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(1944)

FORMING
THE
LIBERAL PARTY
OF
AUSTRALIA



Record of the Conference of Representatives of Non-Labour Organisations, convened by the Leader of the Federal Opposition, Rt. Hon. R. G. Menzies, K.C., M.P., and held in Canberra, A.C.T., on 13th, 14th and 16th October, 1944.

To Secure Unity of Action

The following letter was sent early in September by Mr. Menzies to various organisations inviting representatives to the conference:—

“The time seems opportune for an effort to secure unity of action and organisation among those political groups which stand for a liberal, progressive policy and are opposed to Socialism with its bureaucratic administration and restriction of personal freedom.

“The Australian Labour Party has an efficient Commonwealth-wide organisation. To resist effectively those aspects of Labour policy to which we are opposed and to gain the public support enabling governments sympathetic to our views to be formed we must match Labour’s organisation with an Australian organisation of our own. This organisation should possess an Australian policy and have the closest contact with its Parliamentary leaders and representatives.

“I therefore invite you to be present at a conference to be held at Canberra on October 13th, 14th and 16th.

“I sincerely hope that you will participate in a full and frank discussion. You will be entirely free to make your own decisions and will not, of course, be bound by any majority of other persons.

“It is possible that a further conference will be found necessary after our first discussion has taken place, but my colleagues and I believe it to be most desirable that those of us who share the same broad political beliefs should first see if a basis can be found for unity.

“A successful outcome to such discussion might quickly and completely alter the current of Australian politics.”

The Conference was opened at 3 p.m. on 13th October.

OPENING SPEECH BY MR. R. G. MENZIES

This Conference has been convened in an endeavour to produce unity of organisation among those who do not support Socialism as the solution of Australia's political and economic problems.

It will be noted at once that the Country Party is not here. The reason for this is that the Country Party has already had an Interstate Conference at which a high degree of unity was achieved and has a right to expect that those of us who espouse the general liberal cause should become equally united so that we may be in a position to discuss co-operation or alliance, or even full organic unity.

The present position of what I will call liberal political organisation in Australia, particularly on the men's side, is far from satisfactory, and all its implications should at once be considered quite frankly.

In New South Wales there are in the field of active political organisation the Democratic Party and the Liberal Democratic Party. The Democratic Party itself represents the merger of the United Australia Organisation and the Commonwealth Party.

Without going into the merits of local controversies I am prepared to assume that the emergence of the Liberal Democrats was due to a feeling of dissatisfaction with the point of view and organisational character of the then United Australia Organisation.

It is just as clear that there must be thousands of people in New South Wales impatient of Socialism and apprehensive of continued Labour rule who still find insufficient stimulus in either the Democrats or the Liberal Democrats.

When I say these things I engage in no criticism of individuals. I merely point out that a spirit of political revival is not always best expressed by endeavouring to put new wine into old bottles.

Before leaving New South Wales, I should add that while at present, and for a long time to come, national politics must be of overwhelming importance, the queer position exists that the two United Australia Party Members of the Federal Parliament have no United Australia Organisation behind them at all, but must look for support to the Democrats or the Liberal Democrats or to some special local organisation of their own or to all three.

In Queensland, Federal United Australia Party Members also have no United Australia Organisation in the electorates. In the normal course they look to the Country National Organisation for support. Yet, as a result of a decision which I do not presume to discuss, the Country National Organisation at the last State Elections

did not run any candidates at all and is therefore for most purposes a not very large organisation with no State Parliamentary representation.

Much more active in the State political field, though not in the Federal, has been the new body—the Queensland's People's Party—which has brought into the political arena some men of marked ability and energy. I regret that that Party has not felt able to be represented at this Conference, though I have the assurance of its good wishes for a successful outcome. But surely in Queensland we need something more adequate than two quite separate organisations, neither of which undertakes to cover the whole political area. In that State the Queensland Women's Electoral League has done good work, but in the light of the facts that I have mentioned it will be seen that that work has been done under difficulties.

In Victoria, the organisations of long standing are the Australian Women's National League, the United Australia Organisation, and the Young Nationalist Organisation, now the National Party. As between the latter two there have been some sharp differences of opinion. As between the public and both of them it is quite clear to any thoughtful observer that there has from time to time been a feeling of dissatisfaction and a warm desire to see some revived and comprehensive movement that will attract the attention of people not previously engaged in political work, and particularly of those who matter most to the future, namely, the young men and women. The feeling of discontent to which I have referred gave rise some time ago to two new movements—the Services and Citizens' Party, which is well represented here to-day, and the Middle Class Organisation, which is not represented, preferring to maintain a non-political character.

South Australia has, by reason of the broad basis of its organisation, managed to avoid any local split, and does cover both town and country interests.

Western Australia has adhered to the name "Nationalist," while in Tasmania both names, "Nationalist" and "United Australia," are to be found in the title of the organisation. Yet in both the men's organisations and the Australian Women's National League in Tasmania the constant political visitor like myself is always struck by the want of cohesion which exists between the Southern centres of the Island and the Northern centres.

The picture thus presented is one of many thousands of people all desperately anxious to travel in the same political direction but divided into various sects and bodies with no Federal structure, with no central executive, with no co-ordinated means of publicity or propaganda, and, above all, with no clearly accepted political doctrine or faith to serve as a banner under which all may fight.

Common Organisation Imperative

In the Parliament at Canberra, as you will have noticed from reading the reports of the recent Session, we have achieved, through mutual loyalty and support, a high degree of effectiveness in debate; though the numbers are against us. But more and more we have been driven to believe that if our Parliamentary battles are to lead to electoral success a common organisation outside Parliament is absolutely imperative.

The Labour Party, though its policy and administration are repugnant to us, is not something which exists under a different name and with a different set-up in each State. It is the Australian Labour Party. Its membership depends upon common considerations all over the Continent. It has State branches and local branches. It has State executives and a Federal executive. It has all over Australia a system of journals so effective that it has been my experience that the same point of view in almost the same words will be produced by a Labour supporter in Bunbury as by one in Rockhampton.

The result of this unanimity and cohesion on the organisational side has been that the disunities which exist in Labour circles are usually below the surface, are not advertised, and so have nothing like the public effect that is produced by the well-advertised minor differences of opinion that may exist in our own ranks.

When I consider the structure of the Australian Labour Party and realise that the political warfare to which we have been committed for a long time past by no choice of our own is a struggle between political armies, I am driven to wonder how we could ever imagine that a concerted force under one command and with one staff is to be defeated by divided units under separate commands, and with no general staff.

Present Defects

Let me sum up what I believe to be the defects in our present establishment:—

First—we have no Federal organisation, which means that we have no Federal secretariat, and therefore no true nexus between the Federal Parliamentary Party and those who are to do the political work in the field.

Second—we have, apart from periodical election policies, no comprehensive statement of our political objectives. I will return to this all-important matter at a later stage.

Third—we have no means for bringing about a periodical revision of our policies by a process of consultation between those in Parliament and those out of Parliament.

Fourth—we have many names, but our name in the Federal Parliament—U.A.P.—has ceased to possess any intrinsic significance.

Fifth—we have no properly organised means of conveying our views by print and broadcast to the public.

Sixth—we have for the most part no constant political organisation in the electorates, particularly in key electorates, except such as is carried out in their spare time by a relatively small band of devoted and enthusiastic men and women.

Seventh—we have no sufficient means for assuring to young men and women a place not only in our work but in our counsels.

Eighth—on the financial side we lean too heavily upon individual donations and have no adequate rank and file finance, which ought to be the monetary basis of any true democratic organisation.

I am not optimistic enough to suppose that all of these matters can be brought to finality in one conference, the members of which are in many cases not authorised to bind their organisations. But at least I hope that two things can be done:—

The first is that we should declare our common belief that one organisation, Australian-wide in character, should be set up. The second is that we should express our common adherence to the broad outlines of a liberal and progressive faith which will have in it the foundation upon which a new generation can really hope to build a new Australia.

When I refer to "one" organisation, do let me emphasise that I am not merely proposing that existing bodies should by a process of negotiation and compromise go into some form of uneasy partnership. The truth is, and I want to say it quite plainly, that too many of the people whom we want to see interested in politics from our viewpoint have either no interest in the existing organisations or in many cases an actual hostility to them.

It is not practical to expect such people to sink their ideas and join up with some body which fails to satisfy them. The real hope—and it is a great hope—is that a new movement should be brought into existence, that existing organisations should so far as practicable go out of existence in its favour, that all persons joining the new movement should do so on an equal footing, and that through branch executives, State Councils, State executives and a Federal executive, all democratically chosen, every joining member should feel that he or she has an effective chance of influencing both policy and organisation.

In a word, a new movement must come into existence unaided and unopposed by vested political or personal interests of any kind.

I am not so foolish as to believe that it is a reflection upon any of us that we have for years been prepared to devote our time to politics while most people have ignored them, and I therefore believe many of those active and prominent in a new movement will inevitably be drawn from the ranks of those who have worked so hard in the past.

But what we must look for, and it is a matter of desperate importance to our country, is a true revival of liberal thought which will work for social justice and security, for national power and national progress, and for the full development of the individual citizen, though not through the dull and deadening process of Socialism.

Political Faith

Let me now turn with more particularity to the question of our political faith.

We have, partly by our own fault and partly by some extremely clever propaganda by the Labour Party, been put into the position of appearing to resist political and economic progress. In other words, on far too many questions we have found our role to be simply that of the man who says "No."

Once this atmosphere is created it is quite simple for us to be branded as reactionaries, and indeed if we are not careful the very unsoundness of so many of Labour's political proposals may accustom us so much to the role of critic that we become unduly satisfied with the existing state of affairs.

There is no room in Australia for a party of reaction. There is no useful place for a policy of negation.

In my opinion we need to direct our minds to two matters: First, what do we desire to achieve for the Australian people in the future?

Second, how do we propose to go about it?

Those are the fundamental ingredients of every real political programme.

For a Remodelled Australia

Let me set out our ultimate objectives as I see them.

What state of affairs would we like to have existing in a remodelled Australia after this war?

We would like to have a country safe from external aggression and living in the closest communion with its sister nations of the

British Empire, playing its part in a world security order which maintains the necessary force to defend the peace; a country:—

in which all who have risked their lives in its service enjoy honour and security;

in which constant employment at good wages is available to all willing and able to work;

in which the unavoidable minimum of unemployment arising from sickness or change of occupation is provided against by adequate pecuniary unemployment benefits;

in which the farmer and the farmer's wife and children, as well as the city dweller, enjoy stability and the amenities of life;

in which employer and employee have a sense of common interest and duty, and share as co-operators in all advances of prosperity;

in which living standards rise steadily as physical resources expand and ingenuity grows;

in which there is free thought and free speech and free association for all except the enemies of freedom;

in which no consideration of wealth or privilege will determine the education of either child or man, who shall each be fully trained in his own powers;

in which values will have been so corrected that the greatest rewards go to those who perform the truest services to the people;

in which all families are enabled to live in attractive and comfortable homes at a reasonable cost;

in which citizens are free to choose their own way of living and of life;

in which Parliament controls the Executive and the Law controls all;

in which public health services and preventive medicine have been extended and medical treatment is within the reach of all;

in which scientific research improves the standard and skill of production, both primary and secondary;

in which the population is growing, but shortage of population is made up for by the initiative, resource and courage of the citizens;

in which National defence is a matter of universal duty and in which the notion of getting something for nothing has become discredited and the idea of a dole abhorrent to humane thought, but all citizens having regard to their capacity and needs are both contributors to and beneficiaries of organised social life and service.

That brings me to the last question:—

How do we propose to get these things?

By looking primarily to the authoritative action of Government or by looking primarily to the encouragement of individual skill and initiative?

As to this, I believe that we can have no hesitation.

Without attempting to discuss detail, and confining ourselves to broad principles, we can see that the realisation of the objectives referred to above will depend upon certain matters.

We must aim at the fullest development of individual capacity.

The principle of such reward, sometimes sneered at as exhibiting the profit motive, is the dynamic force of social progress and is of the essence of what we call private or individual enterprise.

Again, we must aim at the growing exploitation of our natural resources. Governments do not provide enterprise; they provide control.

No sensible person can doubt that the revival of private enterprise is essential to post-war recovery and progress. Yet our opponents constantly criticise and handicap what even they must admit is the major instrument available to our hands.

There cannot be rising living standards if all we propose to do is to redistribute what we now have. We must produce more and produce it more cheaply if we are to survive and grow.

Excessive attention to monetary problems has obscured the truth that the cost and quality of production is still of major importance. The reducing of costs and the raising of quality have been achieved by private enterprise and not by public authority.

When we turn to the urgent problem of housing we must be frankly appalled at the idea of Government Departments building scores of thousands of homes for us because that would mean a drab uniformity of types, expensive work, and an undue burden of cost upon the householder.

Man does not want to be regimented into a home. To restore architects and builders to their rightful place will mean quality, variety, and the cheapness which results from competition.

Concentration upon Government action and the payment of social benefits entirely out of the public Treasury means the discouragement of thrift. Without thrift there can be no independence, and without independent citizens there can be no independent nation. Thrift during this war has filled our war loans. Do we propose to abandon it after the war, and if we do, where are our new benefits to come from?

Thrift and independence must therefore be positively encouraged by our political policies. This involves a complete overhaul of our taxation system in order to help people with family responsibilities.

It involves the conversion and extension of our social services on a contributory insurance basis and it involves the use of the Central Bank and of Government economic policies not to create short-term political advantages but to produce stability not only of employment but of currencies.

We sometimes forget that nothing so destroys thrift and cripples independence as fluctuating monetary values, affecting as they do insurances, pensions, superannuations, and all future provisions.

Again, our monetary and other economic policies must be devised to encourage investment, for upon the active investment of private funds the achievement of our social objectives will largely depend.

Public works may, and should, be used either to provide the foundation for investment and development or to supplement private activities at times when there has been some recession in business activity.

But I hope that we shall not be so misguided as to treat large public works' policies as good things just because in the short run they appear to create a large number of short-term jobs and put a good deal of money into circulation.

We recognise that in the post-war economy there will be room for much more thought and planning than ever before. But if a planned economy means a perpetuation of Government controls, then it will unquestionably lead to a totalitarian system.

As we know, authority tends to feed upon itself.

Certain temporary Government controls no doubt will be needed, but in the long run the function of Government should be to guide and encourage industry to do its own planning in the light of its own expert knowledge and experience.

In a vision of the future, therefore, I see the individual and his encouragement and recognition as the prime motive force for the building of a better world.

Socialism means high costs, inefficiency, the constant intrusion of political considerations, the damping down of enterprise, the overlordship of routine.

None of these elements can produce progress, and without progress security will turn out to be a delusion.

It thus appears that private enterprise and the State are both engaged in a task in which the people will prosper best if the individual and the State each perform his or its proper function.

As I see them, the true economic functions of the State are as indicated in a recent publication of the Institute of Public Affairs of Victoria, called "Looking Forward." I quote from p. 29 of the booklet:—

"In general terms, the economic responsibilities of the State should be regarded as fourfold:—

First, to assist in preventing the periodic recurrence of large-scale unemployment;

Second, to secure to all responsible citizens (through social legislation) at least a decent and reasonable minimum of economic security and material well-being;

Third, to impose a framework of law which will give the utmost encouragement to the enterprise, resourcefulness and efficiency of individuals and groups, and which will lead to the greatest possible output of the goods and services which the community needs;

Fourth, to conserve, in the long-range interests of the community, those natural resources fundamental to the life and future prosperity of the nation.

In this conception of the future activities of the State, the State and private enterprise are regarded as partners in the common purpose of improving the material conditions of the community. The tendency, prevalent in discussions of post-war economic policy, to emphasise or imply a fundamental divergence of interest between the State and industry is wholly disastrous and misleading. From plans of State action designed to secure full employment and social security, private enterprise stands vastly to gain. Conversely, in its objective of providing better living standards and security for all, the State will be greatly aided by a vigorous, healthy and enlightened private enterprise."

The proceedings were thereafter held in camera.

PRINCIPLE OF UNITY

COMMITTEES APPOINTED

On October 14 Mr. E. K. White (Liberal Democratic Party, N.S.W.) moved, and Mr. A. D. Bridges (Democratic Party, N.S.W.) seconded the following resolution, which was carried:—

That this conference approves of the principle of unity of policy and organisation, and appoints two committees to prepare resolutions to give more detailed expression to such principle.

- (a) A committee to formulate a resolution relating to name and political objectives.
- (b) A committee to formulate a resolution relating to the outlines of the proposed organisation and the steps necessary for the constitution of such organisation.

The following were appointed to the committees:—

COMMITTEE ON NAME AND OBJECTIVES:—

Mr. W. Hutchinson, M.H.R. (Convenor); N.S.W., Messrs. E. K. White and A. Mair; Vic., Messrs. Couchman and Mr W. H. Anderson; Queensland, Messrs. S. M. Cossart and B. F. Chapman; South Australia, Messrs. T. Playford and D. Gordon; West Australia, Messrs. Ross McDonald and J. Bartington; Tasmania, Messrs. H. S. Baker and A. E. Wadsley.

COMMITTEE ON ORGANISATION:

N.S.W., Messrs. W. E. Mason and W. M. Harding; Vic., Messrs. T. Maltby (Convenor) and F. Davis; Queensland, Drs. L. N. McKillop and C. V. Watson-Brown; South Australia, Senator G. McLeay and Messrs. P. A. McBride and A. S. Dunk; West Australia, Messrs. J. Paton and S. W. Perry; Tasmania, Messrs. H. Bushby and R. C. Wright.

NAME AND OBJECTIVES

The reports of the Committees were presented to the Conference on 16th October.

After discussion the following decisions were reached unanimously on the report of the Committee on Name and Objectives:—

- I. "That the name of the unified organisation shall be the **LIBERAL PARTY OF AUSTRALIA**, which name shall be adopted in the Federal sphere and by all the States except that, in view of the unity already attained in South Australia, that branch shall be permitted to retain its present name if it so desires."

- II. "That this Conference affirms its loyalty to the British Crown and to the Australian Commonwealth, and, deeply aware that much has yet to be performed and suffered before peace is attained, declares its fullest co-operation in concentrating the National effort, in association with our Allies, upon securing the complete and final defeat of our enemies."
- III. "That the following is submitted as a broad but not exhaustive expression of the objectives of the proposed party:—

We will strive to have a country—

1. safe from external aggression and living in the closest communion with its sister nations of the British Empire, playing its part in a world security order which maintains the necessary force to defend the peace ;
2. in which national defence is a matter of universal duty, and in which the spirit of patriotism is fostered and all Australians united in the common service of their country ;
3. in which an intelligent, free and liberal Australian democracy shall be maintained by—
 - (a) Parliament controlling the Executive and the Law controlling all ;
 - (b) freedom of speech, religion and association ;
 - (c) freedom of citizens to choose their own way of living and of life, subject to the rights of others ;
 - (d) protecting the people against exploitation ;
 - (e) looking primarily to the encouragement of individual initiative and enterprise as the dynamic force of reconstruction and progress ;
4. in which all men and women who have been members of the fighting services and their dependants shall enjoy honour and security, preference and generous repatriation benefits ;
5. in which the primary industries are promoted and stabilised new and adequate markets developed, the lot of the country man and his wife and children improved, rural amenities increased, and decentralisation of industries encouraged ;
6. in which constant employment at good wages is available to all willing and able to work ;
7. in which employer and employee have a sense of common interest and duty, and share as co-operators in all advances to prosperity, and in which living standards rise steadily as physical resources expand and ingenuity grows ;
8. in which social provision is made in relation to superannuation, sickness, unemployment and widowhood on a contributory

basis, free from a means test, and in which adequate medical services are within the reach of all ;

9. in which there is a revised and expanded system of child and adult education, designed to develop the spirit of true citizenship, and in which no consideration of wealth or privilege shall be a determining factor.
10. in which family life is recognised as fundamental to the well-being of society, and in which every family is enabled to live in a comfortable home at reasonable cost, and with adequate community amenities."

These decisions were announced to the Press.

CONSTITUTION

On the constitution of the new Party, Mr. Menzies made the following statement to the Press:—

"After reaching its decisions on name and objectives the Conference proceeded to consider the procedurable steps necessary for the constitution of the new organisation. Naturally, this matter was not worked out in detail, as this will be the function of a further and plenary conference authorised to act on behalf of the various existing bodies.

"But it was agreed as a matter of general guidance that there should be a Federal organisation with a branch in each State, that there should be a Federal council comprising seven delegates from each State branch of whom a majority should not be members of Parliament, together with the leader of the Parliamentary Party in each Federal House, and that there should be a Federal Executive comprising equal State representation. It was also agreed that the various necessary committees should be established.

"The Conference decided that there should be a joint Federal standing committee on Federal policy, consisting of equal numbers of members of Parliament and non-Parliamentary members of the Federal council together with the Federal leader of the Parliamentary Party who would be chairman. All States would be represented on this Committee.

"Two other decisions recommended the formation of a permanent secretariat at Canberra and substantial autonomy on the part of State branches in relation to State organisation and affairs. A provisional executive committee consisting of Messrs. E. K. White, W. Neville Harding (N.S.W.) ; F. Davis and W. H.

Anderson (Vic.); S. J. Cossart and another (Queensland); P. A. Melbride and A. S. Dunk (South Aust.); J. L. Paton and Ross McDonald, M.H.A. (West Aust.); and H. S. Baker, M.H.A., and H. Bushby (Tas.) was appointed to assist in carrying out the desires of the Conference and to fix the time and place of the next meeting. The delegates from each State on this provisional executive were chosen by the members of the Conference from that State.

"The next steps will be that the delegates to this Conference will report back to their respective organisations and recommend that the decisions of this Conference be carried into effect. When this has been done and it is hoped it will be completed in the next few weeks, the further plenary Conference will be held. At this the new Party will be formally constituted, and a constitution adopted. Branches will then be formed and the machinery of the constitution will operate.

"The Conference just held was remarkably successful. All delegates showed a resolute desire that past occasions of difference should be forgotten, and that, in the words of one delegate, 'the dead past should be allowed to bury its dead.'

"The emphasis throughout was what one speaker called the need for a positive creed for a positive organisation. This was the keynote. It will be found that the new movement is not established upon any negative ideas.

"There was a unanimous spirit of goodwill and co-operation. It is quite true that many important steps remain to be taken, but I am confident that the organisations represented at this gathering will be guided and enthused by their representatives, and that as a result a great and powerful body of Australian public opinion which for some time has felt itself dissipated by internal differences will become vocal and effective."

LIST OF DELEGATES

Parliamentary Representatives

FEDERAL

- The Rt. Hon. R. G. Menzies, M.P., Leader of the Opposition.
The Hon. E. J. Harrison, M.P., Deputy Leader of the Opposition.
Senator the Honourable George McLeay, Leader of the Opposition
in the Senate.
Senator the Honourable J. W. Leckie, Deputy Leader of the Opposition
in the Senate.
Senator the Honourable H. B. Collett.
Senator the Honourable H. S. Foll.
The Honourable Jos. Francis, M.P.
Mr. W. J. Hutchinson, M.P.
Colonel R. S. Ryan, M.P.
Senator Burford Sampson.
The Honourable Sir Frederick Stewart, M.P.
Wing Commander the Hon. T. W. White, M.P.

STATE

- The Honourable R. W. D. Weaver, M.L.A., Leader of the
Opposition, N.S.W.
The Honourable Alex. Mair, M.L.A., Deputy Leader of the
Opposition, N.S.W.
The Honourable T. T. Hollway, M.L.A., Leader of U.A.P., Victoria.
The Honourable T. Oldham, M.L.A., Deputy Leader of U.A.P.,
Victoria.
The Honourable T. Playford, M.H.A., Premier of South Australia.
The Honourable H. S. Baker, M.H.A., Leader of the Opposition,
Tasmania.
Mr. Ross McDonald, M.H.A., Leader of the Party in Western
Australia.

Delegates from Women's Organisations

- Australian Women's National League, Victoria.
Mrs. Claude Couchman, O.B.E., J.P., President.
Mrs. J. K. Wedgwood, Member of Executive.
Mrs. J. T. Haynes, J.P., General Organising Secretary.

Australian Women's National League, Tasmania.
Mrs. A. C. Parker, O.B.E., State President.
Mrs. H. S. Baker (Hobart section).
Miss Best (Tasmanian section).

Queensland Women's Electoral League.
Mrs. T. Stewart, J.P., President.
Miss Gwenda Stewart, Secretary.

In addition the following women delegates were connected with other organisations:—

Mrs. M. Ashburner }
Miss J. M. Merewether } Democratic Party, N.S.W.
Mrs. Gordon Rogers, Liberal and Country League,
South Australia.

Delegates or Observers from Institute of Public Affairs.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

Sir Norman Kater.
Mr. Douglas Fell.
Mr. O. D. A. Oberg.
Mr. R. S. Maynard.
Colonel R. S. Coates (Secretary).

VICTORIA.

Mr. C. D. Kemp (Economic Adviser).
Captain A. C. Lecch (Secretary).

Delegates or Observers from Australian Constitutional League.

VICTORIA.

Mr. G. Jenkin.
Lt.-Col. Neil McArthur.

TASMANIA.

Mr. R. C. Wright (Hobart section).
Mr. C. Carrington.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

Mr. S. W. Perry.
Mr. Grant McDonald.
(Mr. Paton, also representing Nat. Party, also Const. League).

**Delegates from the Democratic Party,
New South Wales.**

Mr. W. Neville Harding (Chairman).

Mr. A. D. Bridges.

Mr. W. Becker.

Mr. F. H. Edmonds.

Mrs. M. Ashbúrner.

Miss J. M. Merewether.

Mr. H. A. Warby (Organising Secretary).

**Delegates from the Liberal Democratic Party of Australia,
N.S.W.**

Captain E. K. White, M.C. (President).

Flight-Lieut. G. N. Mills (Vice-President).

Mr. W. E. Mason.

Mr. Eric White (Secretary).

**Delegates from the Liberal and Country League
of South Australia.**

Mr. Douglas Gordon (President).

Mr. A. J. Melrose.

The Hon. P. A. McBride.

Mrs. Gordon Rogers.

Mr. A. S. Dunk (Secretary).

**Observers from the Kooyong Citizens' Association
(Victoria).**

Mr. J. G. Robinson (President).

Mr. J. S. Cameron (Vice-President).

**Delegates from the Country-National Organisation
of Queensland.**

Dr. C. V. Watson-Brown.

Mr. B. F. Chapman.

Mr. S. J. Cossart.

Dr. L. M. McKillop.

**Delegates from the United Australia Organisation,
Victoria.**

Mr. T. S. Austin (President).

Mr. N. J. O'Brien.

The Hon. T. K. Maltby (General Secretary).

**Delegates from the Nationalist Party,
Victoria.**

Mr. F. Davis (President).

Mr. C. H. MeWiggan.

Mr. R. N. Stokes.

**Delegates from the Services and Citizens Party,
Victoria.**

Mr. W. H. Anderson (Vice-President).

Mr. W. B. Edwards.

Mr. J. T. Vinton Smith.

**Delegates from the United Australia and Nationalist Organisation
of Tasmania.**

Mr. Harold Bushby.

Mr. W. F. Mills.

Mr. A. E. Wadsley.

Mr. F. A. Allen (Honorary Secretary).

**Delegates from the National Party of Western Australia and
United Australia Party (Fed.).**

Mr. J. L. Paton, F.C.A. (Aust.).

Mr. J. Bartington.

(In addition, Parliamentarians Senator Collett and Mr. R. McDonald).