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Title:

Handwritten radio script regarding 'another example of the Menzies Government's evil intentions about public assets' and the Commonwealth Serum Laboratories.

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"The laboratories were set up in 1916 to make Australia self-supporting in production of many vital drugs, serums and biological products.

"The Government seems to be trying to ease us out of business.

"The Bill to set up a commission says nothing about the laboratories' aims, responsibilities or powers.

"Now there is a danger that restrictions forced on the laboratories by a commission will force us to import many of the things the laboratories make.

"Under the Bill the Treasury could refuse us money for research on the ground that any research we did had to be paid for out of operating profits.

VACCINE

"We lose money on some things, make it up on others, and we undertake research that no private Australian firm could hope to do without losing money.

"No private show could match our Salk polio vaccine work; we make the best vaccine in the world."

The Government wants to put the laboratories under a commission that would run things like a factory," Dr. Bazeley said.

"If that happens Australia might have to import huge quantities of drugs."

Dr. Bazeley said the laboratories supplied about 80 p.c. of Australia's penicillin before import controls were lifted.

A flood of cheaper, but inferior, imported penicillin, mainly from Europe had halved the laboratory's share of the market.

Good evening.

We have just been given another example of the Menzies Government's evil intentions about public assets.

There has not been another Grant for a long time in Australia so doctrinaire - so absurdly wedded to economic doctrines which were outmoded in the 19th century but ~~which~~ whose absurd ^{enforced} application in the 20th century, in circumstances where their result is so outrageously opposed to the public interest, can only come that ^{the} populace which is interested in public affairs mouthing in speechless frenzy.

The Commonwealth Serum Laboratories are now due for the axe. ~~The statement~~ ~~for~~ Instead of having this important enterprise ^{directly} responsible to Parliament through the Minister of Health, the Government is providing in a bill currently before the House of Representatives, that it be run by a five-man commission, three of whom to be business men. As big business in Australia pays the money which keeps the Liberal Party going, we know from previous experience of the LCP's nominees what sort of administration the Commonwealth Serum Laboratories will then fall under - one which is subservient to private business interests and not the public interest. It is not surprising that the director of the Laboratories has had this to say:-

Why has the Govd. taken this step? Because they believe that there is some special sanctity, some quality transcendently purifying & ennobling, in an enterprise founded wholly upon the pursuit of private self. They believe that community enterprise, when they are constrained to admit its necessity, is merely an unfortunate but necessary evil, and that there is something essentially degrading, frustrating, inefficient, and woefully impure, about the idea that the community as a whole should organise and any enterprise not on the basis of private profit but a public good.

We could say, of course, that we haven't been warned of this ~~point~~. Mr. Menzies rolled his silver plated target around the matter in his last policy speech when he said - "I quote him:-

And this attitude has produced disastrous results for assets so carefully built to protect the Australian consumer.

Our interest in the Commonwealth Oil Refineries, which was designed to protect the Australian consumer from the depredations of the American oil companies, was sold for a song by the Menzies Govd. - and we are left without competitive protection.

Our interest in A.W.A. - which did valuable work in the development of an Australian

electronics industry and could ^{id} provide good products at competitive prices with both advantages profit to the Australian consumer - it was sold to, under conditions which were most unsatisfactory.

The shale oil work, went the same way and recently the Commonwealth interest in the Bell Bay aluminium project - though of vital importance to us with the discovery of high grade bauxite deposits of enormous value in Australia - was put up for sale to private interests.

Although the Menzies Govt. did not dare to sell Australia's most spectacularly successful community enterprise, T.A.A., they did see to it that it was deprived of the advantages of being a public enterprise and given half the Govt. business to a private airline, which was not only subsidised by the Menzies Govt., but provided with an agreement which effectively prevented T.A.A. from improving its services or reducing its charges without Ansett - ANA's consent. To the interests of the Govt. private profit - making friends have again been boosted at the public expense & in the detriment of community assets.

It is small wonder that men who have made their careers the development of public services, like Dr. Borochy, should be fearful of this Government's policies which appear to be so inimical to all that public service stands for.

Labour's policy for the Commonwealth Iron & Steel works - in stark contrast to the Government. We have ~~with~~

