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Title:

ALP broadcast 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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A.L.P. BROADCAST 17th OCTOBER, 1960.

DON DUNSTAN - MEMBER FOR NORWOOD.

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 sides 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 most 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 and supporters of the 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 *rumour* falls to the ground.

Now the only reason I have mentioned this piece of nonsense this evening is to show you the lengths people will go to when, unable to fight on issues of political policy, they indulge in wild flights of fancy to try and down their political opponents by these stupid personalities.

Currently, just this sort of things 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 and policy, holds membership tickets in the A.W.U. and A.L.P. and he and 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.C.L. For business reasons, at the request of a local bank manager, the family business concern of which Mr. Casey was a member signed bank orders to contribute token amounts to L.C.L. funds. The story printed in the Advertiser tried to twist this situation into saying that Mr. Casey was a member of the L.C.L.

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

However, we know where the story came from. Before the pre-selection 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 appeared in the Advertiser. Moreover, I was informed by another candidate who has just put in a nomination for the seat of Frome (although when he was a candidate on the A.L.P. selection he pledged that he would give his full support to the A.D.P. candidate whoever he might be) that he was approached in the matter by relatives of the endorsed Liberal candidate.

Now, just what are the Liberals and their candidate and his offiders up to? Why can't they fight on the political issues involved? Why, when the L.C.L. held a meeting in Peterborough last month did the chairman of L.C.L. parliamentary party spend his whole time in saying that Labor parliamentarians are under continual direction from some Trades Hall *Junta* ~~that's~~ that's not true either of course - that just does not

not happen - but truth and evidence and facts don't seem matter at all when the L.C.L. want to sling this sort of story about.

They like to ply 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 agreement made with the States by the Commonwealth Labor Government, steady re-aggregation of the land into large holdings has been allowed. Soldier settlers don't begin to make up for the steady drift of owners and occupiers of properties from rural employment. There are 2,000 fewer farmers in this State today than only 2 years ago. But L.C.L. adamantly refuses to spend monies to obtain properties for closer settlement and has allowed the ridiculously inflated prices for land to keep young men, not born with silver spoons in their mouths off the land.

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

Labor's policy is to spend additional monies 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 matriculate, that is take the Leaving Exam., and then do a year of Leaving Honours study. There is not a Leaving Honours class outside Adelaide

and too few Leaving classes. A significant fact is that less than 10% of University students come from country areas although 37% of the populace live there.

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

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

Now on every one of these issues and on the others on which the Labor Party will fight the Frome by-election and the Liberals have now answer. Unable to fight on policy, they have decided to go in for the personal smear of which I have given you details tonight. Their tactics are quite plain, but they will not escape the public attention and the obloquy they so manifestly deserve.

Good-night.