

# Australians To Settle Their War Of Ideologies At Polls

## Fate of Socialism Is Election Issue

**Liberal and Country Party Hammers At Labor's Attempt at Planned Economy**

By FRED B. HUBBARD, Times Foreign Correspondent  
CANBERRA, Australia, Dec. 9—Tomorrow some 4.9 million Australians will march to their polling places to vote, in effect, for a way of life.

If they vote their Labor government back into power, then they will clearly endorse its trend toward the planned economy of the Socialist state.

If they vote for the Liberal and Country Party which promises to halt the Socialist trend, they will be choosing a brand of free enterprise.

Socialism thus is emerging as the biggest election issue in the campaigns now being waged bitterly throughout this nation of eight million souls.

The laborites, in power for

"socialization of industry, production, distribution and exchange." And it is still the Labor Party's official policy.

The opposition finds powerful arguments, too, in the government's several nationalization attempts since 1946.

In these unsuccessful attempts, labor sought to nationalize banks, airlines and medical services. It also established a government monopoly over television and FM radio broadcasting.

Labor's big problem now seems to be how to explain away this part of the record. In most cases, the government went ahead with nationalization plans over public protest.

Opposition forces promise the voters they will make it constitutionally impossible for any Australian government to pass a nationalizing measure without a referendum.

Official Policy  
Hammering the theme that labor means socialism, the opposition points with glee to the Labor Party's sole objective, reaffirmed in the party's platform last year: "This objective calls for the

Labor, however, appears content to follow its policy of keeping Reds out in the open and under a watchful eye.

The compulsory military training issue is another factor certain to strongly influence election results.

The opposition—with the backing of war veterans—proposes to institute UMT to build up Australia's tiny defense forces.

Labor wants no truck with UMT—"except in a national emergency." It takes the view that Australia's limited man power can better be utilized in increasing lagging production.

The opposition's biggest worry seems to be the fact that a great many Australians have come to think the labor government has in general given them a pretty good deal, economically.

Best Chance  
One Liberal Party campaign manager put it this way: "The average Australian figure, he's better off for wages and living conditions than he was 10 years ago." He admitted that the opposition faced a "helluva job" trying to convince voters they might be

better off under a Liberal government.

"Labor's got us beaten on the economic side," said he. "That's why we're pushing the Socialist theme so hard. It's our best chance."

Australia has full employment. It is expanding its social services program. Farm incomes are high. There are a number of development projects and a huge

migration scheme. All this the laborites claim credit for.

At the same time they have failed to lick a number of major problems. Spiraling costs, a housing lag, and chronic shortages are a few.

Opposition parties offer no cure-all for such problems. They stress more encouragement to private enterprise to overcome them.

Moreover, although plumping

for greater individual enterprise, they do not forget that the Australian likes a government welfare program.

In fact, the Liberal and Country Parties profess eagerness to improve rather than pare the existing social services setup.

People are taking the political campaigning quietly. But they're following closely the form of the two central figures involved.

One is 64-year-old Prime Min-

ister Joseph B. Chifley, known to his countrymen as "Chif." As Australia's treasurer, he's also "Mr. Taxes."

The Liberals' hope is Robert G. Menzies, 55, a former Prime Minister, and present opposition leader. He'll become Prime Minister again if the Liberal-Country Party coalition forces return to power.

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## Woman Missionary Saving Children of Wild Tribesmen

BREVES, Brazil, Dec. 9—Mrs. Eva Banner, 31, a medical missionary to one of the world's most backward Indian tribes, is having a field day at spreading marital bliss.

The Ruben Kren Indians of the Xingu River district in central Brazil are too slow on the uptake to get much out of the missionary work except the family happiness it brings.

Mrs. Banner, an Irishman from Dublin, says it works this way: "When a tribesman takes a woman, everything depends upon their first child. If it dies at birth, the man decides his wife is no good and drifts on to find an-

other. Or if the wife fails to bear, he shoves on."

"The infant mortality rate has been up to 75 per cent during certain periods. My hardest work is seeing that the first child is saved."

"I work day and night, sometimes for a week, to save the first baby realizing it means saving a

family. During the past two years, I have had excellent luck. With first-rate medical equipment from England, I have saved 90 per cent of the first born."

She and her husband, Horace J. Banner, also a missionary, have returned to civilization for a month for her to have a baby.

Now, that the baby is four weeks old, they are returning to the wilderness around the Xingu River, a tributary of the Amazon.

The KKK Indians have a vocabulary of less than 100 words, says Mrs. Banner. Teach-

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\*L. Strauss & Co., Inc., was founded in 1853.

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and Joseph Shoe  
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