less than £1 per week.”

“Until such time as the nationalisation of health is given effect to, the Commonwealth Government accept responsibility for a reasonable proportion of the cost of the public health services in the various States.”

“That the Commonwealth Government accept responsibility for a reasonable proportion of the cost of education in the various States.”

“An adequate housing scheme.”

“That the maternity allowance of £5 be restored, with no restriction as to income.”
Unemployment

The problem of adequately feeding, clothing and housing the unemployed workers, in default of provision of remunerative employment, is primarily the duty of Governments.

The obvious failure of Governments to safeguard the people is an unanswerable argument for the urgent replacement of unemployment-creating capitalism by security-giving socialism.

In the Unemployment Report which the 1930 Australian Labor Party Conference adopted, it was pointed out that the immediate problem was twofold in character, viz.:-

1. Subsistence relief work; and
2. Scientific treatment towards prevention and elimination;

and stated that with regard to these, the restoration and freeing of credit was an indispensable condition. Further, that the Commonwealth Government should take all available measures to establish the necessary credit.

That the following plank be added to the Social Reform section of our platform:

“National Insurance, including provision for sick, accident, life, and unemployment insurance.”

The Banking and Monetary Committee has submitted a monetary policy which provides in its ‘purpose’ for:

“The utilisation of the real wealth of Australia to ensure a maximum standard of living consistent with the productive capacity of the Commonwealth through national control of its credit resources and the establishment of an efficient medium of exchange between production and consumption.”

And in its ‘principles’:

“2. The ensuring of essential community purchasing power by the organisation of employment and the expansion of social services to enable Australian primary and secondary industries to operate at their maximum capacity.”

And

“The financing by the Commonwealth Bank at the actual cost of issuance and service of public works at not less than Award rates to aid national development.”

And the building of homes, agricultural development and extension of Australian secondary industries are noted among the ‘Objects to attain’.

We consider that, with the advent of a Federal Labor Government, immediate steps will be made towards the translation of these planks into actual facts, and the problem of unemployment will thereby be considerably lessened.

Pending the consummation of this policy, we recommend the following relief measures:
1. Overtime and piecework should be abolished.
2. Immediate legislation or administrative action to provide a shorter working week.
3. Payment of family endowment to include the first child and payment to be made up to 16 years.
4. An increase in the assistance given by the Federal Government to the States for the relief of unemployment in order to enable the State Governments to provide sufficient work to the unemployed to meet the basic human needs of food, shelter and clothing in accordance with the accepted Australian standard of living.

We condemn the present haphazard method of fixing sustenance payments to unemployed workers in the different States of the Commonwealth, and demand that the Commonwealth Government shall accept full responsibility to feed, house and clothe its people.

**Fighting Platform**

That a Fighting Platform be adopted and that the final drafting be entrusted to the Federal Parliamentary Labor Party, subject to the approval of the Federal Executive, and, further, that the following at least be included in such Fighting Platform:

(a) Extension of the functions of the Commonwealth Bank and the utilisation of national credit for the planned development of the Commonwealth.
(b) Such extension of the powers of the Commonwealth as are necessary for the carrying out of Labor’s policy.
(c) Planned marketing of Australian produce.
(d) Unemployment insurance.
(e) Reduction of the working hours of industry and the development of a higher standard of living.
(f) Adequate home defence against possible aggression, and the Government monopoly of manufacture of arms and munitions.
(h) Repeal of all anti-civil and anti-social legislation and enactments.
(i) General extension and improvement of social services.
(j) Unification of railway gauges and the provision of adequate Commonwealth shipping service between Tasmania and the mainland.

**Crimes Act**

“That Conference appreciates the efforts that have been made by the Industrial and Political Movement to secure the repeal of the repressive, anti-working class provisions of the Crimes Act, which, in the opinion of Conference, are primarily designed to hinder and suppress Labor’s
political and industrial activities, we, therefore, instruct the Federal Executive to continue its efforts to educate the people on the far-reaching and dangerous provisions of the Crimes Act, so as to ensure the return of a Labor Government and the repeal of the objectionable clauses."

At the conclusion of the Conference the following officials were elected: President, Mr N Makin. South Australia; Vice-Presidents, Mr C Fallon, Queensland; Mr JJ Graves, New South Wales; Secretary, Mr DL McNamara, Victoria. Mr JJ Kenneally, past President, did not nominate for re-election.

This is the first occasion for many years that a delegate from New South Wales has been elected as a Federal officer.

Consequent upon the Federal Conference the Interstate Labor Women’s Conference was held in Hobart, Tasmania, on February 1, 1937; Mrs Houghton and Mrs Steel represented New South Wales.

The Conference was the most representative Labor Women’s Conference yet held, Queensland being the only State not represented. The Conference was opened by Mr AG Ogilvie, Labor Premier of Tasmania, and it lasted for three days, during which time some very important decisions were arrived at in connection with Anti-War, Health, Education, Sex Equality, Social Legislation and Organisation.

**Provincial Conferences**

The two Provincial Conferences held in February of this year, country and metropolitan, were an unqualified success. The Country Conference was held at Lithgow and the successful clearing of the Agenda Paper of that Conference was due, in a very large measure, to the efficient organising of the local branch officials at Lithgow.

The Labor Mayor tendered a civic reception to the leaders, officials and delegates prior to the opening of the Conference.

The Mayor, assisted by his colleagues on the Council and in cooperation with the branch officials arranged a number of social functions and visits, including one to Newnes, which were at once interesting, instructive and pleasant.

The Metropolitan Conference was a very representative one and sat for two days and dealt with the whole of the items on the Agenda Paper. Debates on all matters were very keen and critical and of a higher standard than for some years past; there was a complete absence of rancour and bitterness. The Conference adjourned *sine die* on the unanimous vote of the delegates.

The decisions of these Conferences are to be found in the Agenda Paper for Annual General Conference.
Legislative Council Election

The triennial election of the Legislative Council was held on December 9, 1936; fifteen members of the Council retired, four of whom were Labor members; the election resulted in four Labor members being returned: Messrs JJ Graves, J Culbert, AW McNamara and GB Archer.

With one or two exceptions the whole of the Parliamentary Labor members loyally supported the Labor ticket; if the exceptions mentioned had remained loyal to their pledge, Labor would have won a fifth seat, Mr W Brotherson, the fifth Labor candidate being narrowly defeated,

Selection Ballots

Towards the end of 1936 the selection ballots were conducted for the Senate and House of Representatives. The ballots that have been finalised resulted in the following being elected as Labor candidates for the coming Federal election:

Senate.—Messrs SK Amour, CE Anderson, J Armstrong, W Ashley, Four NSW vacancies are to be contested at the next election.

House of Representatives Candidates

Cook — T Sheehan.
Dalley — JS Rosevear, MHR.
East Sydney — EJ Ward, MHR.
Lang — D Mulcahy, MHR.
Martin — SC Taylor.
Reid — JH Gander, MHR.
Watson — WJ Dignam.
West Sydney — JA Beasley, MHR.
Calare — W Folster, ex-MLA
Darling — J Clark, MHR.
Gwydir — WJ Scully, ex-MLA.
Hunter — R James MHR.
Macquarie — AS Luchetti.
Newcastle — D Watkins, MHR.
Robertson — CE Cross.
Werriwa — HP Lazzarini, MHR.

The selection of Labor candidates for the remaining twelve constituencies has not yet been finalised.

Executive Elections

In the ballot for 1937 Central Executive, held at the end of 1936, the new Groups came into operation, eight Groups of Metropolitan Branches taking the place of the four Groups of previous years.
Because of irregularities reported in connection with the Land Transport Group, a new ballot was held, the candidates successful in the first ballot were also successful in the second.

The following members represent the various Groups on the Central Executive for the current year.

**TRADE UNION GROUPS.**
- D Downey Building Trades.
- S Shelton Food.
- S Weston Manufacturing.
- LJ Stevenson Metal Trades.
- SA Sutton Metal Trades.
- AE Lewry Metal Trades.
- W Cunningham Western Miners.
- WJ Dwyer Public Utilities.
- C Hackett Public Utilities.
- RH Esam Public Utilities.
- A Simmons Printing, Non-manual.
- J Hughes Land Transport.
- EA Yeo Land Transport.
- AJ Young Land Transport.
- W Donnelly Water Transport.
- A Welfare Wood.

**METROPOLITAN GROUPS.**
- VF Christensen No. 1.
- AJ Murphy No. 2.
- PJ O'Grady No. 3.
- TO Johannessen No. 4.
- DL Rees No. 5.
- S Gould No. 6.
- WC Barnett No. 7.
- S Howey No. 8.

**COUNTRY DIVISIONS.**
- GR Johnson Southern.
- LGE Moreman Southern.
- W Beynon West Central.
- Mrs MA Edmonds West Central.
- W Brown Northern.
- WH Read Northern.

*New Grouping of the Metropolitan Electorates.*

*No. 1 Group.*

- Arncliffe Georges River
- Kogarah Hurstville
No. 2 Group.
Canterbury Bankstown Lakemba
(Excepting Chipping-Norton, Lansvale, Liverpool, Mt Pritchard, Cabramatta Branches which are included in No. 3 Group.)

No. 3 Group.
Auburn Parramatta Granville
(Inclusive of Castle Hill, Quakers Hill, Riverstone, Chipping-Norton, Lansvale, Liverpool, Mt Prichard, Cabramatta, and Liverpool.)

No. 4 Group.
Ashfield Concord
Croydon Balmain
Burwood Hornsby
(Excepting Castle Hill, Quakers Hill and Riverstone Branches included in No. 3 Group.)

No. 5 Group.
Drummoyne Willoughby
Ryde Mosman
Lane Cove North Sydney
Gordon Manly

No. 6 Group.
King Bondi
Paddington Vaucluse
Woollahra Coogee
Waverley Randwick

No. 7 Group.
Glebe Redfern
Phillip Botany

No. 8 Group.
Newtown Petersham
Marrickville Leichhardt
Dulwich Hill Annandale

Organisation
The organisational work has progressed favorably during the past year, in spite of the vigor and bitterness used by our opponents. Many Branches and Councils were visited in both the metropolitan and country areas, including Bathurst, Cowra, Grenfell, Young, Narrabri, Katoomba, Tamworth, Muswellbrook, Werris Creek, Woy Woy, Hunter, Calare, Ashburnham, Gwydir, Newcastle and Broken Hill.

The loyalty of the country members to the Party is clearly demonstrated by the great distances delegates are prepared to travel to attend meetings and assist generally in organising work. Many requisitions
have been received for the establishing of new Branches, which augurs well for the forthcoming election campaign.

This support and interest is even exhibited in Municipal and Shire spheres. Amongst our recent successes are D Warnock, Adamstown; W O’Hearn, Maitland; D Cummings, Burrangong Shire; NJ Keile and FC Schindler, of Auburn.

The affiliation of many Branches and Unions was endorsed during the past term, viz.: Croydon Park, Sutherland, Lismore, Kogarah, Mayfield East, Maroubra Bay, Maroubra North, The Rock, Zetland, Gulgong, Fargo, Tullamore, Woy Woy, Tarberton, Quaker’s Hill, Elong, Homeville, East Maitland, Lake Cargellico, Ungarie, Woronora Dam, Erskineville Branches. The Unions include Moulders, Marine Stewards, Postal Workers, Postal Electricians, Bread-carters, Hospital Employees, Water and Sewerage (Hunter District), and Enginedrivers. Some of these are reaffiliations due chiefly to the consummation of the terms of Unity, finalised by the Federal Conference held in Adelaide in July, 1936.

**Municipal Elections**

In addition to the activities now being undertaken by the Movement in connection with the Referenda and the Federal elections, interest has been concentrated upon the selection of Labor Candidates for the Municipal and Shire elections. Quite a number of Municipal assemblies have already arranged for selection ballots.

An influential committee has been set up to conduct the City Council election, consisting of representatives from the City Council Municipal Caucus, the Central Executive, Municipal Employees’ Union and a representative from each of the Municipal Assemblies within the City of Sydney Municipal Area.

Arrangements are well in hand for the setting up of canvassing committees and the raising of funds; a motor drive has already been held, which resulted in a substantial sum being raised.

**Amended By-Laws**

The Central Executive during the term found it was necessary to amend By-laws 5 and 6 as follows, with the addition of a new by-law:

By-law 5, Clause (c) amended by adding the following words after the word “organisations” — “or have not been suspended, expelled or otherwise deprived of full rights of membership in the Party”.

By-law 6 amended by adding the following words after the word “organisations”: — “Or have not been suspended, expelled or otherwise deprived of full rights of membership in the Party”.

New By-Law 22.

“Promulgation of the decisions of the Central Executive or Annual General Conference may be made by advertisement in the Labor Daily.”
The appearance of such advertisement over the signatures of the General President and the General Secretary shall be sufficient and valid intimation to all members, Branches, Councils and Unions that such decisions have been made.”

**State Elections**

The Annual General Conference should give some attention to the coming State election and direct the Movement to make the necessary and early arrangements for the selection ballots so as to permit of candidates being in the field with plenty of time to organise their electorate by forming Campaign Committees and raising funds to fight the elections.

**Gwydir Electorate**

There is every possibility of a by-election for the Federal seat of Gwydir in NSW to be held possibly in April. The sitting UCP member, Mr Abbott, is to retire and take over the duties of Administrator of the Northern Territory. Mr WJ Scully will be Labor’s candidate in this by-election, and there is no doubt that Labor will succeed in winning this seat from the Country Party.

**ALP Sports Federation**

The operations of the ALP Sports Federation and the Sporting Associations which functioned under its control during the past twelve months, attained a high standard of success, and the advertisement which has been derived from the many deeds performed in this sphere, together with the interest created among the members of numerous Branches, has proved of great value to the Movement generally.

The development of the sporting side of the ALP, although becoming pronounced, is still in its infancy, but requires the support of more Branches to place the ALP on a footing with most of the other big sporting organisations in this State. The work already performed in this direction has been the means of establishing a political nursery from which the future members and supporters of the Party will be drawn.

**Tennis Association**

The Tennis Association which, little more than two years ago was on the verge of extinction, owing to lack of support, has since been taken in hand by competent officials whose untiring efforts have now placed the Association on a higher plane than ever attained before.

The competition just commenced, attracted a record entry of thirty-four (34) teams, for which 272 players were registered. This number represents an increase of sixty (60) on that received for any previous competition.
The fame of the Association is spreading rapidly, and the friendliness which is strongly in evidence in all competition matches has been, time and again, favorably remarked on by both players and spectators, and is proving a big attraction to newcomers. The existence of this spirit between the teams can be attributed to the capable management of the Association's affairs, and probably to the fact that a tie exists between the players because of the similarity of their political thoughts.

Branch officials are urged to consider the question of organising the young people in their respective districts, and to adopt the formation of tennis clubs as the means of achieving this object.

**Golf Club**

The ALP Golf Club made such rapid strides shortly after its inception, as to cause slight embarrassment to the officials, who were compelled to limit the size of the Club owing to the fact that sufficient accommodation could not be secured on metropolitan courses to cater for the numbers applying for membership.

The Club continued to function, however, during the summer months, when it was found possible to lift the restriction on the membership list, with the result that the latter has now grown to a figure closely approaching the hundred mark. Provided that negotiations, which are now being made for the conduct of the winter competitions, are successful, that number should be exceeded, and a very successful season, during which a number of major events, including championships, will be decided, is anticipated.

The most important achievement of the Club to date was its win in the South Sydney District Golf Association Competition, which was conducted last winter between the clubs which function at Eastlake. This success against clubs which have been long established, not only brought prominence to the team, but attracted attention to the entry of the ALP into this popular branch of sport.

The personnel of the ALP team included Russell Perkins, president and captain of the club, Laurie Lambert, Les Freeman, Fred Labelle, Johnny Stevens, Wal Smith and Stan Gribble, all of whom are deserving of congratulations on their many fine performances.

**“Miss ALP 1936”**

The result of the “Miss ALP 1936” Popular Lady Competition clearly indicated that this method of raising Campaign Funds is becoming increasingly popular, and that the Branches are beginning to realise the benefits which can be derived by their participation in each year's quest.

Last year's competition attracted entries from twenty-three candidates who were supported by active committees, and whose efforts bore surprisingly good results. The total amount subscribed represented an
increase of almost 100 per cent over the amount received for any previous competition.

The first prize was won by the nominee of the Newtown-Erskineville Branch, Mrs N Gow, who, after being credited with the votes of the candidates whom she defeated in a preliminary competition in the Newtown electorate, had a big margin to spare.

The prize for the best individual effort went to Miss Hilda Gordon, who represented the Clovelly ALP Younger Set, the members of which have been prominent in each of the competitions conducted to date.

The work performed by the country candidates and their committees is commendable, and their chances of success in future competitions are considerably enhanced by the interest which has now been created in these quests.

Owing to the strong possibility of the Federal elections being held at the end of the year, arrangements are now well in hand for the “Miss ALP 1937” competition, which will be conducted on lines similar to last year, except that preliminary competitions will be deleted, and each candidate will represent the area covered by the Branch responsible for her nomination.

Every Branch participating in these competitions receives a refund of 25 per cent of the amounts they subscribe, together with prizes which are awarded to the Branches responsible for nominating the successful candidates.

The following list shows the support accorded the 1936 quest:—

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Referenda

The Federal Conference held in Adelaide in July of last year fully considered the matter of the amending of the Commonwealth Constitution by means of referendums, and had before it the three Bills introduced by the Scullin Government in 1930.

The unanimous decision of Conference on matters concerning referendums is as follows:

“That the question of how and when referenda shall be held for carrying of the Party’s policy in regard to the Commonwealth’s powers shall be decided by the Federal Parliamentary Labor Party.”

This was interpreted by the Federal Parliamentary Labor Caucus to mean they had the right to determine the Party’s attitude in the present referenda, and Caucus decided to oppose the Lyons Government proposals.

The Queensland Central Executive refused to accept Caucus decision and instructed the Queensland Labor members in the Federal Parliament to support the Lyons Government proposals, stating that irrespective as to what attitude the Federal Organisation adopted on this question the Queensland members would be required to take the platform in support of the Referenda. A second meeting of the Caucus was held, and the Leader, Mr J Curtin, MHR, was instructed to make representation to the Leader of the Labor Party in Queensland, Mr W Forgan-Smith, with the
object of obtaining a review of the instructions issued by Queensland to its members, but Mr Forgan-Smith was adamant; a third meeting of the Caucus was held and it was agreed to leave the matter an open question to obviate the possibility of a split in the Party.

The Federal Parliamentary Labor members from all States, with the exception of Queensland members, vigorously opposed, in Parliament, the Referenda proposals of the Lyons Government.

Caucus decision resulted in Mr J Curtin, MHR, Leader of the Federal Parliamentary Party, and other prominent Federal Parliamentarians, refraining from taking part in the Referenda Campaign.

NSW Labor members were recognised as the leaders in the ‘No’ Campaign, Mr JA Beasley, MHR, being accepted by all parties and State instrumentalities as the leader in opposition to the Lyons Government proposals.

This was confirmed by the Broadcasting Commission taking a vote of every member of the Federal Parliament who opposed the Lyons Government proposals, as to who the Commission should recognise as the Opposition Leader. The result of the vote favored Mr JA Beasley, MHR.

The Commission’s attitude in this regard arose out of persistent and determined agitation of Mr Beasley, and the Campaign Committee for the right to radiocast Labor’s case over the ‘A’ Class Stations. Negotiations with the Commission were numerous and protracted, and resulted in the Labor Party being conceded the right to use ‘A’ Class Stations with the right of Mr JA Beasley, as the recognised Leader of the ‘No’ Campaign to nominate all radio speakers in opposition to the Lyons Government proposals.

The Movement of this State has been keenly active in the Campaign. The Labor Daily has been used extensively to submit the case for Labor, aided by the radio and public meetings.

The Campaign was opened by Mr JA Beasley, MHR, in the Town Hall, Glebe on February 11, 1937.

Labor Campaign Committees quickly came into operation in every section of the State, and arrangements were made for the manning of the 3057 booths throughout New South Wales.

The committees successfully canvassed the hospitals for the purpose of obtaining postal votes from the sick and infirm, who would not be able to attend the booth to record their vote.

A very comprehensive itinerary of speakers was drawn up and successfully carried out. The Parliamentary members of both the Federal and State Houses willingly carried out duties imposed on them in this direction, and almost every part of the State has been visited by these members.

A million ‘How-to-Vote’ slips were despatched from Head Office, and as was anticipated, early in the Campaign an emphatic ‘No’ vote was recorded on March 6, in opposition to the Lyons’ Government proposals.
The activities of the Labor Movement in the Campaign was responsible for the defeat of the Referenda, and must be accepted as an indication of the defeat of the Lyons Government at the next elections, and with the return of Labor to the Federal Parliaments.

**Labor Prospects**

With the opening of the year 1937, there is evidence of Labor meeting with a series of successes, a better financial year is already apparent and improved methods of organisation are meeting with success.

In conclusion, mention must be made of the loyal and untiring efforts of the staff to carry on the ever-increasing work of the Movement, also many thanks to the numerous voluntary workers who each year faithfully and earnestly come forward to assist, and a lesson that many can learn is that, with Labor united and all sections working in harmony and ably led, our Party is almost invincible.

There is already a large influx of new members into Branches, and with the many requests for the resuscitation of the defunct Branches and the establishing of the new Branches, and the anticipated new affiliation from Trade Unions, coupled with the revival of the enthusiastic interest of members of the Movement, there is little doubt that Labor will be successful in both the Federal and State elections.

**Labor Daily**

The Labor Daily during the term has again proved of immense value and importance to the Labor Movement as a newspaper and advertising medium. It is recognised as one of the most influential and reliable organs in the State.

As a means of propagating the ideals and policy of our Movement it was our greatest asset, and its articles on political current events are accepted by all sections as authentic.

The Movement is justly proud of its paper and its administration, and we appreciate the work that it has done for the Labor Movement, and congratulate it on its very successful year.

**Appreciation**

In conclusion mention must be made of the loyal and untiring efforts of the staff to carry on the ever-increasing work of the Movement, also many thanks to the numerous voluntary workers who, each year, faithfully and earnestly come forward to assist, and a lesson that many can learn is that with Labor united, and all sections in harmony and ably led, our Party is almost invincible.
Annual Conference of NSW ALP, 1937

(The Sydney Morning Herald, 27, 29 March 1937)

Day 1, Friday, 26 March 1937

Mr Curtin Declares for Mr Lang. Labour Conference Speech.
State Party Supreme Within State.
Rebel Leaders Seek Readmission.

It was made clear at the annual Easter conference of the State Labour party yesterday that the leader of the Federal Opposition (Mr Curtin) had allied himself with Mr Lang.

Mr Curtin approved the actions of the Lang faction in New South Wales throughout the recent Labour split by declaring that the State Labour movement must be supreme within the State.

Proceedings at the conference showed that Mr Lang was in complete control of the State Labour movement, and that the opposition rebel union movement was hopelessly divided.

There was surprise early in the conference when it was announced that among those who sought readmission to the party were Mr JS Gar- den, MP, Messrs Heffron, Davidson, and Horsington, MsLA, and a number of union officials prominently identified with the rebel movement. A move to have their applications dealt with at once was defeated.

Mr Curtin Greeted With Cheers

Thunderous applause erected Mr Curtin when he walked into the conference hall, accompanied by Mr Lang. The deputy Federal leader (Mr Forde) followed with Mr Beasley, MP. Lusty cheers were given for the Labour party, and some time elapsed before the excitement had sufficiently subsided to enable the conference to proceed.

When Mr Curtin rose to speak he was again cheered.

Introducing Mr Curtin, the chairman announced, amid cheers, that if Mr Curtin was not the next Prime Minister it would not be the fault of the State Labour party. His presence had broken a long sequence of conferences from which the Federal Labour leader had been absent. Party leaders were mindful of the great assistance Mr Curtin had given
in the preliminary unity negotiations, and how he had come to the conference to amplify the policy of unity. (Cheers.)

Mr Curtin's Declaration

“I say that the State conference must be supreme within the State arena”, said Mr Curtin, amidst loud applause, “and that the Federal conference must be supreme in the Federal arena. I say definitely and decisively that no one State executive anywhere in Australia must presume that they are a Commonwealth Labour party. If we are to go forward we can only do so by a close sensing of each other’s likes and dislikes. It is impossible for me to lay out in the Federal Parliament the decisions of two State executives. No man can do that. Only a fool would attempt to do it.

“I believe that we can do better with the Labour movement of Australia than we have done. I believe that we would do better by displaying a little more of that tolerance which is an essential part of Labour’s outlook. This applies not only to the executive but also to those who may be disposed to be disgruntled. I say this not in any critical spirit but because I have always realised that a paramount feature of the Labour movement is its fellowship. No man in this Labour movement can serve the movement by trying to score off his mates. No man or woman can give his or her best service to the movement and the people while persons are taking points on them.

“No man makes himself leader no matter how much he believes he has done so. He has got only one vote that matters. No man can make himself either Federal or State leader. Therefore, I put it to you that if you do not like the way things are going, tell him so. Until you bring about a change by the ordinary process that man is entitled to the respect and the support of every man in the movement.

Mr Curtin then spoke on the policy of the Labour party and criticised the administration of the Federal Government. A report of his speech appears on another page.

Mr Lang in moving a short vote of thanks to Mr Curtin said that it was one of the finest orations he had ever heard at a Labour conference. (Applause.)

Lang Party in Control

The election of officers indicated that the followers of Mr Lang were again in complete charge of the proceedings.

Leaders of the rebel unions did not even nominate a candidate for the various conference positions, and the nominees of the Lang faction were elected without opposition.
The absence of opposition to the ruling faction came as a surprise and was regarded as an admission by the rebels that they had abandoned the fight so far as the Easter conference was concerned.

The following conference officials were elected: Tellers, Messrs A Paton, W Draper, R Johnson and AE Lewry. Mr J Payne was elected minute secretary, and Mr CE Anderson timekeeper. The appeals committee comprised Messrs AW McNamara, A Roberts, J Upton GA Byrne, and S Weston. Those on the agenda committee were Messrs J Stewart, J Walker, L Leece, W O’Hearn, and T Sheehan. The Press as usual were excluded.

**Expelled Members**

There was a lively scene when the general secretary, Mr JJ Graves, MLC, moved the adoption of the annual report of the executive and the balance sheet.

Mr R Quintrell (Barrier Assembly) submitted an amendment that references in the report to the expulsion of a number of individuals by the special conference on August 22 should be considered by the appeals committee at once.

Mr Quintrell said it was imperative that the appeals against the expulsions should be dealt with at once. If unity was to be achieved, the question whether the expelled members were to be readmitted should be disposed of immediately.

The chairman (Mr P Keller) said that Mr Quintrell had spoken much about the interests of the movement. Unfortunately however, Mr Quintrell had gone to Broken Hill after the metropolitan conference and had delivered a report which was just a "hymn of hate" against what he described as "the inner group".

Mr Quintrell heatedly replied that he considered some of the actions of the executive were improper and he would not go back on anything he had said.

The senior vice-president (Mr G Gibson) said that the appeals committee was the best body to deal with the expulsions. The question of who was to be readmitted could safely be left in its hands.

"We have unity already", said Mr W Paton (Ironworkers), replying to remarks made by Mr Quintrell.

Mr W Lyons (Storemen and Packers), supporting the amendment moved by Mr Quintrell, explained that he did not approve the attack made on the executive but he felt that discipline must be preserved in the party. The expulsions should be dealt with and the conference should decide the matter.

Mr JB Martin, MLC, organising secretary, said that the conference was merely wasting time discussing the expulsions. The appeals committee could well deal with the situation.
Amendment Defeated

Mr Graves then informed the conference that appeals for readmission had been lodged on behalf of Mr S Wyatt (ARU), Mr J Duffin (Northern Miners), and Mr E Mara (Western Miners). Others who had lodged appeals were Messrs WJ McDicken, WE Dickson, JH Ewin, J Kilburn, RJ Heffron, MLA, MA Davidson, MLA, E Horsington, MLA, JE Pullan, J Sydney, and JS Garden, MP.

When the vote was taken the report was adopted and the amendment was defeated by an overwhelming majority.

State Labour Conference. Mr Curtin’s Speech.
“Rejuvenate Labour”.

The rejuvenation of Labour in the Australian nation was declared to be the object of the Federal Labour party by the leader of the Federal Opposition (Mr Curtin) in his speech at the Easter conference of the State Labour party.

Mr Curtin said that the rights of free speech had been filched from the people by anti-Labour Governments, and that Labour must ensure that its policy was not misrepresented, by “freeing the air” from “the present Government monopoly of radio”.

“I would not say this outside this conference”, he said, “but for the last 25 years the Labour movement has been largely a stand-pat movement. During the last 10 years the States have been financially crippled, and therefore unable to carry out the social benefit part of their programme. As a consequence, you have had Labour Governments in quite a number of States, all the time working under rigorous obstacles. They have been unable to balance their budgets, and deficits have been soaring, whereas the Commonwealth Government, having easy fields of taxation at its disposal, has shown surpluses, and has embarked on extravagant proposals which have given no relief to the masses of the people.

Federal Government Criticised

The Commonwealth has set out to exasperate the States, chiefly because from 1917 to 1929 and from 1931 to the present day every Commonwealth Government has set itself up as the bulwark of capitalism and not as a representative Government of free people. It is not the Labour movement which has failed. The democratic principles of this Commonwealth have been used to buttress and support a plutocratic dictatorship. The Governments have not only taken the form of dictatorship, but have displayed the actuality of despotism. The rights of free speech and free public assembly have been filched from the people by successive Governments.
“Between the censorship and the present Government monopoly of radio, the public mind is at present the centre of a given capitalistic focal point. Labour must ensure that no misrepresentation of its policy is possible. It must not allow itself to be the victim of distortion, and it must free the air from the monopolies which are now setting out to control it. Labour must demand the air.

“Pretty Uniforms”

Referring to the present defence policy, Mr Curtin said that it must be made responsive to Australian economic conditions. Lacking the development of essential industries, it was no use having men marching round in the pretty uniforms Sir Archdale Parkhill has designed.

“Aeroplanes might be bought in large numbers, but what is the good of our buying aeroplanes if no petrol is available for them?” Mr Curtin said. “We may have shore batteries along the Australian coast, but what is the use of them if there are no munitions available to serve the guns? Until we have developed our own petrol resources and satisfactorily established our munition industry, we cannot look to the future with any sense of security.”

It was useless, he said, to talk about Imperial cooperation and reliance on Great Britain and the League of Nations in defence, in view of recent developments in other parts of the world.

Shorter Hours

“I would not reduce to the absolute limit the fixation of hours”, Mr Curtin continued. “I stand against the idea that we should all work as little as possible”.

Mr Curtin said that while he stood for a reduction of hours he would prefer to see the people receiving a real money wage and living in comfortable homes in preference to slum areas and hovel conditions that prevailed in many of our industrial suburbs today. You may succeed in reducing hours to a lower minimum but when a crisis comes again and the present system prevails you will find industrial tribunals again cutting real wages as they did before”, he said.

“It is impossible for a Labour government to reorientate the economic life of a country in a day or a month or a year, but its duty is to start that reorientation the moment it takes office. Mechanisation is being used for the betterment of only a section of the community and not for the advantage of the people as a whole. Statistics show that both the primary and secondary industries are employing less people than formerly, with the result that there will continue to be a gradual increase in the army of unemployed.
“It is essential that the national finance and credit system should be reorganised to enable Labour’s policy to be carried out. It is also essential that the nation should control its resources.”

Mr Curtin said that the Federal Labour party contemplated not only the mobilisation of votes but the rehabilitation of the spirit of Labour. The party needed a majority in both houses of Parliament but the unstinted confidence of the people was necessary.

**Debt to Official Organ**

During the discussion of the annual report of the executive Mr O Neill of Hurstville asked for details of the sundry creditors mentioned in the balance-sheet. Mr Graves replied that most of the amount outstanding was money owed to the official organ but the company in control of the paper was not pressing the movement for the money. If the amount outstanding had been a bank overdraft interest would have had to be paid on it, but this was not done in the case of the official organ. (Applause) In reply to further questions Mr Graves said that a big increase had taken place in branch and union capitation fees compared with last year.

**Many Resolutions**

A resolution approving the policy of the nationalisation of the production of oil from coal and shale, and condemning the State Government for proposing to hand over valuable shale leases to Commonwealth control was passed.

The conference also passed a resolution condemning the action of the metal trade employers in dismissing 3000 metal trade workers. “We call upon the Labour movement”, the resolution read, “to assist the locked-out workers morally and financially”.

On the motion of Mr TV Ryan (Dubbo) the conference instructed the next Labour Government to provide work for the unemployed at full award rates and conditions. An addendum to the resolution demanded the abolition of the permissible income regulations and the inclusion of all children under the age of 16 among those eligible to collect family endowment.

Another resolution passed urged the next Labour Government to place the wages staff of all Government departments and semi-Government departments on the same basis as the salaried staff in regard to hours and privileges. Supporters of the resolution declared that country settlers and other outside railway employees were equally entitled to the concessions enjoyed by the salaried staff.
Criminal Assault Cases

The conference urged that in cases where young girls had made charges against men for criminal assault, all cases should be heard in camera. It was suggested that the Government should employ fully-trained women to act in conjunction with the girl and her solicitor and that the police handling the case should not be allowed to take written statements from either the girl or the man before both had gone before a magistrate.

The conference adopted a recommendation from the country conference that the Coal Bill drawn up by Mr Baddeley, MLA, when Minister for Mines should be put into operation immediately on the return of a Labour Government.

Another decision of the conference was that steps should be taken by the next Labour Government to erect maternity hospitals in all country centres, and also that the State Government should provide medical aid through health centres for pre-natal cases.

Applications for Readmission

Most of the time of the night session was spent in considering applications for readmission, apart from those lodged by the rebel union leaders.

The conference rejected an application by Mr AC Willis, a former Agent-General during the Lang administration. Mr Willis applied on the ground that under the unity terms he was entitled to readmission. The conference held that his application did not come within the terms of the unity agreement.

The conference agreed to readmit to the movement without continuity a former organising secretary of the Labour party, Mr AJ Macpherson, who was expelled for the support he gave to Mr Theodore against Mr Lang several years ago.

A former member for Concord, Mr McDicken, also sought readmission but his application was rejected on the ground that it was not lodged in accordance with the rules. Mr J Bugler was also refused admission on similar grounds. He was expelled because he opposed the selected and endorsed Labour candidate in the Newtown municipal election.

Decisions Today

It was ascertained last night that a general application had been lodged by the Labour Council for the readmission to membership of the 21 expelled political and industrial leaders. Personal applications for readmission were made by Mr Garden, MP, Messrs Heffron, Davidson, and Horsington, Ms LA, J Pullen, and J Sydney.

Applications for readmission were lodged by the Australian Railways Union for Mr S Wyatt, the Northern Miners’ Federation for Mr J
Duffin, the Western Miners’ Federation for Mr E Mara, and the Bricklayers’ Union for Mr Ewin and J Kilburn. It was stated last night that the decision of the appeals committee in relation to these applications would be announced to the conference today.

Day 2, Saturday, 27 March 1937


Conference Decisions.

Both the Federal Labour leader (Mr Curtin) and the leader of the State party (Mr Lang), in addresses on Saturday, predicted a victory for Labour at the next Federal election.

Mr Lang told his followers that he could not impress on them too often the importance of intensive organisation, ample propaganda, and party discipline.

Mr Lang delivered his address at the Easter conference; Mr Curtin spoke at the annual dinner held in the Australian Hall after the conference.

Governments Attacked

“We opened our conference this year by proclaiming it a year of Labour victories”, Mr Lang said.

“We promised ourselves that we would do the hat trick. We got the first on March 6 in the referendum. We will have the second at Gwydir in May. The third will come to us with the Federal elections at the end of the year, and, for good measure, we will sweep the polls at the State, whenever those elections are held.

“Both the Lyons and the Stevens Governments favour a low cost of living in London and a high cost of living in Sydney. The Australian people do not believe in that policy and they are turning to the Labour party because only the Labour party can correct it. The policy of Lyons and Steven all the time is to penalise Australia for the benefit of the people who give them banquets when they go to London. So far as these Governments are concerned, the Australian is the forgotten man.

“The Commonwealth Bank is adopting a policy of deflation because it says that it does not want the present prosperity to become a boom. But where is the prosperity? Wages are still almost on the depression level. In all directions social services intended to help those in need have been curtailed. The people can tolerate these conditions no longer, and are anxiously awaiting an opportunity of putting Labour Governments in power both in the Federal and State Parliaments.
“The Lyons and the Stevens Governments are against the people, and that is why the people are opposed to them”.

**Spreading Propaganda**

Mr Lang said that a change was taking place in the methods of fighting elections. The popularity of wireless had created a propaganda problem for the Labour party. The position was illustrated in Gwydir, he added. On the border of the electorate were three of the highest powered commercial stations in Australia. Two were owned and controlled by the Country party. The third, Tamworth, was owned by a company in which the Tamworth *Daily Leader* was a shareholder, and the editor of the *Daily Leader* was Mr Thompson, the Country party member for New England. The Labour movement must grapple with the problem.

“We feel confident”, Mr Lang said, “by the time the Federal general election campaign opens we will have newspaper and wireless facilities that will ensure the spreading of Labour propaganda throughout this State.

**Mr Curtin’s Address**

Mr Curtin, in his speech at the dinner, summarised the policy which he said he would put before the people as embracing the promotion of international friendship, the organisation of Australian industry so that nothing essential to national security would be missing, the granting of the maximum of generosity to those who were unable to provide for themselves, and cooperation with the States for the right use of the Constitution.

Mr Curtin said that the Lyons Government had mismanaged the affairs of Australia; it had endangered the safety of the country and had shown too much regard for the interests of selected classes. It had failed the States just as it had failed the primary producers and the workers.

Mr Lang introduced Mr Curtin as “this great Australian leader”.

**Conference Decisions**

During the conference proceedings Mr K Brown of Muswellbrook obtained the suspension of standing orders to move a resolution, which was carried, protesting against the action of various censorship boards in banning importation, exhibition, and sale of books, films, and plays of an intellectual and working class nature. It was urged in the resolution that the amendment of the censorship laws should be one of the first duties of the next Labour Government.

References to the socialisation policy of the party were made when a motion was submitted providing for the introduction of legislation to tax
all machinery designed to eliminate labour to create a fund for the maintenance of the displaced workers.

Mr R Quintrell (Broken Hill) moved an amendment that the conference should recommend to the next Federal Labour Government to set up machinery to attain the Labour party’s socialisation objective.

The president (Mr Keller) declared that socialisation remained a plank of the Labour party’s platform. The trouble in the past had been that some persons advocating socialisation had wanted to become an organisation unto themselves.

The amendment moved by Mr Quintrell favouring socialisation was carried.

The conference also decided to urge the Federal ALP executive and the Parliamentary party to keep the socialisation objective in the forefront of all campaigns.

“Under the present law the Police Commissioner is in a position to flout the Government”, said Mr V Rees (North Sydney) in moving that steps be taken by the next Labour Government to secure full Ministerial control over the police force. The motion was carried.

A long discussion took place on a motion designed to amend the rules to make it necessary for members to have three years membership before they could sit on the ALP executive, or act as a delegate at the conferences.

The motion was strongly opposed by many delegates who claimed that it would debar such organisations as the Australian Workers’ Union, in the event of their return to the party, from being represented.

At the morning session the motion was declared carried by 48 votes to 32. The vote was challenged and on a division it was carried by 42 to 38. Immediately the conference resumed in the afternoon the motion was recommitted and defeated.


Mr Heffron, MLA, whose application for readmission to the Labour party was refused by the State party conference on Saturday, said that the expelled members had applied to the conference for readmission at the request of the majority of members of the Federal ALP executive.

Personally, he said, the expelled members had been opposed to making an appeal.

The result of the appeals, Mr Heffron said, was a foregone conclusion.

Federal executive members, he added, had expressed strong opinions against the Fascist actions of the inner group in New South Wales in expelling Labour members for having attended a trade union conference.
The rebel Labour leaders will continue their fight against the ruling faction. It was announced yesterday that another industrial conference would be held in defiance of the State Labour machines.

Efforts will also be made to induce the Federal party to overrule the decisions of the State conference, rejecting the appeals of a number of expelled members.

Leaders of the Lang party made it clear last night that now they had Mr Curtin openly allied with them they could afford to ignore the rebels and could win elections without them.

**Expulsion Decisions**

The decisions of the conference in the cases of the expelled men were embodied in a report submitted by Mr AW McNamara as chairman of the appeals committee.

The appeals of Mr Garden, MP, and Mr Heffron were rejected. Mr Horsington and Mr Davidson, MsLA, will be allowed back on August 1, 1937, provided they do not indulge in disruptive tactics. A former Lang party member of the Upper House, Mr WC Dickson from Broken Hill, was readmitted on the same condition.

The only rebel leader who was unconditionally readmitted with full continuity of membership was Mr JE Pullan, president of the Labour Council, who will shortly leave as the delegate from the Australian trade unions to the Geneva conference.

Applications for readmission were lodged on behalf of Messrs S Wyatt (Australian Railways Union), E Mara (Western Miners), J Duffin (Northern Miners) by their unions, but it was decided that before they would be readmitted they would have to make personal applications to the executive. They would then be readmitted with full continuity subject to their complete acceptance of the rules.

A general application for readmission was lodged with the conference by the secretary of the Labour Council (Mr R King, MLC) on behalf of himself and the other political and industrial leaders who were expelled, but this application was ruled out of order.

**Those Still Outside**

Labour leaders who will continue to remain outside the party include Messrs JS Garden, MP, RJ Heffron and C Lazzarini MsLA. R King, MLC, A McAlpine, assistant secretary of the Labour Council, G Sinclair, secretary of the Sydney Boilermakers, T Falkingham, secretary of the Redfern Boilermakers, J Kilburn, secretary of the Bricklayers, A Ewin, president of the Bricklayers, J Wilson, State secretary of the Printing Industry Employees’ Union, O Schreiber, president of the Union Secretaries’ Association,
J Maloney, secretary of the Boot Employees’ Union, and JF O’Reilly, secretary of the Hairdressers’ Union.

It was stated last night that the Barrier District Assembly, which largely controls the political activities of Mr Davidson and Mr Horsington, would probably instruct the two members not to return to the party until they had been unconditionally readmitted. It will probably direct them to appeal to the Federal conference.

Mr Davidson said last night that he could not understand the decision of the conference. He considered that he had not been guilty of any breach of Labour principles in attending an industrial conference when invited to do so by the Labour Council and the Barrier District Assembly.

**Secret Rebel Meeting**

A curious aspect of the developments at the conference was that Mr Pullan the only rebel leader unconditionally readmitted presided at a secret meeting of the rebels in the Labour Council office a few hours before the report of the appeals committee on the expulsions was submitted. He occupied the chair as president of the Labour Council.

At the meeting it was decided that the continuations committee which had been in charge of the rebel campaign should continue to function and should make immediate arrangements for another special industrial conference to review the decisions of the Easter conference and determine future plans.

The secret meeting was attended by the expelled members, sympathisers with the rebel leaders who are members of the State ALP executive, and delegates from Newcastle and Wollongong.

The following resolution was carried: “We declare our determination to use every possible means of bringing about a reform of the party rules which will eliminate the cause of discontent in the party. We also intend to direct this struggle in an organised way and will do everything possible to defeat the Lyons Government”.

**Decisive Action**

Delegates were astounded at the swift decisive way in which the expulsions were dealt with at the conference. The report was not submitted until 20 minutes before the conference concluded and was disposed of in that time. It had been awaited with much expectancy and the findings were kept a close secret.

Mr AW McNamara, as chairman of the appeals committee moved the adoption of the report which was carried on the overwhelming vote of the ruling faction.
Mr Hartley, of the Australian Railways Union, attempted to protest against the report, but the gag was applied and the conference abruptly ended.

**Mr Lazzarini Charges Mr Curtin.**  
“Pathetic Exhibition at the Conference”.

“Mr Curtin’s open flirtation with Mr Lang at the Easter conference on the eve of the Federal election demonstrates to me that he has no moral courage”, said Mr Lazzarini, MLA, one of the expelled members, last night.

“His exhibition at the conference was pathetic. In my opinion, he has destroyed his chance of ever becoming Prime Minister. His alliance with Mr Lang will spell disaster for the Labour party in the other States.

“Mr Curtin must know that Mr Lang is regarded as the best asset the UAP ever had. I made no personal application to rejoin the party, and I have no desire to be in the official Labour party until it reverts to the democratic principles and ideals of the Labour movement.

“Mr Curtin’s talk about the need for tolerance, and then his statement that the State Labour movement is supreme, makes his exhibition of fine sentiment absolute nonsense. Every cardinal principle of democracy was broken by the State Labour party, and Mr Curtin has refused to admit what he knows to be right.

“I remember how he opposed Mr Lang in the early years of the fight. We now see him answering to Mr Lang’s tune.

“Mr Lang had a wonderful opportunity at the conference to close up the ranks, but he again ran true to form, and revealed that he is not a leader with constructive ability.”