

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, ^{which make} 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.