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Title:

Handwritten radio script regarding the belief by some that 'the best way to win votes is to spread scandalous stories about the other side's candidates', giving examples of slurs against Don Dunstan and Tom Casey as examples.

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Good evening.

One of the unfortunate features of politics today is that some people involved in it, feel that the best way to win votes, is to spread scandalous stories about the other side's candidate.

Every one who enters political life has to put up with a certain amount of this sort of thing, and must put up with the irritation it causes. It's easy enough for the worst part to shrug one's shoulders and laugh at the absurdities of the crazy stories which get circulated. For instance - I've had to put up with a number of silly rumours in my time in Parliament - the current one is more than usually idiotic. It is being said of me in certain quarters of my district - and ^{some} members supporters of Liberal Party are responsible, that I am part Chinese and that because of this I have some affinity with the Communists because today mainland China is governed by Communists. There is nothing wrong with being part Chinese - what matters surely is what sort of person you are, not what pigment your skin contains. But the fact remains that I am not part Chinese, and so the whole of this ridiculous furore falls to the ground.

Now the only person I have mentioned this piece of nonsense this evening is to show you the larger people will go to whom, unable to fight on issues of political policy, they indulge in wild flights of fancy to try and down their political opponents by their stupidity.

personalities.

Recently, just this sort of thing is being done in the Frome by-election, against the A.L.P. candidate Tom Casey.

Mr. Casey first joined the A.L.P. in 1939 through the Australian Workers Union. He is pledged to support the Labor Party programme & policy, holds ^{membership} tickets in the A.W.U. & A.L.P., & he & his family have contributed over very many years substantial sums to the Labor Party. He has been a close friend and supporter of the late leader of the opposition, Mr. O'Halloran.

Despite all these facts an attack was made on him in the Liberal Party's morning daily, the Advertiser, as being a member of the Liberal Party. He was not, of course. He has never signed a pledge or held a ticket in the L.P.L. For business reasons, at the request of a local bank manager, the family ~~business~~ business concerns of which Mr. Casey was a member signed bank orders to contribute taken amounts to L.P.L. funds. The story printed in the Advertiser tried to twist this situation over saying that Mr. Casey was a member of the L.P.L.

It is significant that as printed in the newspaper, no source was quoted for his claim. In typical fashion, the Advertiser ran the story in the passive ~~that~~ - it is reported, it is discovered that - etc. etc.

However, we know where the ~~story~~ ^{story} came from. Before the presentation of a candidate by the A.L.P., labor party members were approached by the endorsed Liberal candidate

who made precisely this same attack on Mr. Casey, evidently with the purpose of influencing the pre-selection ballot. When this proved unsuccessful the story ~~was~~ appeared in the Advertiser. Moreover, I was informed by another candidate who has just announced ~~that he~~ put in a nomination for the seat ^{of Froome} ~~that he was approached about it~~ (although ^{when} he was a candidate on the A.L.P. selection & pledged that he would give his full support to the A.L.P. candidate whom he might get - that he, ~~that~~ was approached in the matter by relatives of the endorsed Liberal candidate.

Now, just what are the Liberals & their ^{the opponents} candidates up to? Why can't they fight on the ^{political} issues involved? ~~on this issue~~

Why, when the L.L.C. held a meeting ~~at~~ in Peterborough last month did the chairman of L.L.C. parliamentary party spend his whole time in saying that Labor parliamentarians are under continual direction from some Trades Hall junta - that's not true either of course - that just does not happen - but truth & evidence & facts don't seem to matter at all when the L.L.C. want to shirk this ~~sort~~ sort of story about.

They like to play the personalities - not the policies.

What are the issues involved in this election?

The Labor party's policy is for decentralisation. We believe that there should be more people on the land, that young men capable of working farms should be given community assistance to take them up. Although

Some assistance was given to soldier settlers to go on the land through the government work with the States by the Commonwealth Labor Government, steady re-aggregation of land into large holdings has been allowed. Soldier settlers don't begin to make up for the steady drift of owners & occupiers of properties from rural employment. There are 2,000 fewer farms in this State today than only 2 years ago. But L.C. adamantly refuses to spend money to obtain properties for close settlement, & has allowed the ridiculously inflated prices for land to keep young men, not born with silver spoons in their mouths, off the land.

Why - ~~do~~ they have all the legislation they need to enable them to take action. They won't do it - they represent the wealthy few & are in no way concerned to secure close settlement & the full use of our rural resources.

Lab's policy is to spend additional money on education. This State, on the Minister's own admission, spends a lower proportion of consolidated revenue on education than any other. With a higher proportion of inadequately trained teachers than any other State, crowded classes, inadequate facilities - the country people get a very raw deal. To go on to higher education effectively a student needs to articulate, & to take the heavy exam, & then do a year of heavy Honours study. There is not a heavy Honours class outside Adelaide, & too few heavy classes. A significant fact is that less than 10% of University

streets come from county areas, although 37% of the populace live there.

Labour believes in encouraging small industries to establish in county towns, bringing with them facilities which will give greater opportunities for employment to county people. Mick O'Halloran fought to get a public enquiry into de-centralisation measures for years - & every time he moved for it in the House the Premier & the L.C. voted to defeat the proposal.

But after the effects of the last 3 by-elections had sunk in the Liberals realised they were losing county votes and the walls & so capitulated last month. An enquiry has at last begun.

Now on every one of these issues, & on the others on which the Labour Party will fight the Frank by-election - the Liberals have no answer. Unable to fight on policy, they have decided to go in for the personal smear of which I have given you ^{details} ~~some~~ tonight. Their tactics are quite ~~plain~~ ^{plain} - but they will not escape the public attention and the obloquy they so manifestly deserve.

Goodnight.