



BRISBANE CITY COUNCIL: LIBS TRY FOR COMEBACK

BRISBANE: For the first time the Liberal Party is contesting every seat in the Brisbane City Council elections to be held on March 27.

Prior to the advent of the Labor Council under the leadership of Clem Jones 14 years ago, the Council was dominated by the Citizens Municipal Organisation (CMO). Supposedly "non party political", the CMO was in fact a front organisation for the Liberal Party.

The Clem Jones administration brought about much needed improvements in Brisbane, including providing sewerage and overcoming backlogs in many other areas, and giving Brisbane a City Square. But the city still suffers from the same ills as other major capital cities.

POLLUTION

Foremost among the immediate problems are the shocking public transport situation, deterioration in already chaotic traffic conditions, and smog and air pollution which is reaching frightening proportions.

Urgent measures are needed to control pollution of the city's atmosphere by transport vehicles, including City Council buses and government diesel locomotives. Apart from vehicle pollution, there is very little control by either the government or Council, of the major polluters of the atmosphere - big business.

BUSINESS CHAMPION

A good example of the hypocrisy of the Liberals in this regard was the recent statement by the Liberal candidate for Lutwyche, concerning the smell from a tannery in the suburb of Stafford, which affects more than 20,000 people. The offensive odour has affected people in the area for over thirty years.

He defended the tannery company, which he said was not able to meet the expense of providing techniques to end the smell. He called on the city council to raise the estimated \$80,000 needed. In other words, the people should pay.

Some easing of inner city traffic problems has been promised by the Lord Mayor Ald. Walsh, including changes in the bus fare system and extending pensioners concessions. But these are only flea bites to what is really needed. The electrification of the suburban railway system by the state government is long overdue, as is the establishment of a public transport body to coordinate all road, rail and river transport.

PRIORITIES

Both parties promise beautification of Brisbane. But we can no longer see the beautiful Brisbane City Hall from any hill in the inner suburbs, as we once could. Now it is surrounded by highrise buildings, mainly empty office space. Brisbane still needs the State Art Gallery it was promised, creches and kindergartens, more theatres, a museum, public zoo and aquarium.

Brisbane householders are under heavy rate burdens, while big business enterprises use land for commercial and industrial profit, but pay a rate in the dollar similar to that paid by individuals for personal use. Rates on business should be graduated, with the large enterprises paying more.

The Liberal Party is campaigning on a slogan of not letting the Labor Party do to Brisbane what they claim it did to Australia. They have promised better transport, run by private enterprise in the main, better financial management, more beauty and improved community services.

FEDERAL INFLUENCE

These wild promises are made at a time when their federal counterparts are attacking the workers in every direction and savagely slashing funds, especially for the young, old and sick.

The federal government's cutbacks on child care meant that one hundred Queensland community child care projects had to be refused by the Childrens Commission state consultative committee. Resident and community groups are hardest hit by this decision. The state government's pre-school system, which relies heavily on Childrens Commission



Bjelke-Petersen: his stocks low with Qld Liberals.

funding, will also be affected.

It will be interesting to see how the people of Brisbane will react to the federal government's attacks on their living standards, when they vote on March 27. The Liberal Party has very little hope of capturing the Brisbane City Council.

Premier Joh Bjelke Petersen's stocks are also falling rapidly. In a recent public opinion poll, only 34 per cent of the people expressed satisfaction with his performance as premier. The Liberal Party is desperately trying to dissociate itself from many of the National Party's actions and policies, under Joh's leadership.

The ALP's campaign largely rests on the laurels of its performance over the last 14 years. It is doing nothing to challenge the big business interests who hold sway in the City of Brisbane.

People's action groups need to take up the challenge in the interests of the future of Brisbane.

- Joyce Slater

VIC UNIONS SOLID WITH SACKED TEACHER

MELBOURNE: Following a one day stop work last week the Victorian Secondary Teachers Association (VSTA) began a week long strike in support of sacked teacher Helen Rawicki.

The Technical Teachers Association has also called for a stoppage of technical teachers next week in solidarity.

The decision of over 30,000 secondary teachers to take action in support of Rawicki was a remarkable display of solidarity.

A solid majority decided to follow-up the strike with indefinite stoppages at selected schools unless the Education Department or the Government enters into realistic negotiations for the re-employment of Helen Rawicki.

Teachers feel Helen Rawicki was victimised partly for attempting to implement VSTA policy. The first charge against Helen was that "she did not promptly obey lawful instructions." It is VSTA policy not to take more than one "extra" period per week. Helen did not "promptly" take a second extra.

There are already indications of wide support for the teachers stand. The Trades Hall Council issued a strong statement of support for Rawicki and condemnation of the Teachers Tribunal procedure.

Any mug who knows anything about economics will tell you that unemployment (in moderation of course) really does the economy good. It is, after all, the opinion of our Federal treasurer, Mr Lynch, and he ought to know.

But what we can't understand is this. If unemployment is a good thing, why don't we hail the unemployed as heroes, acting in the national interest? And why don't we give special praise to those who **choose** to be unemployed, instead of calling them "dole bludgers"?

Another puzzling aspect of Fraser government economic policy ...

On March 4, in one of his usual clear statements, the Treasurer, Mr Lynch, said that one result of government measures would be "a lower level of economic activity and resource utilisation than might otherwise prevail in the short term...."

Then on March 12, PM Fraser said that "the present wealth of Australia simply does not allow governments to provide all the programs politicians tend to promise.

"What we can do is **limited by our resources** and by growth in our productive capacities. As a people we have to face up to that fact ..."

Any explanations would be gratefully received.

Why do people jeer at Liberal Party election promises on public transport in Victoria?

They are very good promises. For example, new trains and trams to replace the ole rattle-traps, new rail and tram lines, reduced fares and modernisation.

And what is more, the promises have stood the test of time. They are the same ones that the Liberal Party put forward in previous elections.

Phrase books for learning foreign languages are notorious for the number of useless sentences in them - things that people would hardly ever want to say.

A good example is a certain text-book for learning Italian. It solemnly invites the student to learn to say in Italian: "Great men are now at the head of the government."

A hard case who frequents our office reckons that they had television in Shakespeare's day. As proof he offers this quotation from Romeo and Juliet.

"But soft! what light through yonder window breaks? ... She speaks, yet she says nothing....."

We have been assured that there is no truth in the rumor that the F-111 bomber is to be adapted for the purpose of spreading super-phosphate on the farm property of Mr Malcolm Fraser.

The **Financial Review** last week ran a story on avant-garde composer John Cage. It tells us that:

"Perhaps the 'work' that earned Cage his most sensational publicity was his 'Four minutes and thirty-three seconds. Here the pianist seats himself at the piano and then sits there in silence for the exact time prescribed."

The advantages of this type of composition are that it can be performed just as effectively without the piano - or even the pianist. A recording of the piece can be produced extremely cheaply. And the composer seems destined to go on to produce longer works in the same vein.

- Dave Davies.

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