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**Title:**

Article for George Whitten - Liberal Movement - Liberal Myth

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168 15/2/74  
85

LIBERAL MOVEMENT - LIBERAL MYTH

Liberal Movement leader Steele Hall in the propaganda for his Senate election campaign makes much of his claim to be more "progressive" than the official Liberals with whom he has bitter personal quarrels.

He claims to be a reform politician, for enlightened change, a genuine alternative to the Labor Party.

What nonsense!

And for the working people of South Australia it is dangerous nonsense.

His political career and beliefs are based on a deep-seated hatred of trade unions and he is longing to throw into reverse all that the ALP and the union movement have fought for over decades to achieve wage justice and decent job conditions.

A study of what he and his handful of supporters actually say show this.

A look at just part of their record in recent years proves this - consistent, unjustified attacks on trade unions.

To them unionists are always wrong, employers always right.

Back in May, 1970, when he was Premier, he roundly condemned a cement workers' strike as irresponsible.

In October that year - in Opposition - he was attacking - and distorting - the Government and the A.W.U. over compulsory unionism.

"This type of strong arm tactic.....is repugnant to all fair minded citizens," he said.

A month later unionists in the car manufacturing industry felt his wrath.

Industrial unrest posed a threat to Australia's whole economy, "militant action.....will destroy our existing capacity".

A few months later, he claimed the industrial scene was in a state of deterioration and urged the Government to prevent black bans.

A month later it was the turn of the A.C.T.U.

They were accused of making a secret agreement with retailers to enforce compulsory unionism, employees were intimidated and the Minister of Labour and Industry was "encouraging the breaking of the Industrial Code" because he is "browbeaten" by industrial leaders.

And so it goes on: Hall and his deputy Robin Millhouse vie with each other to attack unionists.

Hall: Says S.A. industries are moving to other States because of industrial disruption.

Accuses the T.L.C. of "attempting to strip away the protection of the law from anyone who stands against it.

Claims it is the unions' attitude that has brought the (Adelaide Ship Construction) company to its knees.

Millhouse: Says workers are being urged, bullied, and pressured by the Transport Workers' Union:

Describes an Australian Railways Union strike as "disastrous".

Accuses the Liquor Trades Employees' Union of intimidation, the Boilermaker and Blacksmiths' Society of "grossest interference with the affairs of a company".

A year ago Hall claimed Australian industry was in "grave danger" because of a "reckless" union ban on U.S. ships.

Now he is on the attack again professing concern about union management, demanding checking of accounts by the Auditor-General despite the fact that audited balance sheets are already required by law to be presented to the Registrar of the Industrial Court. These are just a few incidents out of many.

Hall and Millhouse never miss a chance to knock a union.

Strikes are "disastrous, disruptive or irresponsible" - even when an industrial court upholds workers' grievances.

Some people might regard persistent sniping at unionists as progressive. Workers won't and won't be taken in by the L.M. - the "Liberal" Myth.