

# Tamworth Trades Union Council

President: E. BOYD

LABOR ROOMS,

Secretary: H. A. TAYLOR.

LOWER STREET, TAMWORTH, N.S.W.

46 Murray St.,  
Tamworth.

9th July, 1949.

Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister,  
Parliament House,  
Canberra.

Dear Mr. Chifley,

At a meeting of the above Council held this morning the crisis in the Coal Industry was discussed. The President, Mr. E. Boyd, referred to the present industrial chaos and resultant unemployment and expressed the opinion that the present strike was a Communist attempt to undermine the Industrial Arbitration system. It was resolved that I convey to you the congratulations of this Council for the manner in which you and your Government are handling this strike which has been visited upon the country by a minority subversive element.

Yours sincerely,  
H. A. Taylor.  
Secretary.

15th July, 1949.

Dear Mr. Taylor,

I acknowledge your letter of the 9th instant and wish to thank your President, Mr. E. Boyd, and members of your Council for their congratulations.

It is very pleasing to know they are in complete agreement with the action being taken by the Government in connection with the present coal strike.

Yours sincerely,

(J. B. CHIFLEY)  
PRIME MINISTER.

Mr. H. A. Taylor,  
Secretary,  
Tamworth Trades Union Council,  
46 Murray Street,  
TAMWORTH .. N.S.W.

# AUSTRALIAN WORKERS' UNION

## TASMANIA BRANCH

J. FERGUSON

SECRETARY

TELEPHONE: 4908

ADDRESS ALL  
COMMUNICATIONS TO  
BOX 829F, G.P.O.

JF/DLM.

A.W.U. OFFICE

BANK OF AUSTRALASIA BUILDINGS  
29 ELIZABETH STREET

12th July, 1949.

HOBART

Hon. J.B.Chifley,  
Prime Minister's Dept.,  
CANBERRA. F.C.T.

Dear Sir,

At a well attended meeting of members of the Australian Workers' Union employed by the Commonwealth Carbide Co., at Electrona, in this State, a general discussion ensued regarding the action taken by the Commonwealth Federal Government, led by yourself, in connection with the Coal miners strike, and the consequent dislocation of Industry throughout Australia, after which a motion was carried unanimously approving of, and endorsing the action of your Government in its insistence that any settlement of this strike must be by constitutional methods, and applauding the Government for refusing to knuckle down to the demands of the irresponsible Commo elements, who in our opinion, are responsible for the dislocation and disorder in many industries today.

I would also like to mention that this attitude by our members at Electrona correctly sums up the opinion of workers in this State employed under Awards of the A.W.U. and serviced by this Union, and would like to also express my personal appreciation of the very fine work of your Government on behalf of workers and others during, and since the war years.

Trusting that the people will not be led astray by this Industrial trouble; caused by the Commo element, and largely magnified by the Press and our political opponents; but that they will pause to consider the benefits that have derived from a strong Labor Government and will go to the ballot box and make sure of a continuance of the prosperity that has been brought about by this same Labor Government.

I am,

Yours sincerely,

*J. Ferguson*  
SECRETARY.

Tasmania Branch.

15th July, 1949.

Dear Mr. Ferguson,

It gave me great pleasure to read your letter of the 12th July intimating that the A.W.U. members employed by the Commonwealth Carbide Company at Electrona, and other A.W.U. members in Tasmania are in agreement with the action being taken by the Government in connection with the present coal strike.

There is no doubt that the Communist Party is doing its utmost to destroy the system of Arbitration and discredit the Labor Government and the Labor Movement in general. For years the Labor Movement has fought for an effective system of Conciliation and Arbitration for the settlement of all industrial disputes, and having now achieved a system that is working very effectively, is not likely to let it be jettisoned by a few whose objective is as outlined above.

Yours sincerely,

(J.B. CHIFLEY)  
PRIME MINISTER.

Mr. J. Ferguson,  
Secretary,  
Tasmanian Branch,  
Australian Workers' Union,  
A.W.U. Office,  
Bank of Australasia Buildings,  
29 Elizabeth Street,  
HOBART. TAS.

22 JUL 1949

# THE UNITED TRADES & LABOR COUNCIL OF S.A.

(State Branch of the Australasian Council of Trade Unions)

T. GARLAND

GENERAL SECRETARY

Phone: Central 3183



TRADES HALL

GROTE STREET, ADELAIDE

19th July, 1949.

Hon. J. B. Chifley,  
Prime Minister,  
Parliament House,  
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

Dear Sir,

I desire to convey the following motion which was carried by the above Council on Friday July 15th:

"That this meeting of the United Trades and Labor Council of S.A., realising that the Communist Philosophy is opposed to the Australian way of living, emphatically protests to the Communist Party interference with the Coal dispute and pledges its unqualified support to the Chifley Government."

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'T. Garland', written in dark ink.

SECRETARY.

EWT.AMW

22nd July, 1949.

Dear Mr. Garland,

I acknowledge your letter of the 19th instant and thank you for sending me copy of the resolution carried by your Council. I am indeed pleased to know that your Council is in agreement with the action taken by the Government and to have your assurance of unqualified support in the strike now taking place.

I might add that I am in complete agreement with the brief comment concerning the Communist Party.

Yours sincerely,

(J. B. CHIFLEY)  
PRIME MINISTER.

Mr. T. Garland,  
General Secretary,  
The United Trades & Labor  
Council of South Australia,  
Trades Hall,  
Grote Street,  
ADELAIDE.  
S.A.

Bendigo Trades Hall Council and Literary Institute

TRADES HALL VIEW STREET.

THE WORKERS HAVE NOTHING  
TO LOSE BUT THEIR CHAINS.  
WORKERS OF THE WORLD UNITE



ALL LETTERS TO BE ADDRESSED TO  
SECRETARY A. RICHARDSON  
TRADES HALL BENDIGO  
PHONE 673

7th July, 1949.

The Rt. Hon. J.B. Chifley,  
Prime Minister,  
Parliament House,  
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

Dear Sir,

I have to inform you that at the full annual meeting of the Bendigo Trades Hall Council held Wednesday 6th inst., the Management Committee's action in sending telegrams to yourself and other Ministers opposing the freezing of Union funds and intimating that the Bendigo Trades Hall Council was pledged to support the Miners in this strike, was endorsed by an overwhelming majority.

I have also to inform you that if the report that delegates of 14 unions had written to you during last week-end, repudiating the Management Committee's action in sending these telegrams is correct, it was done without the knowledge of the unions they represent. Only two unions met last week between the publication of the contents of the telegrams and the libellous article which appeared in the Saturday July 2nd issue of the Bendigo Advertiser.

We consider that you should inform this Council of the names of the delegates and the unions concerned as I have contacted the Secretaries of those unions, <sup>which make</sup> the Blacksmiths, and the Transport Workers, and they, and all other Secretaries I have approached deny any knowledge of it.

I again wish to make it clear, that the Management Committee has the full confidence of the delegates on the Bendigo Trades Hall Council, inasmuch as all retiring officers were elected last night without opposition.

Yours faithfully,

*Albert E. Richardson*

Albert E. Richardson.  
SECRETARY.

Note: Mr. E. Ilott, Transport Workers Union, 160 Queen Street, Bendigo, wrote in 3.7.49, repudiating Mr. Richardson's letters etc. Mr. Ilott's letter filed under "Ilott, E."

12th July, 1949.

Dear Mr. Richardson,

I am in receipt of your letter of the 7th instant asking whether fourteen Unions have written to me repudiating your Committee's action in sending certain telegrams concerning the coal strike, and if so, asking for the names of such Unions.

I suggest you contact your Unions for any advice in the matter.

Yours sincerely,

(J. B. CHIFLEY)  
PRIME MINISTER.

Mr. A.E. Richardson,  
Secretary,  
Bendigo Trades Hall Council and  
Literary Institute,  
Trades Hall,  
View Street,  
BENDIGO.  
VIC.



# TOWNSVILLE TRADES & LABOR COUNCIL

(Affiliated to the Trades & Labor Council of Queensland)  
STATE BRANCH, A.C.T.U.

F. H. MATZKOWS  
Secretary

P.O. Box 564  
Phone 1079

..... July 14th 1949

Hon J.B. Chifley, M.H.R.  
Prime Minister,  
CANBERRA.

Dear Sir,

At a stop work meeting of Waterside Workers, Seamen, Meatworkers and Building Workers held on the Strand Townsville on Tuesday July 12th the following resolution was carried unanimously:-

"That this mass meeting of Townsville unionists condemns the Hitlerite methods of the Federal Government in goaling Trade Union leaders for protecting their members interests and calls for their immediate release and the settlement of the strike on the miners terms and further we pledge ourselves to assist and protect any person victimised or prosecuted for support of the miners in this dispute."

My Council endorses the above resolution and asks that the Federal Govt. call off its war on the miners - the most exploited section of the working class in Australia.

Yours faithfully

*F H Matzkows*

Hon Secretary.

19th July, 1949.

Dear Mr. Matzkows,

I am in receipt of your letter of the 14th July in which is embodied copy of a resolution dealing with the coal strike.

Referring to your remarks concerning the imprisonment of certain Union officials for refusing to obey an Order of the Court, I attach copy of a statement issued by the Federal Attorney-General which clearly sets out the Government's attitude in regard to this matter.

With regard to the claims of the miners, Mr. McGirr and I have said, and I repeat it, that this matter can be settled only by the proper arbitral tribunal - that is the Coal Industry Tribunal - and not in any other way.

The Federal and State Governments are not expressing any opinion as to the merits or demerits of claims made by the Miners' Federation. What the Governments say is: whatever these disputes may be and whatever their merits, the decision upon them must be made by the body appointed for that purpose, and they cannot hope to enforce their claims by the law of the jungle.

Yours sincerely,

(J.B. CHIFLEY)  
PRIME MINISTER.

Mr. F.H. Matzkows,  
Secretary,  
Trades and Labor Council,  
P.O. Box 564,  
TOWNSVILLE. Qld.